

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

The SLTA held meetings in 2021 on January 15, April 14, and September 29. The AGM was held by Zoom Conference Call on June 29.

Good governance is essential to constructive change within an organization. It promotes open and honest dialogue, listens to its communities, and is open and transparent to change. Libraries thrive and adapt when governance practices follow this roadmap. The Saskatchewan Library Trustees Association is an important organ to support Regional and local library boards in enhancing public library service to their communities.



In the following year, the SLTA will continue to focus on service to regional library boards:

Trustee training

The SLTA website at SLTA.ca/governance, Trustee Development has up to date training modules on You tube, and the "In a Nutshell" PDF that outlines "all you want to know about governance." As well, we hope to offer a governance workshop at the SLA conference in the spring.

Advocacy

The narrative of a successful library is created by the community that is home to the library. The SLTA would like to highlight and disseminate the stories of your library. What does it mean to your community and the difference it has made to your patrons? We would like to share the narrative of how valuable libraries are to their communities. Please send to our executive director, Nancy Kennedy at njk@sasktel.net.

Ministers Brief

Our yearly brief to the Minister will once again be compiled from the requests sent to us from the regional library boards of Saskatchewan. A continued dialogue with the Ministry is a vital component in identifying areas of strain in our public library system, and to describe the importance to the Minister of an ever evolving library system to our communities and our regions.

I would like to thank our executive director Nancy Kennedy and the SLTA board for their contributions over the year.

Steven Allen (Wheatland)
President

SLA CONFERENCE 2022

The conference is scheduled for May 4-6 in Regina. More details will follow. <https://saskla.ca/slaconference>.

YOUR SLTA STRIVES TO:

- Promote and foster the development of libraries and library services in Saskatchewan.
- Provide for exchange of ideas and experiences among library board members through conferences and publications.
- Assist members by understanding their responsibilities as library trustees.
- Cooperate with associations of library trustees outside the province.
- Seek improvements and foster necessary changes in the legislation affecting Saskatchewan libraries.
- Work in close cooperation with the Saskatchewan Library Association.

SIDE THIS ISSUE

SPOTLIGHT ON YOUR SLTA BOARD MEMBERS—CHERYL BAUER HYDE

I can't imagine life without public libraries. My first recollection of going to a library was when our family moved to Meadow Lake when I was in Grade 1. Our first home there was just a block from the Meadow Lake Library, and it was a welcoming place especially for a shy child. With subsequent moves to Prince Albert, Calgary, Regina, and now Christopher Lake, almost my first acquisition upon arrival in a new place was a library card.

When we lived in the Northwest Territories, there was no public library however many of us purchased and exchanged books through the popular, at that time, Doubleday Book Club. While this met our needs, it certainly didn't provide equitable service to many people. Establishing the Regional Library System and the Saskatchewan Information and Library Services (SILS) Consortium (provincial one-card system) are uniquely Saskatchewan achievements to be celebrated. These are institutions that require ongoing provincial and municipal governments commitment and financial resources.

As a municipal councillor, I became a member of the Christopher Lake Public Library and Wapiti Regional Library boards. Serving as a Wapiti Executive Committee member in both the role of Vice-Chair and Chair has been a huge learning opportunity, and I value that time. I am in my early days as the Wapiti representative on the Saskatchewan Library Trustees Association, and look forward to increasing my understanding about the critical role in supporting and strengthening Saskatchewan's public libraries, the regional and municipal library systems, local boards and trustees/board members.

My favourite pastimes are reading, cooking, board governance, and volunteering locally, provincially and nationally. As new grandparents, my husband Wayne and I look forward to introducing our grandson to the magic and wonder of libraries and the many programs and services provided.

Libraries are about much more than books!



YOUR 2021/2022 SLTA BOARD

Chinook Region

Patrick Simpson, Tompkins
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Lakeland Region

Dennis Taylor, Hafford
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PNLS

Vice-President Darlene Morin,
Pelican Narrows
Email: morindar@sasktel.net

Parkland Region

Treasurer Sharon Armstrong, Wynyard
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Saskatoon Public Library

John Thronberg, Saskatoon
Email: j.thronberg@saskatoonlibrary.ca

Wapiti Region

Cheryl Bauer Hyde, Christopher Lake
cbauerhyde@gmail.com

Wheatland Region

President Steven Allen, Luseland
Email: sallen@sasktel.net

IN THE WORLD OF SASKATCHEWAN LIBRARIES...

Encouraging youth to get outside and interact with nature was the goal when Wapiti Regional Library partnered with the North Saskatchewan River Basin Council (NSRBC) in its Notice Nature initiative.

With the vision of getting families and kids to “look, look around, and Notice Nature” as a first step to stewardship, the summer program enticed participation with a toolkit consisting of a series of 19 bingo-style task cards along with reference guidebooks, backpack, magnifying glass, insect/fish net, and pencil with sketch pad.

Kids and families visited their local library to choose cards that caught their imagination, then completed a list of meaningful tasks. For example, the "Nature" card tasks included planting a tree, helping a bee, or building a birdhouse. Once the required number of squares was completed on a card, it was turned into the local Wapiti branch library to receive exciting prizes such as hats, bandanas, activity books, flashlights, and for the first 50 who completed the Community task card, free passes to the Western Development Museum.

Branch Librarians sent completed cards to the Wapiti Regional Office where Community Services Librarian Lindsay Baker has been coordinating with partners NSRBC and Lakeland Regional Library to collect information on participation and ensure that branches are well stocked with prizes.

There is still time to take part. Due to requests from participating School Divisions, the program will be extended into October, 2021. Print off the bingo cards from home (<https://www.noticenature.ca/resources>), or request them from your library, and drop them off at your nearest Wapiti branch to qualify for prizes.

