

BERKS COUNTY LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Fall 2007



Shelflist

Fall Meeting and Library Tour



If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need.
~Cicero



The Lancaster Public Library is home to the recently established Duke Street Business Center.

Diane Pawling, an experienced Business Reference Librarian, will be introducing us to the resources and services available to both LPL cardholders and the general public.

Friday, November 2, 2007

1:00 PM

Meet at Penn State Berks Campus parking lot to carpool. We will be parking in the first section of the lot off of Broadcasting Rd. Plan to arrive at 1:00 as we will be leaving at 1:15. The meeting and presentation will last until approximately 4:00.

It's not yet too late to register for the fall meeting and library tour. Email Jennifer at jxbalas@reading.lib.pa.us or call 610-655-6355 by October 26th

Spring Meeting Minutes

June 8, 2007
At The Spring Township Library

Call to Order:

Fianna Holt, BCLA President, called the meeting to order at 3:32 pm at the Spring Township Library with 13 people attending.

Fianna thanked Celia Colby, of the Spring Township Library for hosting today's event.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the March 23, 2007, winter meeting by Jennifer Balas and seconded by Kim Stahler. Motion carried. The Secretary will file the approved 2007 winter meeting minutes.

Treasurer's Report:

Mindy Peters, Treasurer, submitted the Treasurer's Report. The previous balance was \$1,657.08. For this reporting period, income amounted to \$30.00 and expenditures totaled \$306.23. The remaining balance as of June 8, 2007 is \$1,380.85. A motion was made by Julie Rinehart to approve the treasurer's report of June 8, 2007 and seconded by Wendy Schmehl. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Membership: It was reported by Mindy Peters that there are 63 members.

Professional Development: Julie Rinehart reported that the Berks County Library System will be sponsoring a workshop on library security in September. All BCLA members are welcome to attend.

Nominations: The nominating committee presented the following slate of officers for the 2007-2008 year.

President: Jennifer Balas; Vice-President: Celia Colby; Secretary: Jose Alby Fabiani; and Treasurer: Mindy Peters. A motion was made by Julie Rinehart to approve the slate of officers and seconded by Melanie Solon. Motion carried.

Old Business:

The group discussed the lack of school librarians in the BCLA membership. Because meetings are held in the daytime, most school librarians are unable to come. Members feel that the BCLA is unique because we are made up of different kinds of librarians. BCLA gives members the ability to network and make friends within the library community. A clarification was requested about when the BCLA's annual spring meeting is traditionally held. According to the by-laws the meeting should be held in May.

New Business:

Fall meeting - It was suggested that this fall's meeting includes the ability to try new technologies.

Announcements:

Mindy Peters encouraged members to take a 40th anniversary BCLA pen if you didn't get one at an earlier meeting or want another. Two members were married this year: past presidents Chris Ritter and Joe Zap-pacosta. Celia Colby mentioned that the Spring Township Library had purchased MP3 players for circulation that can be used to download digital media from any Berks County Library website. Melanie Solon reminded members that the ALA's Midwinter Meeting will be held in Philadelphia, PA, from January 11-16, 2008. Check ALA's web-site for available grants at: <http://discuss.ala.org/marginalia/>

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made Melanie Solon and seconded by Mindy Peters at 4:47 pm. Motion carried.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Celia Colby, Secretary.

Spotlight on Patty Bellak

Position:

Assistant Systems Administrator at the Reading Public Library

Where and when born:

May 14, 1982 in Johnstown, PA

Accomplishment I'm most proud of:

Putting myself through school

When I have spare time, my favorite thing to do is:

Watch movies or read

Dream vacation:

A tour of Europe

How I plan to spend my retirement:

Traveling

Favorite book:

It used to be Hermann Hesse's "Steppenwolf", but lately I've been reading so many good books it's hard to pick just one.

Favorite TV program:

I enjoy a lot of quality programming. The Simpsons is an all time favorite of mine.

Habit I just can't break:

Playing with my hands or my hair when I'm nervous

Happiest moment of my life:

Geez...I guess I could be the queen of cheese and say when I got engaged. Don't get me wrong it was a happy moment, but I have 25 years of moments to choose from....to keep it simple we'll just say when I got engaged.

Job I would like to have for one day:

Becoming a library director/upper management.

People may be surprised to know that I...:

play the cello

Berks County's biggest secret:

I don't think I have lived here long enough to have discovered it.

Did you know that a current BCLA membership makes you eligible for a professional development grant?

Any BCLA member attending library-related professional development (conferences, workshops, training, etc.) or completing library science coursework may apply for a grant of a maximum of \$100 during the fiscal year. The money may be applied towards your expenses such as registration, materials, transportation, etc. Interested applicants may contact Mindy Peters, BCLA treasurer, for more information and specific guidelines. More information is also available from our website: <http://www.reading.lib.pa.us/BCLA/grants.asp>

Confidentiality of all applicants will be respected; however when appropriate the grantee may be asked to present information gained (from coursework, continuing education, workshops) at a future BCLA meeting or write an article for the Shelflist.

Berks County Library Association

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www.reading.lib.pa.us/BCLA/bcla.asp

BCLA Listserv

The BCLA listserv has been changed from an announcement list to a discussion list. It is now not only a forum for job postings, meeting dates and workshop announcements, but also a virtual networking tool. The listserv can be used as a forum for discussion of topics relevant to Berks County librarianship, a place to post and

comment on articles of interest, and a direct link to librarians across the county. The members of BCLA come from all areas of librarianship—special, school, academic, and public—in addition to library science students. I encourage you to take advantage of the wealth of knowledge and experience we hold as a group, and reach out to your fellow BCLA members.

Survey Says...

This isn't Family Feud, but we do have the results of the survey that was conducted last month. Approximately 50% of BCLA members completed the survey. The first question dealt with original expectations. Ninety-three percent of respondents mentioned networking as one of their expectations. Other popular responses were continuing education, resource sharing, and area library news and information.

Suggested improvements included more professional development, more frequent communication, more meetings and other social activities, mentoring opportunities, and scheduling of events that allows more people to attend.

A number of respondents enjoyed the programs and speakers that were offered in the past as well as the venues chosen. There were a few comments regarding a lack of a "strong presence" and a "faltering" of the organization, whereas others noted a "relaxed and friendly" atmosphere and a "good core group of regular members."

It seems that the respondents were evenly divided between those who thought that BCLA adequately addressed membership expectations and those who wanted more of everything.

School librarians would be universally welcomed.

Most respondents did not think that incentives are necessary, and would prefer that the emphasis be on quality programming and networking opportunities. Some of the incentives that were suggested include fun meetings, discount cards from local businesses and chewy oatmeal cookies.

With respect to the question of raising the membership dues, 82.1 percent of the respondents supported the increase. Those supporting the increase indicated that they were willing to pay an amount ranging from 5 dollars more to at least 25 dollars toward dues.