

LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND

September 15, 2003

MINUTES

Members Present: Chair Mark McKenney, Alice Barrows, Donna Good, Deborah Barchi, Joshua Teverow, Mary Cummings, Tovah Reis, Jay Litman, William Allen, Peter Deekle, Phyllis Harnick, Cristina Amedeo, Rose Ellen Reynolds

Members Absent: Donald Deignan, Joan Ankner, Leslie McDonough

Present from the Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS): Anne Parent, Donna DiMichele, Karen Mellor, Melody Allen, Laurie Scialabba

Observers: Joan Ress Reeves; David Macksam, Cranston Public Library

The meeting was convened at 4:37 p.m.

I. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the June 16, 2003 meeting were unanimously approved.

Chair McKenney moved the presentation by Karla Harry under NEW BUSINESS to this time. Ms. Allen introduced Karla Harry, Librarian at Gordon School and Chair of the Rhode Island Children's Book Awards Committee, to the Library Board. Ms. Harry stated that about 8,000 school children vote from a list of twenty books to select the winner of the Rhode Island Children's Book Award. Ms. Harry created an event called the Rooster Games to encourage the children to read many of the books on the list. According to Ms. Allen, who serves as permanent adviser to the Award committee, this project is a good example of multitype cooperation, involving schools and public libraries. It also demonstrates how technology can support reading, as children on Rooster Game teams from different schools email each other, and submit comments on the books to a web site. A videotape of the Rooster Games was shown.

It was suggested that the Ms. Harry submit an application for the John Cotton Dana Award for the Rooster Games. Ms. Parent will obtain the necessary information. On behalf of the Library Board, Chair McKenney thanked Ms. Harry for the presentation.

II. REPORT OF ADMINISTRATION

The statewide Summer Reading Program administered by OLIS through the public libraries has been named the "Best Way to Get Kids to Read" by Rhode Island Monthly magazine. Ms. Allen showed the plaque that was awarded. Over 15,000 children participated in 2002, and over 18,000 parents and children attended performances by storytellers and other special events. OLIS had a booth at the Best of Rhode Island Party on August 28, at the Rhode Island Convention Center where a large number of visitors stopped to chat about books they or their children have known and loved, and to vote for their favorites.

On August 1, 2003 the Senate passed the Museum and Library Services Act, which would reauthorize LSTA at \$238 million. The Senate amended the original H.R. 13 that was approved by the House, so it returns for House approval. All indications from the ALA Washington Office are that it will be passed. Senator Jack Reed introduced an amendment that would have added \$18 million to the LSTA budget lines and \$15 million to the Improving Literacy Through School Libraries program. This amendment would have raised the budget for state LSTA grants to the level necessary to trigger the new funding formula in the LSTA reauthorization bill that would have doubled the baseline to \$680,000. It was defeated. Senator Chafee voted against the amendment, however, aides in his office assured Ms. Parent that Senator Chafee continues to remain supportive of libraries and education issues.

2003 LSTA Sub-Grants, a listing of LORI resource-sharing and literacy grants, was distributed. Ms. DiMichele reported that the following 2003 LORI resource-sharing grants were awarded: \$36,100 to ARISHL for “The Heart of the Matter: Improving Health Information Access in Rhode Island,” to provide funding for ARIHSL to participate in the HELIN network, thereby making health information resources more widely available; \$15,800 to the Rhode Island Historical Society for “Digital Conversion of 20th Century Negative Collection” which will improve access to its heavily used 20th century image collection; and \$13,000 to RILINK for “Reaching RILINK,” to fund additional new school library members and to begin the database migration to a completely web-based system available to teachers, students, and others. Ms. DiMichele reported that the following 2003 Literacy Grants were awarded: \$5,700 to Literacy Volunteers of Kent County for the program at Coventry Public Library which helps ABE and ESL learners improve literacy skills through one-to-one volunteer tutoring; and \$59,300 to The Rhode Island Family Literacy Initiative (RIFLI), an intergenerational English-as-a-Second Language literacy program based at seven public libraries.

OLIS Library Services Announces Fall CE Schedule was distributed. Thirty programs on a wide variety of subjects are open to library staff, and in some cases to all interested parties. Highlights include an evening public relations program featuring Dave Layman, a well-known former TV and radio personality; “Librarian as Personal Information Shopper,” will be offered by a Connecticut librarian who presented to a standing room only crowd at ALA; “Developing Spanish Language Collections” presented by a speaker involved with issues in serving Spanish language patrons at national and local levels; “Creating and Sustaining a Digital Collection” by Brown University Digital Initiatives Librarian Patrick Yott, and “Preservation Planning: Striking the Balance between What Should Be Done and What Can Be Done,” an all-day workshop presented by Northeast Document Conservation Center staff. Some of the Providence Public Library’s computer classes will be offered for the first time at other locations, in Newport and in West Warwick. Two new computer offerings are on Microsoft FrontPage, a web-page-making program, and on Adobe Photo Elements, learning to enhance scanned or digital camera images.

Proposed Library of Rhode Island (LORI) Standards was distributed. Ms. DiMichele reported that a public hearing on the new LORI Standards that regulate participation in the LORI network would be held on October 14, 2003 at 1:00 PM in Training Room B, (ground floor) of the Department of Administration building. Standards are developed, promulgated, and administered by OLIS in order to insure that LORI member libraries have sufficient organization of materials, publicly available holdings information, service policies, and trained staff to participate fully in the network. The Library Board will be asked to vote on the standards at its meeting in October. The proposed standards can be found on the LORI website <http://www.ori.ri.gov/>

Proposed change to the regulations for public library construction / renovation reimbursement funding under 29-6-6 of the Rhode Island General Laws was distributed. Ms. Mellor reported that a public hearing is scheduled at 2:00 p.m. on the same day as the public hearing on the LORI Standards, to change the final audit process for construction reimbursement. This change was recommended by the state's Bureau of Audits and designates who would perform the final audit. The library submission of an independent audit would be changed to the Department of Administration or its designee to perform the audit. At its next meeting, the Library Board will need to reaffirm the vote it took at the June 10, 2002 meeting, as the vote must be taken after the hearing, and then filed with the Secretary of State so that it will then have legal standing.

On September 4, Ms. Mellor and Ms. Parent, together with Thomas Collins, met with Budget Director Rosemary Gallogly to give a PowerPoint presentation on the construction program; its history and current concerns. The Director of the Department of Administration has delegated the authority to approve construction reimbursement to the state budget office. Ms. Mellor stated that four libraries would be seeking funding approval soon. Construction Updates (9/15/03) was distributed.

OLIS will apply for an interim grant of \$7,800 offered by the Bill & Melissa Gates Foundation to be used for training for public access computing. If received, funding will provide training for those with Gates computers in using the Spanish language profile, possibly in conjunction with Services to Spanish speaking clients and publicity. A second part would provide training statewide, employing videoconferencing, on topics related to providing public access computing. For choosing these topics we are eliciting the assistance of the public library community using Fast Response Surveys, listing training topics related to public access computing. There is also a committee planning for the Gates Staying Connected grant, which is due in 2004, and would provide up to \$74,000 for training, upgrades.

III. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chair McKenney reported that the Library Study Steering Committee met this summer. Mr. Macksam reported that the Steering Committee will continue to meet to discuss a study of the future of libraries in Rhode Island. A presentation by a nationally-recognized speaker on

“Futures” issues will be held in November at URI-GSLIS. A Futures Conference is planned for the spring, and will be sponsored by the LORI Committee. It is hoped that a legislative commission will be formed in the next legislative session, to begin its deliberations next summer.

Chair McKenney will follow up informally since no response has been received from the letter sent to the Board of Regents in support of mandatory compliance of the new standards for school libraries entitled School Library and Information Literacy Framework.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee on Public Relations

Ms. Reis reported that media coverage for the Gates Grants was not very good. The Continuing Education program, “The Top 10 Reasons Libraries Fail to Get Media Attention,” featuring Dave Layman, library trustee and former television and radio personality, was developed by the Committee to assist the libraries in getting media attention. The committee would like to publish a “Quotable Facts about Rhode Island Libraries.” Board members are encouraged to contribute facts and general items about Rhode Island libraries at the October Library Board meeting.

Committee on Legislation

No report.

Committee on Planning and Budget

No report

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Chair McKenney introduced Thomas B. Collins, recently appointed Chief Information Officer, to the Library Board. Mr. Collins indicated that he is a library user and avid reader, and that he is supportive of library initiatives and OLIS Library Programs. Discussion revolved around the need for libraries during difficult financial times, support for libraries on a grassroots level and access to information. Mr. Collins thanked the members of the Library Board and Ms. Reeves for their time and commitment.

An open letter to the Rhode Island Library Community, July 2003, written by the LORI Committee was distributed. Ms. DiMichele stated that the time for development of a virtual library catalog in Rhode Island is now. A virtual catalog has been promoted previously in the Rhode Island library community. Technology has evolved to a new level that a virtual library would be possible with fewer resources than ever before. A virtual library catalog would allow the search of all library catalogs from a personal computer. CLAN and HELIN

have met and discussed the feasibility of a virtual catalog for their networks. ARIHSL will join the HELIN libraries.

It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved that the Library Board send a letter of support to the LORI Committee for its efforts in encouraging the establishment of a virtual library catalog for Rhode Island residents and libraries.

A copy of the letter will be sent to ARIHSL, CLAN, COLA, CRIARL, HELIN, RIEMA, RILA, RILINK, SLA/RI AND URI-GSLIS.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

VIII. AGENDA FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

A list of proposed meeting dates was distributed for review and discussion at the next Library Board meeting.

The next meeting of the Library Board is scheduled on Monday, October 20, 2003.

The meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

PROPOSED LBRI MEETING DAYS, FY 2004

Monday, October 20, 2003

Monday, November 17, 2003

Monday, December 15, 2003

Tuesday, January 20, 2004

Monday, February 16, 2004

Monday, March 15, 2004

Monday, April 19, 2004

Monday, May 17, 2004

Monday, June 21, 2004

DRAFT
LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND
October 20, 2003
MINUTES

Members Present: Chair Mark McKenney, Alice Barrows, Donna Good, Deborah Barchi, Mary Cummings, Tovah Reis, William Allen, Peter Deekle, Phyllis Harnick, Cristina Amedeo, Donald Deignan, Leslie McDonough

Members Absent: Jay Litman, Joshua Teverow, Joan Ankner, Rose Ellen Reynolds

Present from the Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS): Anne Parent, Beth Perry, Donna DiMichele, Karen Mellor, Chaichin Chen, Laurie Scialabba

Observers: Joan Ress Reeves; Kathy Ellen Bullard, Providence Public Library; David Macksam, Cranston Public Library

The meeting was convened at 4:40 p.m.

I. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the September 15, 2003 meeting were unanimously approved.

II. REPORT OF ADMINISTRATION

LSTA has been reauthorized at \$238 million, and has been signed into law as H.R. 13 the Museum and Library Services Act of 2003. The appropriation levels currently being discussed in the House and the Senate would result in a slight decrease for RI from the current levels of funding (\$823,000) for federal FY 2004.

The State Study Group for Rhode Island Libraries, which includes OLIS, is sponsoring the program, "The Experience Economy and The Future of Rhode Island," with guest lecturer, James H. Gilmore, on Tuesday, November 11, 2003 from 9 to noon at the Multicultural Center of the University of Rhode Island in Kingston. A copy of the press release was distributed.

The Governor's Fiscal Fitness team presented its recommendations about Library Services to the Mr. Higgins, Director of the Department of Administration last week, and those approved by Director Higgins will be forwarded to the Governor this week. Director Higgins will be leaving state service at the end of December. Recommendations are expected to be made public in mid-November.

Ms. Parent attended an orientation to IMLS services in Washington, D.C., and also attended the "Pavilion of States" at the National Book Festival on the National Mall, both at IMLS' expense. Melody Allen of OLIS staff and Louise Moulton of Center for the Book were presenters at the Rhode Island booth. The Pavilion of States was sponsored by the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA.) Rhode Island authors and children's services were highlighted at the booth.

Ms. Parent explained that ever since the bottom line of grant-in-aid reached the 25% mark in 2000, there were some public libraries for which the 25% would be less than they received in the prior year, because of the former Resource Sharing grants. These libraries have been “held harmless”, continuing to receive that same amount, while all the other libraries have received slightly less than 25% as a result. In response to the inquiry about the origin of the resource sharing grants, Ms. Parent stated the resource sharing grants were used to help the public libraries join CLAN since the initial cost to join CLAN was prohibitive for the smaller libraries. . Libraries that are not in the category of being “held harmless” have expressed concern about continuing this practice. In FY 2001 approximately half of the libraries were hold harmless libraries. This number has dwindled to about nine libraries that would be hold harmless libraries in FY 2005. At the last meeting of the Public Library Directors, Ms. Parent proposed phasing out the concept of hold harmless over the next three years, by one third each year, so that those libraries would be held 2/3 harmless in FY 2005, 1/3 harmless in FY 2006, and all would be level by FY 2007. The Proposed State Library Aid, FY 2005 was distributed. The Proposed State Library Aid, FY 2005 shows what the distribution of grant-in-aid would be if grant-in-aid is funded at 25% in the FY 2005 Governor’s Budget. Ms. Parent is requesting that the Library Board consider this proposal, including the phase-out of the “hold harmless” practice.

Recruitment for the Library Program Specialist position in Talking Books Plus has not yet taken place due to budgetary issues. The bid process for the contract for housing and shipping of materials was challenged and the process has begun again. New bids were opened last week, and barring further challenges, it is hoped that the contract will be awarded shortly.

Ms. Parent spoke at the South Providence Public Branch Library reopening on September 28. Ms. Mellor was present for the groundbreaking ceremony for the library in Exeter that was held last week, with construction to begin on November 1. Exeter is the last community in Rhode Island to have its own library.

III. CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT

Chair McKenney reported that term of service for some Library Board members would expire on December 31, 2003.

Chair McKenney reported that the letter of support to the LORI Committee for its efforts in encouraging the establishment of a virtual library catalog for Rhode Island residents and libraries would be sent shortly.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee on Public Relations

The Continuing Education program, “The Top 10 Reasons Libraries Fail to Get Media Attention,” featuring Dave Layman, library trustee and former television and radio personality, was held on October 8 with 30 attendees. Establishing a relationship with the

media was one of the suggestions from Mr. Layman that will be discussed at the next committee meeting.

The committee would like to publish a “Quotable Facts about Rhode Island Libraries.” Contributions of facts and general items about Rhode Island libraries would be appreciated.

Committee on Legislation

No report.

Committee on Planning and Budget

No report

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. DiMichele reported that a public hearing was held on October 14 for the new Library of Rhode Island (LORI) Standards. Four librarians attended, and one written comment was received inquiring about the requirement that libraries submit a technology plan. The author argued that school libraries often do not have individual plans, but use the technology plans of the school district. No oral comments were made at the public hearing. OLIS staff discussed the written comment, and felt that the resolution involved a procedure rather than a policy. It was agreed that, as needed, to fulfill the technology plan requirement, a school library could submit a district’s technology plan with a statement showing how the school’s technology plan is incorporated in the district plan and how the district plan includes the components required in the Standard’s technology plan. Ms. DiMichele responded verbally to the written comment; and reported that that party was satisfied with the decision.

The Library Board of Rhode Island moved, seconded and unanimously approved the new Library of Rhode Island (LORI) Standards that regulate participation in the LORI network.

Ms. Mellor reported that a public hearing was held on October 14 for the change in the performance of the audit in the regulation for the public library construction/renovation reimbursement funding. No responses were received, and no one attended the public hearing.

The Library Board of Rhode Island moved, seconded and unanimously approved the change to the regulations for public library construction/renovation reimbursement funding under 29-6-6 of the Rhode Island General Law recommended by the state’s Bureau of Audits whereby the Department of Administration or its designee would perform the audit rather than the library submit an independent audit.

Ms. Amedeo stated that Travelers Aid of Rhode Island was not accepted as an address to obtain a public library card at Providence Public Library. Currently, there are three families

with eight children living at Travelers Aid. Ms. Parent responded that the Library Board could not set policy for the CLAN network, but that she had asked staff to investigate network policies on this matter. The result of an OLIS staff investigation of CLAN, URI and RIC was that anyone can use the library and its materials within the library, but proof of residency is needed for borrowing items. Ms. Parent also noted that in some other states, a letter from the shelter is allowed. As the OLIS representative to the CLAN Steering Committee, Ms. Parent offered to bring this up at its next meeting. The issue is one of responsibility to the taxpayer versus the loss of library materials. At her request to assist, Ms. Bullard responded that Providence Public Library will allow borrowing if the agency will vouch for the materials. Ms. Amedeo responded that the social worker assigned to the family would be responsible. Ms. Bullard offered to speak with Ms. Amedeo after the meeting, and said she was hopeful that a resolution could be reached. Mr. Macksam stated that not all public libraries adhere strictly to CLAN policies on proof of residence, and that the Cranston Public Library also accepts letters from homeless shelters when necessary.

The Library Board of Rhode Island moved, seconded and unanimously approved the Proposed State Library Aid, FY 2005, reflecting a bottom line of 25% of appropriations and expenditures from two years previous, and whereby the distribution of state grant-in-aid amounts reflects the phase out of the “hold harmless” practice by one third in FY 2005, its first year.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

VIII. AGENDA FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Library Board is scheduled on Monday, November 17, 2003. The February 16, 2004 meeting date was changed to February 23, 2003 so as not to interfere with the Presidents Day holiday that some Board members will observe.

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

DRAFT
LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND
November 17 2003
MINUTES

Members Present: Chair Mark McKenney, Alice Barrows, Donna Good, Deborah Barchi, Mary Cummings, Tovah Reis, William Allen, Peter Deekle, Phyllis Harnick, Donald Deignan, Leslie McDonough, Rose Ellen Reynolds

Members Absent: Cristina Amedeo, Jay Litman, Joshua Teverow, Joan Ankner

Present from the Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS): Anne Parent, Beth Perry, Karen Mellor, Laurie Scialabba

Observers: Joan Ress Reeves; Kathy Ellen Bullard, Providence Public Library; De Johnson, Rhode Island Library Association

The meeting was convened at 4:35 p.m.

I. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the October 20, 2003 meeting were unanimously approved.

II. REPORT OF ADMINISTRATION

As a follow-up to the November 11, 2003 Futures Program, "The Experience Economy and The Future of Rhode Island Libraries" with guest lecturer, James Gilmore, and as a precursor to a new study of the future of Rhode Island libraries, the LORI Committee is planning a day-long "Futures" conference for May 7, 2004 with speakers and panel discussions. Funding is being sought from library associations and vendors. Ms. DiMichele is working with the committee and more information will be forthcoming.

OLIS Library Services has applied for a Gates Foundation Training Program Grant of \$7,950 for training public library staff throughout the state in topics related to public access computing. One part of the grant would train a single group of staff from libraries with Gates computers in the use and promotion of the Spanish language profile in the context of general services to the Hispanic/Latino population. The second track would train library staff throughout the state in technology and in the provision of public access computing. Funds would be expended in calendar year 2004, and notification of grant awards will take place in December. The next and final phase of the Foundation program is the Staying connected grant due in August 2004.

The American Library Association requests supporters to contact their Congressional representatives to request that they sign on to a letter supporting the Otter and Sanders Amendments to legislation to the USA Patriot Act. Representative Otter opposes Section 213, the so-called "sneak and peek" provision, which allows the government to search a person's home or office without notifying them until afterwards. Representative Sanders opposes Section 215, which allows the government to access the articles checked out of a library or purchased at a bookstore.

The Rochambeau Branch of the Providence Public Library has scheduled its reopening for Sunday, November 23. Construction at Middletown Public Library is a little behind schedule, but has tentative plans for an opening ceremony in December. Ms. Parent spoke at the opening of the new children's room at Hope Library in Scituate. The old children's room has been converted to a young adult area.

The Governor's Fiscal Fitness team presented its recommendations that will be sent to the Governor to agency directors. Chief Information Officer Collins was on hand for all the presentations and will stop in at this meeting to relay the four recommendations for OLIS Library Services.

Donna Good of the Library Board and Holly Barton, President of RIEMA, have informed Ms. Parent that they will be sending letters to the Governor with regard to the rumors that they have heard about Fiscal Fitness recommendations about OLIS Library Services. Ms. Good read her letter to the Board; and Ms. Parent read the letter from Ms. Barton.

III. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chair McKenney attended the Futures Conference on November 11, 2003. 108 attended the morning session, and 46 attended the afternoon session. The general discussion in the afternoon focused on support for OLIS Library Services in the library community, especially in keeping OLIS Library Services intact. Discussion followed.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee on Public Relations

Talking Points: Top Reasons Keeping OLIS Intact is Vital to the State of RI was distributed. These items may be used in support letters for OLIS Library Services.

Committee on Legislation

No report.

Committee on Planning and Budget

No report

Ad Hoc Committee on Bylaws

Ms. Reeves has sent revisions and comments via email to Chair McKenney, Ms. Good, Mr. Deignan and Ms. Parent. Comments by Ms. Parent will be reviewed.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Parent initiated the discussion of the Providence School Board's approval of a reduction in the number of school librarians in each Providence high school to one librarian instead of two to two and a half librarians as mandated. Ms. Johnson, President of RILA, made a presentation at the Providence School Board meeting, and has written to Commissioner McWalters, Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, asking that he reject extension of the waiver that would permit this practice to continue. Ms. Parent has

prepared a packet of information if any Library Board member would like further information.

The motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved that the Library Board of Rhode Island send a letter to Commissioner McWalters, R.I. Department of Elementary and Secondary Education expressing concern about the approval by the Providence School Board of the reduction to only one librarian in each Providence high school rather than the mandated 2 to 2.5 per school, and to request denial of the extension of the waiver to continue the practice.

Chair McKenney welcomed Chief Information Officer Thomas Collins. CIO Collins offered to share the four Fiscal Fitness recommendations for Library Services with the Library Board. The recommendations are to relocate Talking Books Plus into the Dept. of Human Services' Office of Rehabilitative Services; transfer the professional library collection to the University of Rhode Island; transfer Media Services to Central Management (Central Services of the DOA); and transfer the remaining Library Services' staff to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Relocating Library Services would free the space in the Department of Administration for other groups. Chair McKenney thanked CIO Collins, and upon departure, CIO Collins wished the Library Board a joyful Thanksgiving.

Discussion followed.

It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved that the Library Board send a letter to Governor Carcieri expressing disagreement with the Fiscal Fitness recommendations put forth for Library Services, and supporting its continuation as a united entity under the administration of the Chief Information Officer.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

In response to a question about any loss in federal funding, Ms. Parent responded that Library Services might need to rewrite their Plan of Service with new proposals and redirection of funds. It would then be submitted to IMLS for approval. For example, not every state has a professional library collection or a Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. State library agencies are under various forms of governance throughout the country. For example, some are independent agencies, some are under the Dept of Education, others in the Secretary of State's office, and others fall in various places in other departments such as those for Cultural Affairs.

VIII. AGENDA FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Library Board is scheduled on Monday, December 15, 2003 at 4:30 p.m., and may be cancelled if there are no pressing items.

Tuesday, January 20, 2004 is the next scheduled meeting after December 15.

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND
January 20, 2004
MINUTES

Members Present: Chair Mark McKenney, Alice Barrows, Donna Good, Tovah Reis, William Allen, Leslie McDonough, Rose Ellen Reynolds

Members Absent: Cristina Amedeo, Jay Litman, Joshua Teverow, Joan Ankner, Deborah Barchi, Mary Cummings, Peter Deekle, Phyllis Harnick, Donald Deignan

Present from the Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS): Anne Parent, Donna DiMichele, Laurie Scialabba

Observers: Joan Ress Reeves; Dale Thompson, Providence Public Library

The meeting was convened at 4:40 p.m. Ms. Carol Drought, Deputy Director of Warwick Public Library, welcomed the Library Board to Warwick Public Library, and expressed appreciation for the assistance and support from OLIS Library Services.

I. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the November 17, 2003 meeting were unanimously approved.

II. REPORT OF ADMINISTRATION

Ms. Parent thanked the Board and those individuals who sent letters to the Governor urging him to reject the Fiscal Fitness recommendations to splinter OLIS Library Services into four disparate agencies. It is expected that OLIS Library Services will stay together as an entity, based on a discussion between the Governor and CIO Thomas Collins on December 4, 2003. The Board agreed by consensus to send a letter to the Governor to thank him once his Fiscal Fitness recommendations have been made.

New security measures at the Department of Administration include a requirement that meetings held after 4:30 p.m. be held only on Monday and Wednesday, therefore necessitating the change of the location of the Board meeting today. When visiting Library Services in the future it will be necessary to check in with the receptionist on the fourth floor.

Sadly, the library community lost a great friend and supporter with the passing of Representative Paul Sherlock last Saturday.

A summary of library news items in 2003 compiled from the LORI Webpages by the Library Services Web team was distributed. The summary is available at www.ori.ri.gov.

Ms. DiMichele reported that the upcoming Futures Conference. "Navigating the Future of Libraries: A Rhode Map" will be held on Friday, May 7, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza at the Crossings in Warwick. Handouts were distributed. Goals include being a catalyst for library staff to think in new and innovative ways about delivering programs and services; to operate as a springboard for the approaching statewide study of the future of Rhode Island libraries; and to facilitate dialog about the common future opportunities and challenges all libraries will face in the future. The conference program will consist of a keynote address, a luncheon plenary speaker, and concurrent sessions in the morning and afternoon. Themes

covered by the sessions include population trends and their effects on who will be library users in the future; the future of delivery of information; and educational trends in library graduate programs as well as how people learn as they encounter information in libraries. An exhibit area for vendors and sponsors will be available. Sponsorship information will be sent to library organizations and individuals. Anticipated cost of the conference is \$10,000, with conference registration fees expected to be around \$50 or less, with out-of-state attendees' fees slightly higher. Brown University will act as fiscal agent. Contact Ms. DiMichele for more information regarding vendors, sponsorship or if you would like to volunteer assistance. Information can also be found at http://www.ric.edu/adamslibrary/library_futures/.

Ms. Parent added that this conference is the second step in examining the future of libraries in Rhode Island. Ms. Thompson reported that the LibFutures Committee, consisting of representatives of all library organizations and types, is focusing on a new library study. Draft legislation is being finalized to establish a Legislative Commission comprised of members of the legislature, representation from the Governor's Office, the public and various types of libraries. It is hoped that the commission will engage legislators to become familiar with and move the future of libraries forward, and that it will appropriate funds to hire a consultant to lead a study that will result in a strategic approach to multitype library cooperation. Final text of the bill will be on the LibsFutures website. Sponsorship of the legislation is being sought. The next meeting of the LibFutures Committee will be held on February 2, 2004 at Cranston Public Library at 3:30 p.m., and new members are welcome.

The Shipping/Warehousing/Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC) five-year contract has been awarded to Perkins School for the Blind in Watertown, MA. The transition will begin February 1, 2004. The current vendor will supply talking books until that date. OLIS staff is in the process of notifying patrons of the schedule for transferring the collection and database to merge with the KLAS system used by Perkins. Database transfer and staff training will take place in February and March during which time Perkins staff will provide backup services to OLIS TBP patrons. On March 1, 2004 the transition should be complete and all services will be available. Staff in RI will continue to be the main contact for RI patrons for requests and machines. A copy of the letter to patrons was circulated. On completion of the transition, the result will be direct access to the database for patrons, their family or caregivers from home via the Internet. They will be able to locate titles and place holds as well as view their own records online. If Talking Books Plus does not hold a particular title, the catalogs of Perkins and the Worcester Talking Book Library are available on the same system for direct interlibrary loans. Funding for the vacant staff position in Talking Books Plus may not be available in FY05. Ms. Parent reported that Mr. Deignan has agreed to send a letter of concern.

Construction at the Rochambeau Library and Middletown Public Library has been completed, and Ms. Parent spoke at both events. Construction continues in East Greenwich and Exeter. East Providence is planning for a new branch in Riverside. Barrington plans a renovation of the first floor. Johnston is seeking town funding for its new library building. Renovation of the Knight Memorial Library is anticipated in Fall 2004 or Spring 2005, depending on fundraising. Cumberland plans to renovate a section of the library not included in the previous project. The current condition of this part of the building jeopardizes the state's investment in the new library. Burrillville, North Scituate and Tiverton continue with their plans for expansions and new buildings. RILA may consider introducing last year's construction legislation with updated figures.

The Gates Foundation is sponsoring a workshop in Seattle, WA in February for rural librarians in public computing training, and asked Library Services for recommended attendees. Ms. McDonough has been selected. Carol Brouwer, North Smithfield Public Library and Judith Bell, Jamestown Philomenian Library have also been selected to attend the workshop.

III. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chair McKenney reported that there has been no response from Commissioner McWalters to the letter sent expressing concern about the approval by the Providence School Board of the reduction to only one librarian in each Providence high school rather than the mandated 2 to 2.5 per school, and requesting denial of the extension of the waiver to continue the practice. Ms. Good added that no decision has been made yet. The high school positions have not been reinstated.

It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved that the Library Board of Rhode Island send a letter to the family of the late Representative Paul Sherlock in recognition and appreciation of his contribution and support for libraries.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee on Public Relations

No report.

Committee on Legislation

Ms. Reynolds has been awaiting introduction of legislation before scheduling a meeting. The next meeting will be scheduled on Monday, February 23, 2004, one hour prior to the Library Board meeting.

Committee on Planning and Budget

No report

Ad Hoc Committee on Bylaws

Ms. Reeves has sent proposed changes to the Bylaws to the Ad Hoc Committee members.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

VI. NEW BUSINESS

The Annual Meeting of the Coalition of Library Advocates (COLA) will be held on February 10, 2004 at the State House. Guest speaker will be author of Prince of Providence, Michael Stanton. Herman Rose will be awarded the "Sweetheart of the Year" award. Mr. Allen will become the new chair of COLA.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

VIII. AGENDA FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

It was the consensus of the Board members to change the time of the next meeting, due to the security measures at DOA. **The next meeting of the Library Board is scheduled on Monday, February 23, 2004 at 4:15 p.m., at the Department of Administration, Conference Room B. (Note change in time.)**

The Board requested Ms. Scialabba to survey Board members for suggestions for in moving the location of some or all of the March, April, May and June meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND

March 15, 2004

MINUTES

Members Present: Chair Mark McKenney, Cristina Amedeo, Deborah Barchi, Alice Barrows, Mary Cummings, Donald Deignan, Peter Deekle, Donna Good, Leslie McDonough,

Members Absent: William Allen, Joan Ankner, Jay Litman, Phyllis Harnick, Tovah Reis, Rose Ellen Reynolds, Joshua Teverow

Present from the Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS): Anne Parent, Donna DiMichele, Karen Mellor, Beth Perry, Laurie Scialabba

Observers: Sarah Hunicke, URI GLSIS student interning with Donna Good; Dan Austin, Providence Public Library

Materials Distributed:

- * Report of the February 23, 2004 Committee on Legislation
- * Calculations to be inserted into proposed legislation for reimbursing public library construction
- * Concerns re: 2004 H-7336, prepared by Ms. Parent, with attached table illustrating the effects of the legislation
- * State Aid to Free Public Libraries, prepared by the Providence Public and Westerly Public Libraries 3/5/04
- * American Library Association Washington Office Action Request regarding LSTA funding
- * Navigating the Future of Libraries: A Rhode Map
- * Condolence letter to family of Rep. Paul Sherlock
- * R.I. Center for the Book, website www.ribook.org

The meeting was convened at 4:22 p.m.

I. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the January 20, 2004 meeting were unanimously approved.

III. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chair Mc Kenney welcomed guests Sarah Hunicke, a URI GLSIS student interning with Ms. Good; and Dan Austin, Associate Director at Providence Public Library.

Chair McKenney reported that Joan Ress Reeves would represent the Library Board at the American Library Association's Library Legislative Day, May 2-4, 2004 in Washington, D.C.

Chair McKenney reported that OLIS will forward the following recommendations to the Governor's Office for appointment to the Library Board: Ms. Reeves representing General Library Users; and Regina Connor representing Users of the Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

The letter sent to the family of the late Representative Paul Sherlock in recognition and appreciation of his contribution and support for libraries was distributed.

II. REPORT OF ADMINISTRATION

The LSTA/IMLS FY 2004 State Grants have been announced, and Rhode Island will receive \$962,139, an increase of \$138,327 over the FY 2003 appropriation. The FY 2004 appropriation is not enough to fully implement the levels of the newly reauthorized LSTA, which would have doubled the base grant of \$340,000 that each state receives. This year's appropriation provided for an additional \$138,327 for each state to add to its base grant. A top priority for the funding for RI will be to fill the position of readers' advisor in the Talking Books Plus unit. Ms. Parent thanked Ms. Perry and Ms. Scialabba for their assistance in the Talking Books Plus section. Literacy and LORI sub-grants will also be considered in the distribution of funds.

ALA Washington Office has circulated a request that library supporters contact their Congressional representatives requesting that they sign on to a letter circulated by Rep. Raul Grijalva (D-AZ) and Rep. Robert Simmons (R-CT) in support of federal library programs to include \$232 million dollars for LSTA and \$100 million dollars for the School Library Literacy programs.

Ms. DiMichele distributed the agenda for the conference, *Navigating the Future of Libraries: A Rhode Map*, to be held on May 7, 2004, at the Crowne Plaza at the Crossings hotel in Warwick. Sarah Ann Long, former President of the American Library Association, will be the keynote speaker. A number of Rhode Island library organizations have agreed to co-sponsor the conference, and an exhibit area for vendors and sponsors will be available. To date, 52 registrations have been received. Register online at http://library.salve.edu/library_futures/registration2004.html. Information and updates can be found at http://www.ric.edu/adamslibrary/library_futures/conference.html

Ms. Parent testified before the House Finance Committee on March 11, on H-7736, legislation on endowment-based grant-in-aid. Ms. Parent was unable to support H-7736 and Concerns re: 2004 H-7736 prepared by Ms. Parent was distributed. On March 24, the House Education and Welfare Committee will hear the legislation on the establishment of the Legislative Commission. Ms. DiMichele will testify in favor of this legislation on behalf of Ms. Parent, who will be out of state.

The Director of the Department of Administration has agreed to grant OLIS the authority to enter into public library construction reimbursement agreements as long as reimbursement payments do not exceed the limits projected in the public library

construction legislation. CIO Collins has delegated responsibility for signing agreements to Anne Parent.

As a result of the Compact Disc Multistate Antitrust case, the Rhode Island Office of the Attorney General will distribute 20,000 music compact discs to schools and libraries in Rhode Island. There was a question of whether a library can sell unwanted CD's in a book sale. The CD's may be sold only if the proceeds are then used to purchase other music CD's, not spoken word CD's. The CD's may be exchanged with other recipients.

Registration is now open for 19 continuing education program from March to June 2004 on the LORI website <http://www.lori.ri.gov>

Ms. Perry reported that two Gates Library Program Sustainability Seminars would be held in Rhode Island on April 5 and 6. The April 5 session will be held at the R.I. Department of Administration, One Capitol Hill in Providence, and the April 6 session will be held at the Warwick Public Library, 600 Sandy Lane. Registration and additional information can be found on the LORI website <http://www.lori.ri.gov>

Ms. McDonough attended the Gates Foundation workshop in Seattle for rural librarians in public computing training. Ms. McDonough was pleased to report that small libraries in Rhode Island are very well off in comparison to other states, and serve as a great model. This can be attributed to The Champlin Foundations for their financial support for computers, CLAN for their technical support and statewide databases, and OLIS for the Minimum Standards for Public Libraries and grant-in-aid funding. Chair McKenney gave kudos to all involved.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee on Legislation

In the absence of Committee Chair Reynolds, Ms. Parent reported that a meeting was held on February 23; and three legislative initiatives were on the agenda for the Committee to consider recommending to the full Library Board.

H-7732 – Joint resolution creating a special legislative commission to study the current strengths and weaknesses of library services in Rhode Island. The committee discussed the importance of including OLIS representation to the commission. The Committee recommended that the Library Board support H-7732.

It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved that the Library Board of Rhode Island support H-7732 - Joint resolution creating a special legislative commission to study the current strengths and weaknesses of library services in Rhode Island.

It is expected that last year's proposed public library construction reimbursement legislation will be reintroduced this year, amended with the inclusion of the new totals needed for construction reimbursement for the next five years. New requested

appropriation levels for FY 2005 through FY 2009, calculated by OLIS staff member Ms. Mellor, were distributed. Ms. Mellor added that the delaying of some projects by communities has resulted in the need for less money for reimbursement in 2005 than originally projected. The amounts as stated should be sufficient to cover the proposed construction projects.

It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved that the Library Board of Rhode Island support the proposed legislation on public library construction reimbursement (no bill number as yet) with the new appropriation levels as calculated by OLIS staff member Karen Mellor.

H-7336/S2155 – Acts relating to libraries – state aid: These acts would require the state to increase matching funds to public libraries based on public libraries private endowments. Ms. Parent stated that various public library representatives attended the Committee on Legislation meeting. The list of concerns regarding the legislation and a table illustrating the effects of the legislation as developed by OLIS were distributed. Some attendees had expressed concern that if the legislation were approved, it would lead to a greater pressure for fundraising in their communities. Others commented on the viability of the concept as public policy. Kathryn Taylor, Library Director at Westerly Public Library had noted that Rep. Peter Lewiss (Westerly) introduced this legislation, and while it would benefit Westerly considerably, it would also be of benefit to 18 other libraries that use endowment income for operating funds. It was noted that legislation to provide endowment-based grant-in-aid for the Providence Public Library was approved by the General Assembly in 2003. State Aid to Free Libraries, authored by Westerly Public Library and Providence Public Library as a counteraction to the list of concerns developed by Ms. Parent, was also distributed.

It was the consensus of the Committee not to recommend approval of this legislation to the Library Board of Rhode Island.

Mr. Deignan asked that since the Committee did not recommend approval, did the Committee recommend opposition? Ms. Parent responded that the Committee did not recommend opposition. Mr. Deignan asked if the Committee wished the Library Board to remain neutral? Ms. Parent responded that if the Library Board assumed a neutral stand it would go on record as remaining neutral. Mr. Deignan responded that silence gives consent.

It was moved and seconded that the Library Board of Rhode Island take a neutral stand on H-7336/S2155.

Ms. Barrows amended the motion, and it was moved and seconded that the Library Board of Rhode Island discuss, but decline to endorse H-7336/S2155. Discussion followed.

Ms. Barchi stated that she felt uncomfortable voting in any way that seems negative to libraries, is opposed to the motion, and wants neutrality.

When asked if the proposed legislation is contrary to what is in the law, Ms. Parent responded that the original grant-in-aid language (prior to the amendment of 2003) called for aid based on a percentage match of funding for libraries that is “tax-based.”

In her capacity as Chief of Library Services, Ms. Parent attends the RILA Executive Board meeting as OLIS liaison, and gave an overview of the discussions regarding this legislation at the RILA Executive Board meeting. The RILA Executive Board has taken a neutral stand on this legislation. At that meeting, several Board members expressed deep concern that if this were approved, there would be pressure to create and/or add to endowments. A number of libraries with no endowments would not benefit. One Board member commented that it is the government’s responsibility to provide for an informed citizenry, and that she therefore could not support the legislation as public policy.

Ms. Parent testified on the proposed legislation at the House Finance Committee hearing, and distributed to the Finance Committee the list of concerns she had developed. Ms. Barrows stated that with limited amounts of funding for grant-in-aid, the use of endowment funds for grant-in-aid may allow for those communities with endowments to receive a larger share of grant-in-aid funds; and that that “would be the wrong way to go.” Ms. Parent stated that if H-7336/S2155 does not pass, the legislation would stand as approved last year, and the Providence Public Library would retain its endowment-based aid.

Chair McKenney invited Mr. Austin to provide comment. Mr. Austin opined that in terms of the need for fundraising, all libraries are asked to fundraise and this legislation would not affect the need to fundraise. Public funding is needed for libraries, and the use of endowment funds to enhance library operations was reasonable public policy.

Ms. Barchi stated that it is bothersome that Providence Public Library is able to use its endowment for consideration in grant-in-aid, but it seems that Westerly Public Library cannot “get its foot in the door.” It appears as favoritism to Providence Public Library. Ms. Barchi opined that Providence Public Library should never have been allowed to do it; and it is unfair not to allow others to it. Any other library with an endowment should be able to enjoy the benefit.

Ms. McDonough opined that the legislation passed last year enabling Providence Public Library to use its endowment funds for grant-in-aid should be rescinded and that the Library Board should strongly disapprove H-7336/S2155. Town councils could ask librarians the question, “How much are you fundraising?” For a small library, \$15,000 earned from fundraising goes right into the operating budget. Passage of this legislation would put small librarians in a bad position in front of their town councils.

It was moved and seconded that the Library Board of Rhode Island discuss but decline to endorse H-7336/S-2155 – Acts Relating to Libraries—State Aid: These acts would require the state to increase matching funds to public libraries based on public libraries private endowments. The motion was approved with seven affirmative votes and one negative vote. Ms. Amedeo, Ms. Barrows, Ms. Cummings,

Mr. Deignan, Ms. Deekle, Ms. Good and Ms. McDonough voted in favor of the motion.
Ms. Barchi voted in opposition.

Committee on Planning and Budget

No report

Committee on Public Relations

No report.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Barchi distributed the R.I. Center for the Book card with the email address. The first annual meeting for the R.I. Center for the Book will be held in June. Volunteer recruitment for the board of directors is taking place and anyone who loves books and has business experience or fundraising experience would be welcomed.

Ms. Cummings discussed the problem she is having with email spam. Removal of email addresses from the LORI was discussed. One consideration offered by Ms. DiMichele would be to establish a group email address for the entire Board. Ms. Amedeo stated that it has been useful to have her email address posted, as economically disadvantaged persons have used it to express concerns to her. If Board members continue to express concerns about possible spam generated from posting their email addresses, the question will be revisited at a later date.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

VIII. AGENDA FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Library Board is scheduled on Monday, April 19, 2004 at 4:15 p.m. Ms. Good offered to host the meeting at the Narragansett High School Library.

The Library Board meeting scheduled on May 17 will be held at the Cumberland Public Library and the June 21 meeting will be held at the Roger Williams University Library.

The meeting adjourned at 5:41 p.m.

LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND

May 17, 2004

MINUTES

Members Present: Chair Mark McKenney, William Allen, Alice Barrows, Rose Ellen Reynolds, Peter Deekle, Donna Good, Leslie McDonough, Phyllis Harnick

Members Absent: Joan Ankner, Jay Litman, Tovah Reis, Joshua Teverow, Cristina Amedeo, Deborah Barchi, Mary Cummings, Donald Deignan,

Present from the Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS): Anne Parent, Beth Perry

Observers: Cheryl Space, Children's Coordinator, Providence Public Library; Joan Ress Reeves; Reverend Thomas F. Conboy, Jr., Chair, Board of Trustees, Cumberland Public Library

Reporting: Laurie Scialabba

Materials Distributed:

Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds in Rhode Island help support...

This handout was used during the national Legislative Day visits to Congress.

The meeting convened at 4:26 p.m.

Celeste Dyer, Assistant Director, Cumberland Public Library, welcomed the Library Board and offered a tour of the library after the meeting.

I. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the March 15, 2004 meeting were approved.

II. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chair McKenney reported that those attending National Library Legislative Day were well received by our congressmen in Washington, D.C. Ms. McDonough wrote an outstanding summary of public access computing, which was published in the Providence Journal, and will be entered into the minutes. Ms. Reynolds added that the White House Conference on Library and Information Services Taskforce (WHCLIST) held its 25th anniversary reception at the Library of Congress. WHCLIST is still influencing libraries in 2004, especially with children's initiatives, and also in the development of local and statewide Friends groups.

Chair McKenney attended the conference, *Navigating the Future of Libraries: A Rhode Map*, and commented on the excellent speakers and interesting programs. He hopes that more Library Board members and non-librarians will attend future conferences. The idea of a Library Foundation for the state was discussed. With reference to a quote from the keynote speaker, Chair McKenney would like to re-examine the role of the Library Board. Thanks to Donna DiMichele, Anne Parent and Beth Perry for a job well-done.

III. REPORT OF ADMINISTRATION

Ms. Parent reported that the Futures Conference, held on May 7, was deemed a success with 203 participants representing various types of libraries as well as non-librarians. Sarah Long, keynote speaker and former President of the American Library Association, emphasized collaborations and partnerships.

OLIS is seeking nominations of any type of library providing a notable consumer health program within the last two years. Nominations will be sent to the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science Board. One library from each state will be awarded a blue ribbon from NCLIS, will receive national publicity and a check for \$150 to provide refreshments for a celebration.

Karen Mellor, OLIS staff member, has been appointed to Library Program Specialist III/Construction Specialist, effective May 16, 2004. This position replaces a former Library Program Specialist I position.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee on Planning and Budget – None

Committee on Legislation – None

Committee on Public Relations - None

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Chair McKenney announced that Ms. Barrows would serve as the Library Board liaison to the IRMB, and thanked Ms. Reeves for her many years of service. Ms. Barrows gave a brief update on IRMB, noting that Rhode Island is one of three finalists for the Government Supported Consumer Technology Excellence Award.

Ms. Parent stated that CLAN is still experiencing migration problems with the Horizon system. Many meetings have taken place, and \$90,000 in maintenance fees may not be paid. Ms. McDonough mentioned that libraries that did not upgrade hardware have problems.

Ms. Perry reported that Rhode Island has received a Gates Foundation Training Grant. Part 1 will address Public Access Computing and provide training for public library staff in topics to support and enhance the library's public access computing including direct training and train-the-trainer sessions. Part 2 will address services to the Spanish speaking population and will provide training to support and promote use of the Spanish language profile in libraries. Ms. Amedeo and Patricia Martinez of Providence Public Library are assisting in the project. Trainers are still needed. Rhode Island will apply for the next level of Gates grants in the amount of \$74,000 to provide a mobile training lab and training.

In Talking Books Plus, the transfer from the READS system to the KLAS system, administered by Perkins School for the Blind in Watertown, MA, has gone well. The additional service of the Online Public Access Catalog will be promoted.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Peter Deekle, as President of CRIARL, brought up the issue of significant funding problems for the R.I. Historical Society and the public college and university libraries. Mr. Deekle will forward a letter of information to Chair McKenney and Ms. Parent for review, prior to sending a letter to the Governor.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Reverend Conboy would like to advocate for all library trustees. Library trustees are a forgotten group, and he feels that trustees are not really wanted. Ms. Reeves concurred with Reverend Conboy and noted that RILA has dropped attention to trustees from its priority list. OLIS once provided some programs for library trustees, and perhaps COLA or the Library Board should review this situation. Reverend Conboy noted that inviting trustees when the Library Board held meetings at libraries would be a good idea. With regard to a statewide Library Foundation, he noted that whenever the library raised additional funding; public, namely state, funding diminished.

VIII. AGENDA FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The Library Board meeting scheduled for June 21, 2004, has been tentatively canceled unless there is pressing business.

Meetings scheduled in the fall are as follows: September 13, 2004 at the Department of Administration, and October 25, tentatively at the Narragansett High School Library

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Published in the Providence Journal, May 13, 2004, Northwest edition, "Off the Shelf" Special to the Journal by Leslie McDonough, director of the North Scituate Public Library

Computer access in libraries first rate

Did you know that you can reserve books online from your home computer? That your library card gives you access to high-quality reference databases? That you can access the library twenty four hours a day, seven days a week over the world wide web? Rhode Islanders are fortunate to have access to the best online services in the nation. Get out your library card and surf to your nearest library! The web addresses of every public library in the state are listed at <http://seq.clan.lib.ri.us/libsites.html>.

Public access computing services offered in Rhode Island libraries are a quantum leap above what is offered in most other states. Why? First and foremost, the Champlin Foundations have provided funds to purchase nearly every piece of computing equipment in Rhode Island public libraries. This is an extraordinary level of support unmatched in any other state. Champlin has been a committed supporter of public libraries and continues to provide substantial funds each year for computers. Also, in 2003, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation awarded funding to 23 RI public libraries serving populations with high poverty levels, so that they could purchase public access computers to give low-income patrons access to computers, the Internet and technical training.

As most library users know, public libraries in Rhode Island belong to CLAN (Cooperating Libraries Automated Network). Membership in CLAN means that CLAN personnel are always available to provide advice, troubleshooting, and general support to any library in the network. Even the smallest library with no budget for technical support

has access to these services. Library equipment statewide is not only up to date, but also well maintained.

The Rhode Island Office of Library and Information Services provides the final key to sustaining public access to computers. State minimum standards require that all public libraries provide access to statewide library holdings and electronic resources both within the library and remotely 24 hours a day, seven days a week, via the World Wide Web.

These factors have enabled each library, no matter its size, to provide state of the art computer services. The result: the best public access to computers and electronic resources in the nation. Go on, give us a try!

Leslie McDonough
Director
North Scituate Public Library