Hello again, fellow AkLA members:

It’s a busy time of year for all, and no less so for your President, with a major task list following a productive, first annual, virtual, “face-to-face” Executive Council meeting on the OWL network.

As you probably know, the Council meets face to face in Anchorage every September, but because of our budget shortfalls—more on that following—we decided we couldn’t justify travel costs for so many people. Instead, we met face-to-face on OWL over a Saturday and Sunday in mid-September. Most Council members connected through their home OWL libraries, and thanks to the OWL staff, and the AkLA web team, especially Daniel Cornwall, things went smoothly.

We learned a few things about how to effectively conduct an online meeting, and we managed to get through our entire agenda with time to spare. We may not always use the OWL network, but the virtual meeting paved the way for similar future meetings. We agreed to do it again next year, and also committed to finding ways to meet bimonthly other than teleconferences, which are also expensive to the organization.

(Cont. on pg. 2)
Librarians are technology-savvy, and it’s time we use it to advantage for our professional organization as well as for our patrons!

Now on to the budget news. AkLA has seen its share of budget issues these past few years, with declining memberships for several years running. Our Anchorage conference this year didn’t raise the usual hefty profit, and the combination of factors has expended much of our savings. AkLA has been through budget challenges before, and we’ll work our way through this one. The Alaska Library Association and its active members are still finding great ways to fulfill our mission to foster “learning, advocacy, and collaborative action.”

One of our proposed cuts to budget line items for next year is our paid lobbyist. An alternative is for our Advocacy Committee to do more in staying current on legislative news, and to keep members informed when action is needed. If we operate on a “grass-roots” basis though, we need all of you to help. Please continue to use the statewide AkLA listserv, your local chapters, and your colleagues for sharing any vital information about advocacy efforts or the need for them.

We also need your help with membership. During our current membership drive, we need you to renew your membership, and consider being a sustaining member to help us rebuild the AkLA savings account, which was greatly depleted during a few years of low membership and lower-than-anticipated conference proceeds.

We also need you to join a committee or roundtable and participate in programming for conference and networking with colleagues. We are only as strong as our individual members and your participation in all activities. Give your coworkers a nudge, and help make AkLA better than ever.

Karen Jensen
AkLA President, 2014
ANCHORAGE

Recently Anchorage Public Library used some early literacy grant money to purchase puppet theaters and puppets for the public areas. The main location added a standalone puppet theater that has flannel board material on the front of it. Two branches added tabletop puppet theaters. We also purchased a variety of puppets, some storytelling sets (Three Little Pigs, Three Little Bears), some animals, community helpers, and people and children puppets of different ethnicities.

Puppets encourage dramatic play and the TALK part of early literacy. Puppets help children build narrative skills by telling stories and to build social skills by working with other children to put on a show (or even negotiating who will be in the show and who will be the audience). Their imaginations are stretched as they create stories and characters.

We have a large collection of puppets which allows us to rotate them out. This lets us clean the puppets and gives the children a variety of play choices. By mixing sets of known stories like the Three Little Pigs with random puppets, we encourage multiple storytelling ways. Children who are still working on developing their narrative skills can practice telling a story with a familiar story. And kids who have more advanced TALK and narrative skills abilities can create their own stories.

Of course puppets are great for caregivers too! We have seen so many caregivers serving as eager audiences and cast members in puppet shows. At least one dad seemed to be having more fun than his son who fell asleep during the dad’s extremely enthusiastic tale about the three little pigs’ mailman.

There is nothing greater than hearing the kids work together to create stories and entertain each other. As we move into colder weather and more families come to the library to allow their kids some play space, I know that the popularity of the puppet theater will continue to grow and help to bond families, friends, and communities in play, fun, and creating stories.

If you ever get a chance to get a puppet theater, DO IT!

Elizabeth Moreau Nicolai
Youth Services Coordinator
Anchorage Public Library

CORDOVA

The Cordova Public Library is very proud that our book drop box has a brand new look!

Tommy Fraychineaud won our design contest, but since he lives in Seward, we had to find another artist to complete the project. Emily Rubio, who had submitted a design in the contest (and won 3rd place) agreed to submit a proposal.

The Cordova Library Board voted to accept Emily’s plan, so work began in August. First Emily made paper templates for the orca whales, town scene, and mountain. Peterson’s Welding cut 1/8” aluminum pieces according

(Cont. on pg. 4)
Chapters - Cont. from pg. 3)

They then welded them to the top of the drop box. Emily painted the entire box and each of the added pieces.

City of Cordova Public Works came and turned the box ninety degrees so that the drop door faces front. It is now a lovely piece of art, and will be moved to the Cordova Center once the building is finished. This project was funded by donations to the Cordova Public Library.

Miriam Dunbar
Cordova Public Library
Alaska is the land of innovation.

The Alaska Patent and Trademark Resource Center can assist you or your patrons with information on patents or trademarks.

There are three kinds of patents: utility, design and plant; and two kinds of trademarks: state and federal. The resource center can supply information on all of these at http://www.gi.alaska.edu/facilities/library/patent

These patent statistics may be of interest.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Number of Patents</th>
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<tr>
<td>Anchorage</td>
<td>839</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fairbanks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wasilla</td>
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<td>Kodiak</td>
<td>37</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kenai</td>
<td>30</td>
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</tbody>
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If you would like to check on your city, contact the resource center at patents@gi.alaska.edu. The center can assist you with the names of your local inventors and their patents if you want to have a display or program in your library. February is a good time for this kind of event with Edison’s birthday on Feb. 11.

Teachers and Librarians may want to check out the Patent and Trademark Office USPTO Kids website www.uspto.gov/kids/ and the videos for Grades 6-12 on

*3D Printing
*Anti-Counterfeiting Devices
*Biofuels

Judie Triplehorn
Alaska Patent and Trademark Resource Center

Not accepted: paid advertising; material intended to “sell; make a profit” rather than to “inform.” Submissions viewed as advertisements, unless item is of particular interest to Alaska, Alaskan patrons, libraries, or is submitted by an AkLA member.

Accepted: Alaskana—books, book reviews, or articles relating to, or of interest to, Alaskan librarians and/or their patrons.

Informative material related to libraries and librarianship, especially in regard to Alaska.

Most anything submitted by AkLA members—reasonably tasteful, of appropriate length, “decently” well-written; author is willing to submit to possible editorial changes. This may include length, perhaps spellings, downsizing of convoluted sentences... (Editor will make every effort to let the author know of, and pre-approve, any significant changes before the material is published in Newspoke.)

Other—determined on an individual basis by “the committee” (defined as a group of at least three people, composed of AkLA members). If the Newspoke editor, or the individual submitting, has questions or concerns about any submission, the matter will be sent on to the Newspoke Committee.
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CALENDAR

ALA 2015 Midwinter Meeting, Chicago, IL  Jan. 30-Feb. 3, 2015