

Colorado Association of Libraries (CAL) Newsletter

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Colorado Association of Libraries Annual Report

by Donna Jones Morris, CAL President

The Colorado Association of Libraries (CAL) is a strong functioning professional library association. During the seven months of CAL's official existence, the Executive Board has focused on establishing a strong base for the organization to ensure continued organizational viability. This ongoing process will continue. CAL is also working to establish strong affiliations with other organizations. The Executive Board began meeting in January 2002 and has met monthly since then. CAL was formed as the Colorado Educational Media Association (CEMA) joined with the Colorado Library Association (CLA) officially March 15.

One of the major things I have learned this year is that there are many opportunities for Colorado librarians in CAL. The opportunity to grow and gain expertise by working with others is available to all. If you have not assumed a role in your new professional association, now is your opportunity. Consider what you have to offer and what you would like to learn and then contact Paul Paladino. Paul is in charge of appointing the Committees.

The new organization has seven dedicated elected Executive Board members: President, Donna Jones Morris; Vice President, Paul Paladino; Secretary, Linda Van Wert; Treasurer, George Jaramillo; and three at-large members, Shannon Cruthers, David Gleim, and Carol Sehnert. Although the bylaws provide for voting by only seven elected board members, all those who attend Executive Board meetings are welcome to comment, express opinions, convince voting members concerning issues, and to word motions that are made by one of the seven Executive Board members. Committee chairs, liaisons, CAL staff and members, and the public are welcome at all Executive Board meetings. Paul Paladino and I have worked with the Committees to

help them identify and fulfill their charges.

CAL staff includes Executive Director Kathleen Sagee Noland and CASL Liaison and Special Projects Director Heidi Baker. The year began with Kathleen working full-time and during the year Kathleen started working part-time. Kathleen, Heidi, and other special project staff perform essential functions for our new organization. Kathleen edits the bimonthly newsletter. Janet Lee edits *Colorado Libraries*. Vicki Nichols, our Webmaster, ensures that the Web site <http://www.cal-webs.org> includes comprehensive information about CAL. I worked with each staff member as we identified duties and position descriptions, and Carol Sehnert worked with us to develop a staff evaluation procedure. The CAL office was located in the Central Colorado Library System (CCLS) office, but during the year CAL offices moved to the homes of staff. The CAL address continues to be the CCLS office. CAL contracts with lobbyists Jerry Braden and Ruben Valdez as reported by the Legislative Committee.

Kim Meyer and Judy Zelenski chaired the inaugural Conference Committee jointly, and over 100 volunteers planned and coordinated the first Conference at Keystone, October 17-20, 2002. Judy and Kim brought their combined skill and grace together to combine the best practices of CEMA and CLA into the first CAL Conference.

The major challenge of the year was the reduction of the funding for Colorado libraries as outlined in the Legislative Committee report. This budget challenge meant that my role as official CAL spokesperson became more essential. I discussed the Colorado budget challenges with reporters from Colorado newspapers and from national library publications. *(continued on page 2)*

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An official statement was released, with the assistance of the silver toothed Colorado library writer Jamie LaRue. The library budget challenge also resulted in my working more closely with the Legislative Committee as the association works to improve Colorado library funding.

Treasurer George Jaramillo managed finances. Linda Van Wert, secretary, coordinated compilation of the Annual Report, content of meeting agendas, worked with affiliating organizations, and arranged for Denver Public Library to be the official CAL archives. David Gleim coordinated revision of the bylaws and procedures. Shannon Cruthers and Lorena Mitchell represented CAL on the Colorado Library Political Action Committee (CLPAC), which is chaired by Gail Dow. Our parliamentarian Bev Moore ensured that meetings were conducted according to proper parliamentary procedures. All three association leaders, all committee chairs and members, the liaisons to the Colorado State Library, the American Library Association, and the Mountain Plains Library Association, plus untold volunteers have helped start CAL. Everyone who has been involved is hereby thanked for their contributions toward helping establish the Colorado Association of Libraries.

I represented CAL at all the meetings of the Prez Group, which includes all the major Colorado library professional associations. I worked with the CLPAC and attended one meeting.

During the 2002-2003 year, one of the major goals of the CAL will be to build a CAL Long Range Plan. In order for this plan to adequately reflect the needs of Colorado libraries, it will require extensive input. All those interested in CAL will have the opportunity to participate. CAL will be as successful in the future as you help make our organization. Please join in this collaborative process. Efforts to expand opportunities for member participation will also be an association goal.

Thanks to all CAL members for your belief in professional development. Our organization will be as strong as you make it.

Thank you for your membership in the Colorado Association of Libraries!

2002 Election Results

by William Knott, Nominating Committee Chair

The 2002 CAL Election was conducted according to the CAL Bylaws. Here are the election results.

I. Amendments Referred by the Executive Board

All seven amendments were approved by the membership

II. Academic Library Association

- Beth Avery elected vice-chair
- Nancy Chaffin elected member at large
- Dawn Bastian, elected secretary
- Bette D. Rathe elected member at large

III. Technical Services and Automation Division

- Sylvia Hall-Ellis elected chair
- Gwen Gregory elected secretary

IV. Colorado Association of School Libraries

- Penny LoFaro elected Three Rivers Regional Director
- Janice Fisher-Giles elected High Plains Regional Director

Thanks to all who voted in this year's election!

Librarium Miscellanea

#The **Character's Cool Contest** is an opportunity for U.S. secondary school students to help stop school violence by practicing ethical behavior -- and, to win prizes! Students can enter a drawing to win prizes for themselves, schools with the most participation win prizes, and individuals can enter an essay contest to win cash prizes. To learn more about the contest, please visit

<http://www.mindohfoundation.org/contest/>

#**Mystery Writers America** is developing a database of **libraries interested in mystery writers as speakers**. Writers who are in the library's local area or visiting it will be able to contact the library about the possibility of a program. No library will be obligated to sponsor a program with any individual writer or group of writers. There is no cost to libraries to be listed in the database. Email service@mysterywriters.org Learn more about the organization at <http://www.mysterywriters.org>

DPLD Presents: Geekfest '02

by Jamie LaRue, Director, Douglas Public Library District

Douglas Public Library District hosted an event in July we called "Geekfest '02." This one-day panel discussion resulted from the Board's direction that I put together a technology plan for the next three years.

We invited several key library technology experts. They were: Carson Block, Technology Consultant for the High Plains Regional Service System; Kevin Watkins, Network Specialist for the Douglas Public Library District; Bob Pasicznyuk, Information Technology Officer for the Pikes Peak Library District; Dave Hahn, President of Techangle; John Zacrep, Information Technology Director for the Jefferson County Public Library System; and Eric Sisler of the Westminster Public Library. Also invited were Board of Trustees and DPLD library staff, and the directors and staff of all the other public libraries in the state.

We provided Geekfest '02 T-shirt, and pocket protectors for all attendees. The T-shirts were donated by Techangle and AwardEx. Seven propeller hats were purchased for panelists. Total budget for this event: about \$200, for 5 hours of top quality technical reporting and planning.

Our response was positive. We arbitrarily limited the session to 50 people (in the interests of space). Finally, we had one Trustee, 10 staff from the library, 15 people from the Western Slope, and another 25 or so from the metro area.

I moderated the session. Questions were generally answered in round robin fashion, although sometimes, speakers went out of turn, or responded to audience questions. Questions included:

- How are you managing wireless security?
- Where do you believe technology can be applied to best improve library efficiency and save money?
- What exciting new things are you seeing on the horizon?
- What if English won't be the language of the Internet?

For Geek Fest questions and answers, visit the CAL Web site at <http://www.cal-webs.org>

Annual Report of the Revisions Committee

by David Gleim, Chair, CAL Revisions Committee and Member-at-Large, CAL Executive Board

The charge of the CAL Revisions Committee is to:

- #Review the CAL Bylaws and Policy and Procedures Manual annually;
- #Recommend Bylaw changes to the Executive Board for submission to the membership;
- #Coordinate periodic review of Association and Division bylaws to ensure compliance with CAL bylaw.

Members of the CAL Revisions Committee include Beverly Moore and David Gleim (chair). The Committee continued the work of the Transition Task Force, reviewed the CAL bylaws and those of the Associations and Divisions and recommended revisions to the Executive Board. The Committee also drafted the ballot for those revisions requiring approval of the CAL membership.

The Committee presented several recommendations to the Executive Board for revisions and additions to the CAL Policies and Procedures Manual, chiefly regarding the financial obligations of the Board for conferences and workshops. Finally, the Committee reformatted the Policies and Procedures Manual to simplify future revisions.

**Colorado's
@your library[™] Advocacy
Campaign**

Colorado's Advocacy Campaign hits the ground running this fall. Coach libraries have been selected, and will be matched with player libraries. Coach and player libraries met at the CAL conference to receive training and begin making plans.

Training continues with more trainings scheduled in the next few months.

Thanks to Central Colorado Library System, a toolkit tailored to Colorado's campaign was created.

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Distribution began at the CAL conference training and will also be distributed to people who participated in prior trainings. Contents include fact sheets, story ideas, drop-in display ads, sample news release, and other items. Five hundred @your library flashing pins have been ordered. These also will go to people in trainings and will be sold to others.

Colorado's three major themes have been refined. These include:

#Library--door for Learning

Children's first and best classroom, life-long learning location, people's university, multiple toys/equipment/materials to exercise your brain, meet your colleagues here, people like you, formal and informal education, information literacy, equal access for all.

#Library – Gateway to the World

The world's biggest and no-charge bookstore, all kinds of stuff and materials, virtually everything through the library, internet and databases, an electronic portal, a way to experience the diversity of life, the turnkey to human knowledge and emotion.

#Librarian Friendly Expert

Problem solver, the answer coach, the second teacher in every classroom, your best search engine, business-like yet a listener, resource-finder, mayor of the community of the library; personification of the sense of community you gain at a library.

These three themes, based on a meeting of the Advisory Committee and research from ALA and others, are clusters of concepts that are the broadest and most valuable to our most important target markets. Think of them as "emotional markers" or "hooks" or "visions" that can reach our markets. They will be used in planning the statewide promotional campaign, and local libraries also will be encouraged to reinforce the themes in their marketing efforts.

By Bonnie McCune, Colorado State Library,
mccune_b@cde.state.co.us

Have you called your legislators this year and invited them to visit your library? Have you told them about the value of your library and your library service to their community and to their constituents? Have you educated them about the impact of the cuts to the funding received from the state for libraries?

Not sure how to go about this? No problem – visit the legislative portion of the CAL Web site and utilize the many information pieces and communication suggestion posted there just for you. Got some really cool idea that everyone should know about? Let us know! Remember – if not YOU, then WHO will do this? If not NOW, then WHEN will it be done?

Snapshot of 2002 Legislative Session and CAL Legislative Efforts

The 2002 legislative session initially went well for Colorado libraries, despite the economic downturn. CAL lobbyists, with the help of library supporters calling their legislators when we needed to provide information, were very successful in convincing legislators to vote for a 4.9% budget increase for the CRC (not the full funding requested, but a step in the right direction), a 4.8 % budget increase for Systems (way overdue), retention of the State Funding for Libraries Grants (a close call on occasion), and maintenance for ACLIN funding.

Re-codification of Library Law for publicly funded libraries overcame several unexpected snags early on, made it past the Senate and into the House hearing. House supporters of the school-filtering bill (unopposed by CAL) added the school filtering bill text as an amendment to ensure they two opportunities in passing their filtering bill. About 95% or more schools already filter. The sponsor for the Library Law Re-codification bill opposed filtering and did not want a law including filtering passed with his name on it. The library law revision efforts went for naught in 2002 despite much hard work on the part of our lobbyists, Eloise May, and others who worked on this legislation.

There were other legislative issues, but the above were the most critical.

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Legislative (continued)

What Happened

Colorado law requires legislators to submit the state budget bill (Long Bill) to the governor for review and approval no later than 10 days before end of legislative session. When this deadline is met, the governor has a maximum of 10 days in which to review and propose changes. Legislators can negotiate, accept, or override the governor because they are still in session. When legislators do not meet the 10-day deadline, the governor then has 30 days starting AFTER the session to review, approve or cut any line item without any discussion or negotiation with legislators. Additionally, the governor must either approve an entire line item OR he must cut an entire line item. He may not by law reduce a line item.

Colorado legislators did not submit the budget bill by the 10-day deadline, and the governor cut the budget as he felt was appropriate due to falling revenues.

Governor Owens held a press conference on Friday, May 31st, 2002 to announce \$228M in state budget cuts he made for the 2002-03 fiscal year. These budget cuts included \$2M in State Funding for Libraries Grants (used for reference books and databases), funding for the Colorado Resource Center housed in the Denver Public (a major resource for 30 years to libraries across the state, particularly schools and rural libraries), and \$170,000 payment for lending program (used to compensate libraries that lend significant portions of their collections to libraries across the state). The governor has also mandated a 4% reduction in the current budget year (2002-2003) and state department staff is working to identify what to cut and yet protect those who need the services. Additionally, current revenue forecasts indicate a

potential need to cut another possible \$388M from the state's 2002-03 fiscal budget.

Libraries statewide are still sorting out the ramifications of the elimination of the statewide library funding and the CRC funding. The lack of CRC support is diverting previous CRC customers to other libraries in a year when statewide economic problems have encouraged more people to seek library services AND have forced many libraries to put positions on hold, cut collection funds, and consider cutting services and hours.

What Do We Do Now?

This question is an ongoing agenda item for the Legislative committee, the CAL board, and many others. Much work has been done by many individuals pulling together to develop a Strategic Plan & Guideline, get appropriate information out to help those communicating with their legislators, and develop positive ways of promoting library services and calling attention to the current funding issues.

One clear action step has been identified: make sure the public and our legislators are fully aware of the valuable services libraries have and how these services help and impact their lives. Advocacy and marketing of library services as valuable and valued resources is essential. And we can't do it alone – it takes all of us doing our part. Looking for tools to help you? Visit the CAL web site at <http://www.cal-webs.org/leg.html> and access the many tools now located there. While you are there, click on "Sign up now" under "Legislative Network," fill out the form, and send to the CAL office as indicated. You are needed to help your library clientele, help your local students, help your library community, and help the library users of Colorado by helping educate your legislator/s on the issues.

Has your address changed? Please let us know!

Please notify the CAL office of your change of address or other information. This is easy to do! Visit the CAL Web site at <http://www.cal-webs.org/membship.htm> and complete the form online, or email your changes to officemanager@cal-webs.org, or send a note to the CAL office.

This will assist in timely delivery of your membership benefits and news. Thank you for your help!



Colorado Association of Libraries
4350 Wadsworth Blvd., Suite 340
Wheat Ridge, CO 80033
303/463-6400 • 303/374-1288 (fax)
<http://www.cal-webs.org>
officemanager@cal-webs.org