

LIBRAS Directors Meeting

May 9, 2002

Kendall College

In Attendance: Nancy Mactague, Aurora University; Luann DeGreve, Jack Fritts, Benedictine University; Susan Swords Steffen, Elmhurst College (Past-President); Larry Wild, Judson College; Iva Freeman, Kendall College; Jim Cubit, Lake Forest College; Ted Schwitzner (Secretary), Carolyn Sheehy, North Central College; Sonia Bodi (President), North Park University; Ursula Zyzik (Vice-President/President-Elect), St. Xavier University; David Malone, Wheaton College.

Note: Only ten of seventeen libraries were represented: There is not a quorum present.

Opening: The meeting commenced at 10:11 a.m. with introductions of members present.

Election Results: Sonia Bodi announced the winners of the election from the Annual Meeting, and acknowledged those present. The officers elected for 2002-03 will be:

Ursula Zyzik (SX)	President
Luann DeGreve (BEN)	Vice-President/President-Elect
Anne Jordan Baker (EL)	Secretary
Larry Wild (JU)	Treasurer
Sonia Bodi (NP)	Past-President

Annual Report, Annual Meeting, and Voting Procedures:

Sonia Bodi distributed a copy of the Annual Report from the April Annual Meeting. While doing so, Bodi commented on the successful Fall and Spring programs, noting as well that attendance was good for both programs. Carolyn Sheehy requested that attendance statistics should be included in the Annual Report. The inclusion of such details would help the board to pass along a documented record of libraries' continued participation in LIBRAS activities. Also, she stated that the Annual Report indicated that some of the SIGs had not met twice in the year, as per the Bylaws. Sheehy expressed concern that these procedural details are being passed along orally.

The Officers present acknowledged that some of that information needs could be more clearly delineated, perhaps in the form of an officers' handbook. On the matter of SIG meeting frequency, Ted Schwitzner commented that it is sometimes difficult for a SIG to meet twice in the time from September to April. Even with the winter combined-SIG meeting, that leaves only a couple months gap between meetings, where there may not be time to develop additional meeting content. However, SIG Chairs are informed at the summer Officers Transition Meeting that two SIG meetings per year are required by the Bylaws. Susan Swords Steffen added that the decrease meeting frequency or attendance could be a sign that a SIG may not be needed or its focus should change.

Jim Cubit commented that many groups around the state are discussing the issue of meeting attendance. Members agreed that much of the issue is that there are more groups and meetings now, thus making it harder to attend in-person meetings. This led to a discussion on two issues regarding attendance for the election at the Annual Meeting. Some LIBRAS members expressed an interest in casting their votes in the election, but other conflicting meetings throughout the state interfered with their attendance. If proxy ballots were to be offered as an alternative to

attendance, who would be allowed to send them? Further, what would draw members to the Annual Meeting at all if the election could be done without attending?

It was noted that participation in the election was a strong point for support staff during the revision of the Bylaws. A new plan would have to account for that. However, this election style differs from that required for other organizational elections (one vote per member institution). Nancy Mactague suggested that one alternative would be to perform the election via mail or fax, then announce the results at the Annual Meeting. Ursula Zyzik remarked that having the in-person election provided connections among staff people from the various libraries, as well as to the standing officers and candidates. Still, she also suggested that some type of absentee ballot would be useful.

Members identified the following additional benefits to having an Annual Meeting:

- It provides an opportunity for the broadest possible gathering of staff from member libraries.
- It serves as a culmination of the year's activities.
- It provides opportunities to recognize the contributions of members.
- It helps to generate and maintain a sense of organizational identity.

Request for Officers: The Directors asked the Executive Board to propose an absentee ballot system, allowing that ties will be broken by attendees of the Annual Meeting.

Library Participation:

Carolyn Sheehy asked whether all LIBRAS schools had participated in programs this year. It was noted that Trinity International University (TIU) had not attended any meetings or programs. Also, no one from TIU has ever served as an officer or SIG chair. Directors present agreed that an inquiry should be sent to verify that library's continued interest in LIBRAS membership, noting especially that the rest of the membership misses the presence of TIU staff. Ursula Zyzik stated that she would send a letter to the director, Rob Krapohl.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Mary Pat Radke was not present for a report, but comments were made based on the documents from the Annual Meeting. Carolyn Sheehy asked about the report on dues, indicating that it was not accurate regarding North Central College's payment. Sonia Bodi and Susan Swords Steffen believe there is an internal issue rather than any issue with lack of payment. The Directors agreed that the dues records should be resolved and communicated before the end of the fiscal year.

Bylaws: A number of directors commented on the statement about the publication of the program schedule. According to the Bylaws, the calendar of programs for the year is due out by September 1, however this has not happened in practice. Perhaps this particular bylaw could be amended to include the phrase, "Subject to change."

Ted Schwitzner raised the matter of the standing positions defined in the Bylaws but which are vacant. In particular, the Newsletter Editor and Handbook Editor positions have been vacant for a couple years. The new web site incorporates these elements, however, so a new position (Webmaster?) could be added to replace these positions.

Request for Officers: The Directors asked the Executive Board to propose Bylaws changes relating to calendar and the standing positions. Any changes will have to be approved by an assembly of the LIBRAS Membership at either the 2003 Annual Meeting or at a special membership meeting.

Retirees: Sonia Bodi shared a thank you note from Mary Joyce Pickett, expressing her gratitude for the send-off at the Annual Meeting. David Malone noted that Paul Snezek's retirement date is June 30. However, he will be returning as Director Emeritus for 20 hours a week until the search for his replacement is complete.

Council of Academic Libraries:

Jim Cubit and Sonia Bodi updated the Directors on the activities of the Council of Academic Libraries. This group resulted from the ILLINET White Paper published in April 2001, and has representatives from the following organizations: Illinois Cooperative Collection Management Program (ICCMP), Illinois Library Computer Systems Organization (ILCSO), Illinois Digital Academic Library (IDAL), and Northern Illinois Resource Consortium(?) (NILROC). The Illinois State Library and Illinois System Directors Organization (ILSDO) are also ex officio members of the group.

All of these organizations overlap with one another in one or more areas, but specifically they overlap in, 1) the purchase of electronic resources, and 2) competition for funding from the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE). The current push of the group is for the Council to become the only group bringing requests to IBHE. Further, the Council is going to attempt to deal with the overlapping areas and reduce or eliminate redundant efforts of these groups. For example, it is likely that IDAL would take on the full role of purchasing electronic resources, while ILCSO would continue to focus on the shared bibliographic system.

While LIBRAS is not a member of the Council, we are recognized as having a unique place among statewide organizations. LIBRAS has a good reputation regarding our cooperation, networking, and continuing education efforts.

Additional Business:

The Directors briefly discussed the state budget situation, and specifically addressed the concern about the proposed elimination of MAP grants to students for private colleges. Members emphasized the need to put pressure on legislators to keep MAP grants in place so that student enrollment levels could remain the same. Additionally, pressure should be applied to the Secretary of State to keep library funding at the same levels.

Larry Wild announced that he has received the Serials Solutions renewal information. He was told that libraries would need to resubmit their database profiles. Ted Schwitzner asked whether this would supersede work done in Serials Solutions' online client center. Wild noted that he would email the libraries more information about the renewal process.

Institutional Updates: The Directors shared their news of job openings, building projects and delays, and preparation for the ILCSO Voyager conversion.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned for lunch in the Kendall College Restaurant at 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ted Schwitzner
LIBRAS Secretary