

BERKS COUNTY LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Spring 2009



SHELF LIST

Vote Now, Meet March 13th

Ready to shake off the Winter doldrums?

Put Friday March 13th on your calendar as your day to step out!

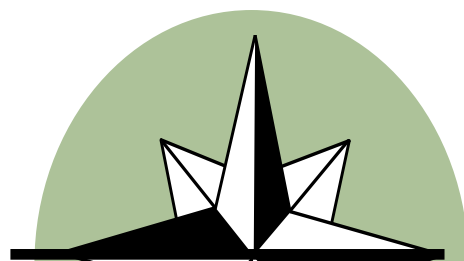
OK, technically it's still our Winter meeting, but we plan to think Spring on Friday March 13th at 5pm at the Muhlenberg Community Library, 3612 Kutztown Road, Laureldale. We will host our popular wine and cheese social event along with a brief business meeting. Please RSVP to Celia Colby at springtwp@berks.lib.pa.us

Can't make the meeting that day? **Don't let that stop you from participating in important BCLA decisions.**

We'll be discussing some changes to the BCLA bylaws, but we encourage everyone to read the amendments and vote *before the meeting*. Voting is taking place via survey-monkey.com. If you're reading this online, click this link to go to the survey: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=3JGFTc57qPFzx5rXH5sHA_3d_3d

Please vote, it's only four questions that will take just a few moments of your time. Take this opportunity to stay involved by helping us update the bylaws for a more efficient BCLA.

This leaves more time for the discussion of new ideas and new business and just plain socializing and fun at our next meeting (with wine and cheese!) Mark your calendars for March 13th, 5pm at the Muhlenberg Community Library. Special thanks to director, Sue Davis for her hospitality in hosting BCLA.



**Check out
our blog!**

bclaspeaks.blogspot.com

Be an author!

Post a comment!

**Stay connected
between meetings!**

**Feel the joy of
sharing information
about libraries!**

BCLA Fall 2008 Meeting
Exeter Community Library

October 17, 2008

I. President Celia Colby called the meeting to order at 9:07am

II. Introductions – none at this time

III. Approval of Minutes – motion to approve the minutes from the Spring 2008 meeting put forth by Kim Stahler, Seconded by Helen Flynn

IV. Treasurer's Report – provided by Mindy Peters. Not much activity since last meeting. We have a balance of \$1,280.47.

V. Committee Reports

Membership committee – we have 2 new members for a total of 62

Professional Development – Julie Rinehart suggested combining efforts with the Berks County Library System the next time we offer a more expensive continuing education opportunity like Lolly Gassaway. They may be able to co-sponsor the event.

VI. Old Business – position of BCLA secretary is still open. Members interesting in this exciting opportunity should contact an executive board member.

Dues increase for 2009 – this has been tabled again due to lack of a quorum

VII. New business –

Dissolving BCLA

President, Celia Colby read e-mail messages that had been solicited regarding the continuation of BCLA. She reported that she checked with the Lancaster County Library Association and they have experienced similar problems.

Many of the issues are that libraries in general have small staffs, thinly stretched, so it is difficult to get away, and some suggested that we look into alternative methods of communication.

There was once an active recruiting of new members to BCLA, but that is no longer needed for outside grant opportunities.

There is concern that increasing dues may decrease membership.

Someone suggested a reduced number of meetings. [*Three meetings are required by the by-laws.*]

We hardly got responses from a survey done last year.

We've tried different times for meetings.

People would like more workshops.

We could collaborate with other organizations such as LCLA and others.

One of the difficulties is the quorum needed to make changes in the bylaws.

It was suggested that BCLA undertake a SWOT analysis at a future meeting (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats).

Julie Rinehart suggested that if the bylaws aren't working to make changes, perhaps we should throw them out and start over.

Result: It was agreed by all in attendance that it would be premature to dissolve BCLA at this time. Further discussion will continue at future meetings.

2009 Meetings

Julie is willing to add on to the public directors meeting in February and extend an invitation to all directors to join. Changing the meeting to the Berks County Library System on February 24, 2009 was discussed.

It was suggested that we use some money in the treasury for a door prize (like an ipod).

There was discussion on several other topics including online services, mp3s, tutor.com, Rosetta Stone and Tell Me More (language learning software).

Would a workshop on MARC fields be helpful?

VIII. Motion to adjourn passes.

-Respectfully Submitted, Kristin Brumbach

SPRING MEETING AGENDA

Berks County Library Association
Winter Meeting
Friday, March 13, 2009
Muhlenberg Community Library

I. Call to Order

II. Introductions

III. Approval of Minutes

IV. Treasurer's Report

V. Committee Reports

Membership

Professional Development

VI. Old Business

Secretary position is still open

BCLA will not be disbanded

VII. New Business

Create SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) Committee

Changing BCLA's by-laws

Results of Survey Monkey online survey

Annual bus trip - any interest, ideas?

VIII. Announcements

BCLA Spring Meeting - Annual meeting takes place in May

All suggestions are welcome.

Since our fall continuing education workshop was cancelled, we want to schedule another speaker since the majority of members wish to support educational programming.

IX. Adjournment

FRIENDLY REMINDER: SEND IN YOUR DUES FOR 2009!

<http://www.reading.lib.pa.us/BCLA/bcla.asp>
2008 Membership Form

MEMBERSHIP: NEW _____ RENEWAL _____

TYPE: REGULAR - \$10.00 _____ STUDENT / RETIREE - \$5.00 _____

NAME: _____

TITLE: _____

LIBRARY/INSTITUTION: _____

BUSINESS ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: () _____ FAX: () _____

EMAIL: _____

TYPE OF LIBRARY: _____ PUBLIC _____ CORPORATE
_____ MEDICAL
_____ SCHOOL _____ SPECIAL _____ ACADEMIC

*PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF THERE IS ANY INFORMATION THAT YOU DO
NOT WANT TO BE LISTED ON THE WEBSITE*

Please make checks payable to: Berks County Library Association

Please mail membership form and check to:

Mindy Peters

BCLA Treasurer

Carpenter Technology Corporation

R&D Center Library

P.O. Box 14662

Reading PA 19612-4662