

MULSA July 16 2002

University of Missouri Libraries Staff Association
Executive Board Meeting
July 16, 2002
1:30-3:30 pm
Fourth Floor Conference Room

Present: Jack Batterson, Rachel Brekhus, Steve Clayton, Karla Geerlings,
Bob Lynn, Ruthe Morse

Rachel passed out the July 16, 2002, agenda, the Courtesy report, and the Social Chair report.

Bob Lynn gave Steve a thank you letter from the food bank for \$38.50 and 112 pounds of food. Rachel mentioned that a few cans in the east and west reference were not picked up. Suggestions were made for improvements on next year's food drive: make the donation boxes more visible to patrons, and get further suggestions from Bob Almony. The timing of the food drive was not good because it began so soon after the Mulsa elections, and there was discussion about moving the May 20th annual meeting to an earlier date. (Annual meeting date was later changed to May 8th). Karla mentioned that Wilson Nursery is taking fresh food for the food bank.

Rachel reported that the hot water faucet in the staff lounge does not work, and Bob Almony is working with Facilities to fix or replace it. Also in the staff lounge, the microwave had sparks coming from the metal plate. Rachel knows of someone who wants to sell her microwave and will talk to her about buying it. (update: This woman donated the microwave to us). Rachel will talk to Bob about how we should dispose of the old one. (update: Troy later threw the old microwave into the lounge's waste basket) It was mentioned that salvage people might want it for parts.

Karla reported that some people were unhappy because they did not get a paper invitation to the picnic. We discussed why people did not come to the picnic, concluding that some people don't come because we don't serve alcohol, and a few might have stayed home due to hot weather. Rachel mentioned that the picnic was held earlier this year so the weather would be cooler. We stopped serving alcohol because people thought it was not appropriate at a family gathering. Rachel mentioned other alternatives like byo beer or organizing a happy hour separate from the picnic. Karla will be sending email invitations to retirees for future events.

Concerning the question of sending dues notices to retirees, Rachel said that if the Mulsa constitution stipulates dues for retirees, then they should be contacted. If our book sales continue, we might want to consider doing away with the dues structure and let all library staff be members. However, if we stop having book sales, we would need to look at our dues structure as a source of more income.

The group decided to give a book with a book plate in memory of Jody's aunt, Emma Nevins. We will also donate \$30 for the gift fund in her name. Jody will choose the book.

There was discussion of Debbie's Library Landscape project, a two-day workshop to be held in the electronic classroom. On the first day branch libraries would be there to talk about their web pages and to answer any questions. On the second day, library committees will give a virtual tour of their web sites and answer questions. This will take place later in August.

Jim Cogswell came up with the idea of writing about vacations in the next issue of the Muse. Jim had another idea about having a newcomers' committee of 12 people to take new staff members out to lunch. Rachel and the head of staff development will get more specific information from Jim. The question arose of how many members should take these new staff out each time. Possibly one committee member per month could take new staff out. Rachel is investigating to find out if the libraries would pick up the tab. Furthermore, Debbie proposed in a letter sent to Jim that the libraries might fund this. (Since this meeting, Jim has agreed to somehow find funding for this).

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We talked about having tea parties, perhaps having one with the Earth Day party and another one in September. This would be a new employee celebration, and library staff would bring food. This would be for new staff and new students. Rachel will ask Leo for a list of new staff for the last 12 months. Rachel suggested that Karla email Debbie about this, as Debbie is interested in anything involving new members. We can email Karla if we want to help with this or would like to have input for ideas such as what games to play and what prizes to offer. Karla mentioned the idea of having a quiz about library staff members.

Rachel brought the display box promoting the printer cartridge recycling by AAA Environmental Inc. We agreed to give this a try for a year and see what happens. The company will provide postage-paid envelopes for used cartridges and will pay for these cartridges. Rachel might try working with the Green Party to see if we can work together on this project. Rachel will also talk to the company and to Bob for more information on what we can do to make the project more successful.

The committee intends to create a list of projects to consider if we get more money than expected from the book sale. The ideas need to benefit both Ellis and branch libraries equally and need to benefit all employees of the libraries and not just Mulsa members. Some ideas mentioned so far included: another photo directory of all library staff, a library T-shirt, or book bags. Other ideas were mentioned but probably would not work because they do not benefit everyone: a microwave for the 4th floor and picnic tables next to Ellis Library. Rachel asked that we gather other ideas to be included in this wish list.

Jack Batterson