

RASSL
Minutes of Meeting
Thursday, October 1, 2009

The business portion of the meeting was called to order at 9:31 a.m. by President Chris Buetow, South Holland. She welcomed members and asked each person to introduce themselves.

Megan Heligas, Director of Flossmoor, shared a beautiful painting that was purchased in memory of Karen Bala. The painting was bought in part with a donation from RASSL. Karen was a long-time member of RASSL and ended her career at the Flossmoor Public Library.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY AND REVIEW OF THE MINUTES

Secretary Anthony Andros, Tinley Park, asked if everyone had received and reviewed the minutes from the June 11th meeting. No one requested that the minutes be read, nor volunteered any amendments. David Martin, Flossmoor, moved to accept the minutes, and Skye Levin, Blue Island, seconded. Motion passed.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Treasurer Beth Faulkner, Tinley Park, reported that the RASSL checking account balance is \$1396.74. This amount does not reflect this year's membership dues. Beth stated that our CD (valued on 9/25/09 at \$2572.59) was renewed for a period of fifteen months at an interest rate of 1.24%. The interest rate was previously 3.6%. Melissa Rice, Frankfort, moved to accept the Report of the Treasurer, and Ellen Herrmann, Crete, seconded.

REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT/ PROGRAMMING CHAIR

Vice President Linda Ameling, Grande Prairie, shared that she is experiencing difficulties contacting certain organizations for future programs. She is investigating a presentation regarding the 2010 Census. Linda also mentioned that she is waiting for a call back from Grand Prairie Services (GPS) for February's program. GPS, a nonprofit organization that specializes its services to those who seek mental healthcare, has its administrative office in Tinley Park. Linda aims to arrange a December program since Tinley Park is hosting the December meeting. Since the last field trip (the one with zones 1-4) was so poorly attended, Linda suggested RASSL meets at Burr Ridge for a presentation on downloading and digital services. Northwestern University's Music Dept. Chairperson would provide information on how libraries' music collections must keep up with digital formats.

REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEES AND CONTINUING PROJECTS

ILA Reference Services Forum: Georgette Belisle, Midlothian, reported that she and Chris will be at the 2009 ILA luncheon on behalf of RASSL to accept a \$250 award for the Guadalajara Grant. Chris prepared and read a gracious letter of acceptance which she will read at the luncheon. Georgette also welcomed everyone to investigate and join the Reference Services Forum, which is a state-wide networking group for reference librarians. She voiced encouragement to pass on ideas or participate in programming on the state level.

MLS Consulting: Gretel Stock-Kupperman began by highlighting upcoming CE workshops regarding Camtasia and serving Arab-American populations. She outlined several ways that the 16.5% System budget cut will affect RASSL and MLS libraries in general. Some changes include: elimination of one full-time consultant, Head of Human Resources, and an HR assistant; the length of time to return correspondence may be 2-3 days and everyone is encouraged to be patient; System will no longer pay for items lost in transit; Kate Boyle and Randy Patka are still handling Resource Sharing and Delivery, respectively, with Gretel now in charge of Resource Sharing with a new title of Director of Member Services. Gretel also mentioned that Oak Park Public Library's collection will soon be available to the rest of MLS.

Reference Advisory: Melissa Rice began a discussion noting the possibility of consistent ILL standards due to the massive increase in items shared (2.5 million items in 2004 vs. 7.5 million items in 2009). For example, the possibility of all libraries roaming items was broached. This would ideally streamline workflow and decrease delivery volume. Diane Srebro, Orland Park, expressed that the inconsistent cataloging and packaging of large television series results in patrons not always getting the exact items they want. This problem also unnecessarily increases the load of items in transit. Gretel mentioned that Oak Park Public Library's collection will soon be available to the rest of MLS libraries.

Web Presence: David Martin and Anthony Andros stated that there was nothing to report, but will have something to report at the December's meeting

OLD BUSINESS

RASSL Domain Name: Georgette reported that the website domain name was renewed for 5 years. Also, it was confirmed that Anthony Andros is the current webmaster.

NEW BUSINESS

On behalf of RASSL, Chris and Georgette are going to ILA to accept the Reference Services Award for the Guadalajara International Book Fair Sponsorship. Chris read aloud a prepared statement of gratitude, which she will also read at ILA when the Award is accepted. Chris then asked for feedback regarding the newspaper press release. It was also suggested that when RASSL offers the Sponsorship again, we should open the pool of candidates to all MLS libraries.

COMMENTS, CONCERNS, MISCELLANEOUS

Ellen Herrmann stated that Lori Williams' husband had just passed away. Lori is currently at Crete Public Library and had been involved in RASSL several years ago.

Chris approved the appointment of a By-Laws Revision Committee that will serve to amend those by-laws deemed antiquated and/or irrelevant. The Committee is comprised of Georgette Belisle, Midlothian, Chris Buetow, South Holland, and Diane Srebro, Orland Park.

Chris mentioned that she spoke to an Innovative representative at ALA, and he was surprised to hear that any library would be using MilCirc at the reference desk. He suggested lodging a formal request for

a module designed exclusively for reference work. Similar to the June meeting, a discussion ensued regarding the pros and cons of using MilCirc or the online SWAN database (WebPac).

Ellen Herrmann made a motion for adjournment, and Georgette Belisle seconded. The Business meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony Andros, Adult Services Librarian
Tinley Park Public Library