

Missouri State Library
Secretary's Council on Library Development

James C. Kirkpatrick Building
600 W Main, Jefferson City, MO 65101

November 15, 2024

Members Present: Patrick Wall, Jennifer Baldwin, Jane Mulvihill-Jones, Emily Jaycox, Heather Hufstedler, Amber Carr, Kirsten Shaw and Jennifer Thompson

Absent: Angela Wells, Jessica Hill, and Rachael Grime

Staff Present: Robin Westphal, Kayla Collins, Clarissa Schmitz, Trish Vincent, Scott Clark, Secretary Jay Ashcroft, Laura Kromer, Lori Brown, Janet Caruthers, Jefferson Hulbert, Terry Blauvelt and Cory Mihalik

Guests Present: None

The quarterly meeting of Secretary's Council was held Friday, November 15, 2024 in person and via Zoom. Patrick Wall served as meeting chair. The meeting was called to order at 10:01 AM.

Council members and staff introduced themselves.

Announcements: Secretary Jay Ashcroft states that Robin Westphal, State Librarian, is moving on to another job and thanks her for all her hard work she has done over the last six years for the library. He also thanks the council members and states that they are making a difference being on the council. Lastly, Secretary Ashcroft appoints Janet Caruthers as Acting State Librarian.

Meeting Minutes: Wall asked for a vote and review of the July 19, 2024 meeting minutes. Jaycox made a motion to approve, Hufstedler seconded. Minutes approved by all, none opposed.

Secretary of State Office Update; Trish Vincent

Vincent, Deputy Secretary of State, shares there have been great accomplishments over the last eight years and highlights the expansion of Wolfner recording studios, Missouri Evergreen, PLOUD, stabilizing A&E funding and having a Secretary of State who supports libraries. Vincent states that the same things will continue with the newly elected Secretary and knows there will be continued success in libraries. Lastly, Vincent

states how the transition with the new Secretary of State Administration will work and gives a brief overview of what to expect within the next coming months.

Wolfner Talking Book and Braille Library Update; Robin Westphal & Staff

Westphal, State Librarian, calls upon Lori Brown, Director of Public Services, to go over projects that have come from the National Library Service (NLS). Brown shares NLS has kept Wolfner library busy with new initiatives. Those now include Wolfner producing and distributing magazines to patrons. They have updated patron records and sent out 1,500 cartridges with 3,500 total magazines on them. Another initiative is a new parental acknowledgment form the Library of Congress enforced. This form would need to be signed by the youth patrons' parent or guardian if they are under 18. The form needs to be signed by January 1, 2025 or youth patrons will automatically lose Wolfner services. Westphal states that Wolfner Library opted out of the NLS communications to patrons regarding the distributing of magazines and parental acknowledgment forms because of issues with letters going out to family members of deceased patrons. Brown also gives a few other updates including number of adult and youth mail and make program participants, Vanessa Lengyel taking over as Youth Services Librarian, statistics about patrons and circulated items, and she also mentioned that public library professionals can now certify individuals for Wolfner services. Brandon Lammers, Recording Studio Manager, and Verhonda Winters, Circulation Director, were unable to attend the meeting so Brown gave a quick recap of the recording studio projects and statistics and circulated materials since the last council meeting.

Reference Services Update; Laura Kromer

Kromer, Reference Services Director, starts off by thanking Robin Westphal for her service as the State Librarian. She also thanks the Ashcroft Administration for their support over the last 8 years for the library, especially Trish Vincent, Deputy Secretary of State. Kromer begins by sharing some highlights from the past few months for Reference Services that include migrating to a new catalog, adding 1000 new card holders since July 2024, creating a new Research Assistance Form for State Employees, and announcing they now have over 3500 subscribers to Beyond the Stacks. Kromer also states that the Reference team has created a genealogy page that lists helpful resources and a maps resources page on their Missouriiana guide.

Library Development Update; Robin Westphal & Consultants

Westphal, State Librarian, shares that Katie Dunne, Youth Services Consultant, and Merideth Johnson, Adult Services Consultant, are doing the first four Summer Library Program Workshops over the next couple months in various locations across the state with today being the first one in Springfield. Westphal also states that we are entering into year three of the Creative Aging grant that we are working on with the State Library of Wyoming. Cory Mihalik, Statistical Research Consultant, states that we launched the Public Library Survey (PLS) on August 15 and that we have about 70% currently completed. The Summer Reading Program Survey just wrapped up and Mihalik gives some specific statistics from that on programs, attendance, unique

situations, and pre/post covid numbers. Terry Blauvelt, Library Development Coordinator, shares that from Fiscal Year 2016 to Fiscal Year 2023 the Library Development division has implemented 102 Statewide Projects, awarded 1,393 competitive grants, and had 1,552 workshops and webinars. He gives a little bit of background information on the grants. Jefferson Hulbert, Library Technology Specialist, gives a quick update on the PLOUD project. He states he has been working on getting all PLOUD libraries up to date with the new software/platform and that a goal for next year is to improve accessibility. Janet Caruthers, Technology and Resource Sharing Consultant, states that she has talked with MALA to get specific stats from our partner courier connectors and the first quarter report came in and the top library for interlibrary loan is Mid-Continent Public Library. Caruthers states that Sarcoxie Public Library and the Municipal Library Consortium of St. Louis County joined Missouri Evergreen.

State Library Report; Robin Westphal

Westphal starts with an overview of the State Library accomplishments under the Ashcroft Administration. Highlights include number of workshops hosted at the start of administration versus the end, attendance count of workshops, addition of the Homeless Training Institute, and how the Missouri State Library awarded \$27 million in LSTA grants with a local match of \$18 million for a total of \$45 million in projects. Laura Kromer, Reference Services Director, takes over and shares some Reference highlights that include card holder number increase, staff and budget recovery from cuts due to previous SOS administration, and how the Reference team has really flourished and developed in the last 8 years. Kromer also states that one of the most important things they do is upload government documents and make sure they are available to the public/state employees and those have tripled in amount uploaded since 2017. Lori Brown, Wolfner Public Services Director, goes next to share some accomplishments of Wolfner over the last 8 years. She states that cartridges used to hold one book title and now with Duplication on Demand they are able to have as many books as the patron wants on one cartridge. Some other highlights are the addition of the youth and adult mail-and-make programs, increase of large print collection to over 10,000 items, high patron contact numbers, circulation, addition of podcasts, volunteer numbers, and the addition of a second recording studio! Westphal, State Librarian, wraps up by stating that some of the State Library programs would not have grown the way they did without SOS administration support and states to the Council that the roles of this council are critical and to continue to work together to educate the new Secretary of State on what libraries do and the importance of the State Library. Westphal thanks the Council for their commitment and the State Library team for everything they have done.

Adjournment: Wall asked for a motion to adjourn. Baldwin made a motion to approve, Jaycox seconded. Approved by all, none opposed. Meeting adjourned at 1:15 PM.

Next Meeting: TBD