

Colorado Association of School Libraries

January 29, 2005

In attendance: Board members Kim Meyer, Dave Sanger, Sherry Crow, JoAnn Perry, Susan Gilbert, Sharyn Markus, Nance Nassar, and Jennifer Hubbard; joined by Rose Nelson (CDE), Naioma Walberg (CAL Continuing Ed Chair), Mary McCarthy (C'YAAL volunteer), and Heidi Baker (CAL staff). Absent: Gwen Giddens, Penny LoFaro, Donna Miller, Jody Howard, and Betty Bankhead.

Welcome & Orientation: The board welcomed JoAnn and Jennifer for their first meeting. Heidi reviewed board notebooks including Minutes, By-Laws & Policies, Projects, Membership, and CAL. She highlighted CASL's 2005 budget increases, which include postage for a mailing, workshop expenses (expected to generate revenue for CAL), and allotment for board members' travel expenses, substitute pay, and board meeting conference calls. CASL received \$1,500 from the 2004 AASL ABC-CLIO Leadership Grant, and a \$1,000 gift was bequeathed to CEMA and is to be used by CASL.

Officer Reports

Kim Meyer, President:

ALA is sponsoring *Many Voices, One Nation*, a promotion of one children's and one adult book from each state. Kim encouraged participation by Colorado librarians who can make suggestions to her or online at www.cal-webs.org. The suggestion was made that Betty, as AASL representative, advocate for a YA category in the promotion if it is extended to future years.

The CAL Board has set three main goals: 1) to increase membership, 2) to increase diversity of membership, and 3) to become financially viable and stable. CLiC (Colorado Library Consortium—the new regional systems structure) will be holding an invitation-only retreat. CASL would like there to be a school representative at the retreat.

Dave Sanger, Past President:

The process for completing and fulfilling the AASL ABC-CLIO Leadership Grant is on target. The next step in implementation is the Spring Workshop, then after the workshop disseminate the ideas/suggestions to members. Bonnie has more @ your library school toolkits that can be distributed at the workshop or through other means; Nance and Bonnie are available to conduct local advocacy workshops. Their presentation at CAL was well received and well evaluated. Dave and Heidi will work with Kathleen on the financial reporting to AASL.

Sherry Crow, Secretary:

Minutes were presented and approved.

Concern was shared about the timing overlap of CAL conference workshops for school librarians. Suggestions for addressing the issue were: encouraging conference tracks on topics of interest to different librarians, ensuring that there is school library representation on the conference subcommittees, and promoting an abundance of school library workshop submittals. Sherry volunteered for the conference workshop committee, and Sherry and Dave are on the site selection committee for future years. As the CAL conference approaches, the CASL board will have further discussions and will make

suggestions to pass along. The 2005 conference co-chairs are Beth Wrenn-Estes and former CASL board member Glenda Hawkinson.

JoAnn Perry, High Plains Representative:

JoAnn explained her plans for sending the minutes from the CASL meetings to the librarians in her region. She will be soliciting questions and input from them.

Sharyn Markus, Plains and Peaks Representative:

Sharyn asked for an update on the CASL listserv discussion we had last year. After discussion of whether to set up our own or piggyback with LIBNET, it was agreed that it would be easier and more effective to join LIBNET, provided we could prefix our subject lines to attract the attention of CASL members. Kim will publicize the setup in the CAL newsletter. Heidi will investigate options with Gene Hainer, the LIBNET manager.

Susan Gilbert, Central Representative:

Concern was expressed about recruiting presenters for CAL during May—a stressful for school personnel. It was suggested that the need for presenters be publicized in the CAL newsletter earlier in the year, and that regional directors encourage members to submit program proposals online at www.cal-webs.org.

Presentations:

Rose Nelson from the State Library did a presentation on WebJunction, an online communication tool for the state's librarians. There are various chat room topics, courses and informational posts at <http://co.webjunction.org>.

Naioma Walberg, the volunteer chair of CAL's Continuing Education Committee solicited input for workshops for school librarians. She has been tasked with offering more workshops to CAL members. The group provided feedback that the best times were in January (before CSAPs) and in conjunction with CASL's Spring Workshop to create a two-day training and thus an incentive for long-distance travelers. This would also prevent a loss of attendance at the CASL Spring Workshop. Ideas for topics for the were: professional resources, finding primary sources, character education, Spanish language outreach, book talking, book clubs, Power Libraries, and the Power Library leadership program from AASL. Suggestions pertaining to school libraries were: weekend--rather than weekday—workshops; offering continuing education credit arranged through CDE and announced well in advance so that individual librarians could request district approval.

Mary McCarthy (CDE & Boulder Public youth librarian) representing C'YAAL (Colorado Young Adult Advocates in Libraries) gave an overview of the group and its April 2 conference (1 hour of Metro State credit is available for \$50; this is NOT listed on the flyer.) The group brainstormed ways CASL and C'YAAL could work together, including a public-school library networking event, possibly in April. Mary sent invitations to the CASL board to join C'YAAL's Yahoo discussion group.

Nance Nassar, State Library:

Nance reported on her recent activities at the State Library. She recently met with the technology group at CDE to make sure the ETIL program will continue to be in place with a changeover in staff and was reassured that it will. She and Betty did seven Power Library trainings this year at various districts; there were many newcomers.

The four area universities with library programs (UCD, Emporia, DU and UNC) held two metro area recruitment meetings in conjunction with Nance's office. The programs were very well attended by possible new recruits, with nearly 40 in attendance at each.

Nance also met with CLIC to make sure the consultants stay flexible and are able to travel throughout the state to help in their areas of expertise, and to see how CLIC and the state library can work together. Nance met with Patricia Froelich, her public library counterpart, to discuss ways to work together. They will be publicizing the Summer Reading Program to schools this year. Stevan Kalmon--formerly of CDE's tech department and now in a similar role at Denver Public Schools--and Nance will be presenting at AASL in Pittsburgh in October.

Heidi Baker, CAL Office/Membership Update:

Heidi gave an update on the "sandwich method" adopted by CASL to recruit members. For the former members' sandwich, the "top bread," was mailing an informational flyer to 300 former CEMA and school members of CAL in November. The membership brochure, the "filling," will be sent with the regular membership renewal mailing in January. Now, we need to do the "bottom bread," that is, the personal follow up. A geographical list of former members were passed out, and CASL board members volunteered to call those in their areas. Heidi will email the list of non-members along with a list of renewing members. Any contact information or corrections should be sent to heidibaker@cal-webs.org.

In the 14'ers sandwich to the state's 14 largest school districts, an initial informational email was sent prior to the October conference, and Heidi will contact leaders to request that they distribute membership brochures in their areas. The new members' sandwich will be started in the spring with ideas from the board. In 2004, there were slightly more than 200 school members of CAL, down from nearly 600 CEMA members. School libraries should be represented on the CAL membership committee. A flyer listing key volunteer opportunities for school members of CAL was emailed, and board members were asked to distribute the flyer and recruit members for these opportunities.

Spring Workshop:

After discussion, it was agreed that the topic of the spring workshop would center around Improving Instructional Design to Increase Student Achievement with a baseball/spring training theme. Using a theme of baseball is a strong possibility. Locations to consider are the Cherry Creek District educational center, Castle Rock's Miller Library, Front Range Community College-Public Library, Adams 12 administration building, Red Rocks Community College, and the Arapahoe Library Administration District. Those who volunteered to serve as a subcommittee for the workshop are Betty, Nance, Dave, JoAnn and Kim; Jody Howard was suggested, too. February 10 at 4:30, Adams 12 or Dave's downtown facility, was selected as a preferred meeting time, with the 8th and 12th as backups. Heidi will contact the subcommittee members to arrange a date and place.

Next Board Meeting:

The next board meeting will be March 12, 9:00-12:00 at Castle Rock's Miller Library.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sherry Crow