Notice of AGM & Call for Resolutions

The Annual General Meeting of the SLTA will be held during the 2010 Saskatchewan Libraries Conference:

**Friday, May 7, 2010**

9:45 am

**Conference Room 4**

**Queensbury Convention Centre**

**Regina, SK**

Resolutions shall be presented only by library trustees who are active members of the Association. Resolutions shall be sent to the Chair of the Resolutions Committee in writing at least one month prior to the AGM. Resolutions may be presented at the AGM on any matter with the approval of 2/3 of the trustees in attendance. The resolutions from the floor must be in written form and ready for distribution at the AGM. Please forward resolutions to Resolutions Committee Chairperson:

Mayor Sharon Armstrong
Box 963
Wynyard, SK S0A 4T0

**Saskatchewan Libraries Conference**

**Theme: Diverse Communities, One Voice**

May 6-8, 2010

Queensbury Convention Centre

Regina, SK

The online brochure and registration is available at:  [www.saskla.org](http://www.saskla.org)

SLTA sponsored sessions will include a Sharing Circle on Best Practices and a Governance workshop facilitated by Dawn Martin of Daybreak Consulting. See you there!
One Province, One Library Card Initiative Moves Forward

On March 2nd, Deputy Premier and Minister of Education Ken Krawetz joined members of Saskatchewan’s public library community at Regina Public Library’s George Bothwell Branch to celebrate the successful implementation of the new Single Integrated Library System and to view a live demonstration of what the new system can do.

“Sixteen months ago, I announced funding of $5.2 million for a new Single Integrated Library System,” Krawetz said. “Today, I am pleased that we are well on our way toward fully implementing a more convenient, cost-effective and accessible library system for residents throughout Saskatchewan.”

When the project is complete, the Single Integrated Library System (SILS) will connect all of the province’s 306 public library locations and ensure that each library offers users the same access to information and services, regardless of where it is located. With four of ten public library systems already live on SILS, library patrons have already noticed a huge difference in the number of items they can access, compared to the old stand-alone catalogues. In addition, patrons on the go can use their new universal library cards at any public library in the province.

“With the Minister’s funding and support, all Saskatchewan patrons will be provided with faster and more equitable access to public library services and resources,” Saskatchewan Information and Library Services Consortium President Zenon Zuzak said. “We are truly grateful for this opportunity and we are up to the challenge of breaking new ground with the scope of this initiative.”

Behind the scenes, SILS, the database-driven library management system, will more fully integrate the key library functions of acquisitions, cataloguing, circulation, magazine subscriptions and the public interface. The system will also be better able to showcase the growing number of instantly available online holdings, such as downloadable audio books and topical articles from thousands of journals. In the new spirit of cooperation, many policies and procedures will be standardized across the province, allowing patrons a common user experience, and allowing the libraries to better share expertise and training know-how.

Saskatoon Public Library, Palliser Regional Library, Southeast Regional Library, and Regina Public Library were in the first phase of implementation and are already live on the system. The remainder of the public library systems will join onto SILS in two additional phases. Phase 2 libraries (which include the Lakeland, Parkland and Wapiti regional library systems) are scheduled to be up and running in summer of this year. Phase 3 libraries (which include the Pahkisimon Nuye?ah Library System and the Chinook and Wheatland regional library systems) are currently scheduled to go live in the fall. At that time, the Provincial Library will also make the switch to SILS, bringing on its extensive collection of multilingual, professional and one-of-a-kind holdings.

Along with the substantial funding provided by the province, regional, northern, and municipal library boards are major contributors to SILS. Through participation in the SILS Consortium, each public library system collaborates on joint projects and purchases, to the benefit of all library users in the province. The Saskatchewan Information and Library Services Consortium (SILS Consortium) includes the 10 public library systems in Saskatchewan, as well as the Provincial Library, a branch of the Ministry of Education.
SUCCESS STORY from the WHEATLAND REGION

Literacy and Music: A Harmonious Partnership!

The Wheatland Regional Library has partnered with the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra for an exciting and unique performing tour in ten rural communities in the Wheatland Regional Library region.

This partnership highlights how stories and music presented together provide a rich opportunity to engage one’s imagination while providing a unique and interesting concert experience to the listener. Six performances occurred in the Fall of 2009 with the remaining four planned for 2010. The shows are presented to children in the community’s school gymnasium with an invitation extended to the community at large.

The concert consists of an instrument description and demonstration by each musician as well as a performance of short excerpts from the classical repertoire. The musicians also demonstrate and act out how music can depict various moods which helps to set up the “Tatterhood” piece. “Tatterhood” was written for narrator and small chamber ensemble by Regina composer Jonathan Ward with the story, an old Norwegian folk tale, adapted by Carolyn Thauberger. It portrays the story of an unlikely young heroine, Tatterhood, who despite her dirty and disheveled appearance and proclivity to ride a goat and bang a wooden spoon, battles evil trolls to save her beautiful sister to find love and acceptance.

Packages of information were sent ahead to each school which included background information to the performance as well as suggested pre-tour activities and a list of further reading/listening. A “Tatterhood Tour” blog (tatterhoodtour.wordpress.com) is documenting the adventures as well as providing additional information about both music and children’s literature.

This partnership has been a wonderful and rewarding experience. As the narrator, I have the pleasure of standing at the front of the audience alongside the musicians and watching the faces of the children as they hear some of these instruments live for the first time or see how they lean forward in anticipation of Tatterhood’s battle with the evil trolls!

Respectfully submitted by: Saache Heinrich, Youth Services / Branch Manager
Chinook

- Yumi Hwang is the new branch manager at Swift Current branch.
- Gravelbourg celebrated its 35th Anniversary. Stephanie Hall and Laura Emery presented a selection of new books to the library on behalf of the board.
- Over the next few months, preparing for the migration to SILS will become the major priority for management.

Lakeland

- This past year was a record year for new material on the shelves and it was also a record year for the number of items we removed from the shelves. If we took more books off the shelf than we put on why would we want to brag about that? We want to brag because each and everyone of our libraries looks much better for it and patrons are seeing more new material every day.

- February saw many of our branches putting on events during Aboriginal Storyteller Week, including both indoor and outdoor activities and despite the cold weather some very good participation was seen. This is also the time of year when our branches hold their Annual General Meetings and start preparing for the Summer Reading Program.

- So, as they say, another chapter is finished and tomorrow we start with the next and so the story continues. In the case of Lakeland the book gets more exciting as we move towards our participation in the new provincial wide library system.

Parkland

- An update was not available at the time of printing. Stay tuned in our next issue for a complete update from Parkland!

PNLS

- Harriet Roy, Jocelyn Provost and Audrey Mark have come up with a plan for the training and implementation of SILS in our area.
- PNLS participated in the Prince Albert Grand Council Library Conference. Sessions include Dealing with Difficult Behaviour and Reluctant Readers, laughter yoga, Multitype Library Board online databases, and Audrey Mark delivered a session on creating MARC records.
- On February 2, 2010, PNLS held an open house celebration of their 20th anniversary and Saskatchewan Archives Week. Community members who came stayed for cake and watched historical footage from the 1993 and 1994 Elder's conferences from the Archives collection and the PowerPoint presentation of the history of PNLS.
Regina Public Library

- RPL was the fourth library system to go live on the new Millennium integrated library system on February 2. Overall, the transition was smooth and many patrons have commented very positively on now having direct access to the collections of more libraries in the province.

- Three building projects are in different stages of completion: The Central Library Development Project, The Prince of Wales Branch scheduled for completion in January 2011 and the North Central Shared Facility (NCSF) which will include the relocated Albert Branch. The NCSF is unique in that it is more than a shared space with health, school board, daycare centres, City of Regina, Community Centre and others—it represents a vision for integrated programs and services among the many partners in support of vibrant, community centred services.

- A Marketing & Communications plan has been developed that lays the groundwork for an active, informative re-branding of public library services for Regina, to put the library’s services at top-of-mind and create a positive public presence that lays the foundation for the coming fundraising campaign.

- Key Service Plan projects for 2010 include longer open hours, increased expenditures for collections, creating outdoor public spaces, creating young adult spaces, reduced wait times for materials and improving the collections model.

Saskatoon Public Library

- SPL was the first system to implement SILS on December 15.

- Construction of the Alice Turner Branch is targeted to begin in the spring 2010.

- The Central Library renovation and expansion will be considered as part of the City’s comprehensive plan for Saskatoon’s city centre.

- An appointment of the Community Development Coordinator term, contract position is forthcoming. Grant funding for this position will come from the Ministry of Education.

- A staff committee will be formed to begin work regarding ways to celebrate SPL’s 100th anniversary in 2013.

Southeast

- Southeast Regional Library went live on SILS on January 12. The biggest challenge will be the introduction of overdue charges once our grace period has finished.

- Another focus over the last quarter has been adjusting to the new accounting rules, particularly the standard in tangible asset accounting.

- Southeast, in cooperation with Parkland, hosted the 3rd Annual Round Dance at the White Calf facility on Star Blanket First Nation (Lebret) on Friday, February 26.
Wheatland

- Circulation in 2009 increased by 5.8%, with Kindersley as the top branch for circulation.
- In two years the number of holds placed by library patrons increased 34%.
- Migration to SILS is scheduled for September.
- Jason Chamakese toured three branches as part of Aboriginal Storytelling month.

Wapiti

- Wapiti Regional Library will celebrate its 60th Anniversary in April. Central to the 60 years of successful library service is the early contribution of library pioneering legends such as Ms. Marion Gilroy, after whom the Wapiti Headquarters is named and Ms. Grace Campbell, the initial Regional Director, who recently celebrated her own 100th year!
- The “go live” date for SILS is scheduled for June.
- Wapiti has finished the 2009 financial yearend and auditing preliminary process in a surplus position for the third successive year.

Building Bridges Round Dance

The “Building Bridges” Round Dance was held in Lebret on February 26 at the White Calf Gym in Wa-Pii Moos-Toosis (White Calf) Cree Nation to celebrate the relationship between literacy, libraries and Aboriginal people. Southeast Regional Library, headquartered in Weyburn, was the primary host for the event. Parkland Regional Library, headquartered in Yorkton, also assisted in sponsoring and hosting the round dance. The lead Elders were Kirby and Cheryl Littletent. There were 30 female and 60 male singers in attendance as well as recently elected Chief Perry Bellegarde and Assistant Deputy Minister of Education Darren McKee. About 600 people attended the Round Dance as both participants and spectators, and of these, about 50 were library staff and their families from several of the province’s library systems. The Round Dance was held as part of the Government of Saskatchewan’s “Information is for Everyone” decade-long initiative to bring about stronger ties between public libraries and Aboriginal peoples in Saskatchewan.

The Round Dance was a great success and included events and activities such as a feast with traditional foods, a pipe ceremony, draws & raffles, a canteen, a gift give-away, a midnight lunch, and, of course, singing, music and dancing that lasted well into the morning. Round Dances are held during the winter months and are intended as celebrations or to mark a special occasion.

This is the third such Round Dance sponsored by a Saskatchewan public library system in as many years. Previous round dances in the series were held in Saskatoon, (2008), and Regina, (2009). The public library community thanks the Ministry of Education for providing core funding for each of the Round Dances. The fourth and final library-sponsored round dance is planned for early 2011 in central Saskatchewan.
Brief to the Minister

SLTA President, Councillor Bev Dubois, Vice President Dennis Taylor and Executive Director Wendy Thienes, met with Deputy Premier and Minister of Education, Ken Krawetz on November 23, 2009. We invite you to read the brief on the SLTA Website.

Brief content is open to ongoing discussion and input from our members via their regional representatives. Please contact your regional representative if you have questions, concerns or issues that you would like to see addressed in our next brief.

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SLTA Board of Directors 2009/2010

Back Row: Joylene Campbell, Provincial Librarian; Mayor Sharon Armstrong; Lorna Black; Maureen McGirr; Donna Hartley; Wendy Thienes, Executive Director.
Front Row: Dennis Taylor, Vice President; Councillor Bev Dubois, President; Kae Campbell, Treasurer.

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Meeting Communiqué-February 27, 2010

- Nominations for Life Member Award were reviewed and the recipient will be announced and presented with this honour at the SLA Conference Banquet on Friday, May 7.
- SLTA participated in a display at the SARM and SUMA conventions, which was organized by the Provincial Library and Literacy Office. The SLTA Expo unit is available to member regions for their use at no cost. See the website for details or contact the Executive Director.
- Letters will be sent to the Ministers responsible for Canadian Heritage and Canada Post, in support of the book rate.

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.

SLTA is looking for support from local library boards. We would also suggest buying an individual SLTA membership for your mayor and/or members of councils as a way to show support for libraries. Your support can help us help libraries!

Membership provides each member with this newsletter, “The Trustee”. This newsletter identifies the major issues facing libraries and allows us to work together to achieve our common goals.

If you would like more information please contact your region’s SLTA representative or myself at the above address. Also check our website at www.libraries.gov.sk.ca/slta for more information.

Name __________________________________ Address________________________________
E-mail __________________________________ Region _________________________________
Library __________________________________ Region _________________________________

*Each region pays the membership for regional board members. This form is for members of local boards or anyone else who wishes to become members of the Saskatchewan Library Trustees Association. Please remit the completed membership form along with $10.00 payment to the above address. Thank you for your support!