

LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND  
September 17, 2002  
MINUTES

Members Present: Chair Mark McKenney, Ann Crawford, Deborah Barchi, Donna Good, Alice Barrows, Donald Deignan, Jay Litman, Peter Deekle, Tovah Reis, Rose Ellen Reynolds

Members Absent: Dennis Cheek, Joshua Teverow, Phyllis Harnick, Mary Cummings, Joan Ankner, Cristina Amedeo, William Allen

Present from the Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS): Anne Parent, Beth Perry, Donna DiMichele, Laurie Scialabba

Observers: Dale Thompson, Providence Public Library

The meeting convened at 4:35 p.m.

I. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the June 10, 2002 meeting were approved.

II. REPORT OF ADMINISTRATION

Ms. Parent reported that Senator Jack Reed has been named Library Journal's (LJ) Politician of the Year for 2002. The article posted on the LJ website ([www.libraryjournal.com](http://www.libraryjournal.com)) was distributed. The article will appear in print in the September 15, 2002 issue. Two library organizations, CRIARL and RIEMA, have already sent congratulatory letters. RILA may organize a press conference. It was agreed by consensus that the LBRI should write a letter of congratulation also.

LORI Grants and Literacy Grants were awarded effective July 1, 2002, for funding running through June 30, 2002. \$57,000 was made available in LSTA funds for LORI grant awards. Four grants were awarded totaling \$49,764; PPL for NoveList database, (\$28,500), \$9,816 for Music Score Conversion to PPL, \$10,852 to RILINK, and \$2,596 to the Redwood for a reconversion project. Instead of awarding the full \$57,000 the committee recommended that some funds be used to offer grant writing classes and/or a special project for indexing local newspapers. Grant proposals for \$62,000 were received in the Literacy category, \$57,000 from RIFLI and \$5,000 from LVA- Kent County at the Coventry Public library. All of the literacy funds were awarded, with each grant awarded proportionately at approximately 92%. RILFI received \$52,000 and LVA \$4,600. The summary sheet, 2002 Literacy Grants Awarded, was distributed.

Ms. Perry reported that the applications and guidelines have arrived for the Gates Foundation Library Grant Program. The deadline to return applications is September 30, 2002. Twenty-four public library buildings qualify for free computers and more are possible if they appeal and are able to prove that their users come from areas of high poverty, even if the library itself is not located in such an area. OLIS is encouraging all

public libraries to apply and to appeal if the 10% poverty level is not reached. OLIS sponsored a conference call for eligible public libraries. PPL is being recommended as the site for the computer lab for computer training. The computer lab will be moved to Knight Memorial Library after construction at that library has been completed. Workshops for computers will be held in February and computers from Gateway will be installed in May. Mr. Deignan inquired if there has been any movement in attitude with the Gates Foundation concerning adaptive equipment for patrons with disabilities. Ms. Perry stated that the Gates Foundation has not made any changes for other libraries in the past and will not change the program now. Ms. Perry suggested that libraries find out what the needs are in the community and use resources such as the Lions Club for the purchase of adaptive equipment. Ms. Parent has sent a message to library directors to contact their local Lions Club with regard to adaptive equipment. Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation State Partnership Program for Rhode Island 2002-2003 and Rhode Island...the final state in the U.S. Library Program were distributed.

As a budget-cutting measure, Ms. Parent reported that no print copies of OLIS Continuing Education (CE) offerings were sent out. The CE calendar is up on the LORI website at [www.lori.state.ri.us](http://www.lori.state.ri.us). Andy Egan heads the new OLIS Library Programs CE Team. PPL is once again offering an array of computer classes. New programs include census information, a new reference roundtable, local newspaper indexing, patent and trade workshop, a two-part session on library space planning issues, accessible computer workstations and a program on using free resources from the National Library of Medicine and the Regional Medical Library.

Ms. Parent updated the Library Board on the delivery service. \$100,000 of the \$200,000 appropriated by the General Assembly was taken back since all state departments had to submit to overall budget cuts also mandated by the General Assembly. The initial \$60,000 that had been budgeted was not taken away, so the actual state budget for delivery is now \$160,000. In conjunction with the new lower-price contract and the inauguration of Delivery on Demand (DOD) service, some moderate expansion was possible, particularly to school libraries. The plan to expand service to an extra day a week for the busiest public libraries had to be put on hold.

Ms. Parent announced that funding for grant-in-aid to cities and towns has been increased by the General Assembly by approximately \$314,000 in FY2003. This increase was distributed to those libraries that were at less than 25% of the appropriation/expenditure of two previous years. In FY 2003, no public library will receive less than 24% of its appropriations and expenditures by the municipality (two years previous) and only four libraries will receive less than 24.5%.

All state departments must submit budgets with an 8 percent reduction, and there is talk about layoffs. Ms. Parent said that layoffs are not an immediate threat to Library Programs' staff, since talk of layoffs has primarily centered on the closing of entire service points for some agencies. Ms. Parent stated that she is responsible for the state budget submission for Library Programs. The 8 percent reduction is not an easy target to meet, as there are basically only two elements in the state budget, personnel and

operating. Operating includes delivery, a telephone bill and a very small amount for supplies.

The reauthorization of the Library Services and Technology Act that provides Federal funding to state library agencies is on hold. The leadership is being petitioned to schedule a vote on this before the end of the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress. Ms. Parent has contacted both our representatives to sign onto the petition, and, to date, Representative Langevin has responded affirmatively. It is essential that this be brought to a vote as soon as possible, to enable reforms in this reauthorization to take effect in the Federal fiscal year that begins October 1, 2002.

Karen Mellor has been on medical leave of absence and has returned to work on a limited part-time basis. Ms. Parent will establish cross training in some of the important elements of the work in Library Programs that are currently handled by one person. Cross-training will begin by Joe McGovern working with Ms. Mellor. Construction Updates for LBRI 9/17/02 was distributed.

Ms. Parent reported that she has received a letter from Dale Thompson, Director of Providence Public Library, requesting that all of their upcoming construction be treated as a whole, and reimbursed up to the full 50%. The letter also indicated examples of similar projects that exceeded the caps set by the Library Board in 1999. Ms. Parent has had discussions with Ms. Thompson, and will respond in writing. The response will state that OLIS will agree to examine each phase(s) of the construction projects as the applications for that phase(s) are completed. It will also be stated that OLIS will adhere to the regulations, caps, and priorities set by the Library Board. The Library Board sets policy. It has been the practice of the agency to follow the policy that the Board sets, and to work with individual libraries on their applications. Providence Public Library also pointed out that the Library Board set caps and priorities in 1999 that were to be reviewed biennially. Ms. Thompson has already indicated that increasing the caps would not satisfy their request. A meeting with Dr. Carl, Ms. Thompson and Ms. Parent is scheduled for September 24, 2002. (Note: this meeting was later rescheduled for October 2, 2002.)

Ms. DiMichele reported that new members of the LORI Committee are as follows: Schools, Lynne Burke; Hospital and Health Science, Mary Ann Slocomb, Special Libraries, Sarina Wyant and OLIS, Chaichin Chen. The RI State Government Information Network Policy was distributed. The courts have not overruled the Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act (NCIPA.) Libraries must comply in order to receive E-rate funding. It is being determined whether the Internet use policy of the Department of Administration is sufficient for the OLIS library to be in compliance. The policy is being distributed for review should there need to be further discussion at the next Library Board meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

**It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved to ratify the email vote to approve the new Five-Year LSTA Plan for 2003-2007.**

The change to Construction Reimbursement Regulation 3.10 unanimously approved by the Library Board at the last meeting may be substantive enough to go to public hearing. Ms. Parent will keep the Board posted on developments in this arena.

#### IV. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chair McKenney reported that he has spoken to Mr. Vigue in Congressman Kennedy's office about reauthorization of LSTA, and Congressman Kennedy is very supportive and indicated that he is "on board."

#### V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

##### Committee on Planning and Budget

No meeting was held.

##### Committee on Legislation

No meeting was held.

##### Committee on Public Relations

No meeting was held.

#### VI. NEW BUSINESS

Chair McKenney reported that a number of Library Board members' terms expire at the end of this year. Chair McKenney will contact them about serving another term.

Excerpts from Construction Regulations for LBRI 9/17/02 were distributed. Chair McKenney recommends that the Committee on Planning and Budget review the following from Appendix F:

"Current caps and priorities established by the Library Board of Rhode Island. The following priorities for construction reimbursement projects and reimbursement funding were approved by the Library Board of Rhode Island on January 11, 1999."

"Allowable costs may not exceed one hundred fifty dollars (\$150) per square foot for new construction or one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$125) per square foot for renovation and remodeling in 1998 constant dollars. If the actual project costs exceed one or both of these costs per square foot, the state share will be based on the not-to-be-exceeded costs in 1998 constant dollars."

Chair McKenney would like the committee to make a recommendation to the full Library Board by November or at least by the end of the year. Mr. Litman suggested that the committee from 1998 be reconvened. Ms. Barrows, Chair of the Committee on Planning and Budget, confirmed that the committee would review only the one issue of allowable

costs. A meeting will be set up and Mr. Litman will be invited. A list of members of the Committee on Planning and Budget will be sent to the Library Board.

Mr. Litman stated that the structural weakness of OLIS under the Department of Administration be brought to the attention of the gubernatorial candidates and that OLIS should be at the cabinet level. Ms. Reynolds stated that candidates should be asked, "Where do libraries fall in your plan?" Mr. Litman would like a commitment from the candidates. Mr. Deignan discussed that the Library Board should decide if it should take a position. The issue of the Chief Information Officer and the elimination of the Master's Degree in Library Science from the requirements for the position were also brought up.

**It was moved, seconded and approved unanimously in sending a resolution letter to the gubernatorial candidates with the request for a response, and an open letter to the Providence Journal regarding placement of libraries at cabinet-level status and consideration in hiring a Chief Information Officer, as well as recommending the restoration of the Masters in Library Science degree to the requirement.**

#### VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

#### VIII. AGENDA FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Proposed LBRI Meeting Days, FY 2003 was distributed and is attached hereto.

A meeting has been scheduled for Monday, October 28, 2002 at 4:30 P.M. at the Department of Administration.

A draft Library Board of Rhode Island Members – 2002 was distributed. Members are to make any corrections or changes and return to OLIS.

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 P.M.

#### PROPOSED LBRI MEETING DAYS, FY 2003

Monday, October 28, 2002  
Monday, November 18, 2002  
Monday, December 16, 2002  
Tuesday, January 21, 2003  
Monday, February 24, 2003  
Monday, March 17, 2003  
Monday, April 21, 2003  
Tuesday, May 27, 2003  
Monday, June 16, 2003

LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND  
November 18, 2002  
MINUTES

Members Present: Chair Mark McKenney, Alice Barrows, Donald Deignan, Deborah Barchi, Donna Good, Rose Ellen Reynolds, Mary Cummings, Tovah Reis, Ann Crawford, Cristina Amedeo, Peter Deekle, Jay Litman

Members Absent: Joshua Teverow, Phyllis Harnick, Joan Ankner, William Allen

Present from the Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS): Anne Parent, Beth Perry, Donna DiMichele, Karen Mellor, Laurie Scialabba

Observers: Dale Thompson, Providence Public Library; Joan Ress Reeves

The meeting convened at 4:35 p.m.

I. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the September 17, 2002 meeting were approved with the following clarification:

Under CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

From: Chair McKenney reported that he has spoken Congressman Kennedy about reauthorization of LSTA, and Congressman Kennedy is very supportive and indicated that he is "on board."

To: Chair McKenney reported that he has spoken to Mr. Vigue in Congressman Kennedy's office about reauthorization of LSTA...."

II. REPORT OF ADMINISTRATION

An update of Library Board of Rhode Island Members – 2002 was distributed.

Ms. Parent was invited to Washington, D.C. to be present when First Lady Laura Bush presented the Providence Public Library with the 2001 IMLS National Award for Library Service in a ceremony at the White House. Copies of the speech by Dr. David Carr of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, were distributed. Photos provided by Dale Thompson of the Providence Public Library were passed around.

Ms. Parent brought copies of the September 2002 *Library Journal* issue in which Senator Jack Reed was named (LJ) Politician of the Year for 2002. There is no news yet on the reauthorization of the Library Services and Technology Act that provides Federal funding to state library agencies. If LSTA is not reauthorized it will continue on a "continuing resolution" in 2003, providing level-funding. Rhode Island would receive the same amount as last year, \$820,300.

Ms. Perry reported that the Gates Foundation Library Grant Program will provide more than \$386,000 in computer equipment to Rhode Island public libraries. Workshops will be held in Seattle, WA.

A transition document, which includes accomplishments since 1995 and hopes for the future, has been prepared for Governor-elect Carcieri. Nationwide, there is concern over the status of state library agencies. Copies of the resolution letter to the gubernatorial candidates and an open letter to the Providence Journal regarding placement of libraries at cabinet-level status and consideration in hiring a Chief Information Officer, as well as recommending the restoration of the Masters in Library Science degree to the requirement for a CIO were distributed.

In response to the op-ed piece by former Governor Bruce Sundlun suggesting that direct grants be eliminated due to the state budget fiscal crisis, Ms. Parent distributed a draft letter—to the editor in response to be sent to the Providence Journal. The letter will be sent with the chair of LBRI and the president of RILA as co-signatories.

An upcoming Continuing Education program of significance is on using free consumer health resources, and will be held at the DOA on December 9 from 3 to 6 p.m., at a time when it is hoped that school librarians will also be able to attend. Representatives of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, New England Region will demonstrate the free products and services available on NLM, PubMed and MEDLINE, that will help librarians answer health related questions. Representatives of ARIHSL will also be available to answer questions.

Providence Public Library has received authorization to move ahead with renovations and additions at the Rochambeau and South Providence branch libraries. These projects are expected to be completed in Spring 2003, with the first state reimbursement scheduled for FY 2004. Construction Updates 11/15/02, prepared by Karen Mellor, was distributed. Karen has prepared a newly updated and detailed account of all public library activity in RI. This may be found on the LORI website at [www.lori.state.ri.us](http://www.lori.state.ri.us).

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

#### IV. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chair McKenney reported that he did not receive any response from the gubernatorial candidates or the Providence Journal with regard to the letters sent on behalf of the Library Board. Chair McKenney spoke to Ms. York and Mr. Carcieri and both candidates are supporters of libraries, however they are concerned about the state budget and offered no commitments.

In speaking with Library Board members, Chair McKenney reports that two issues have been brought to his attention; one with regard to taking time at Board meetings to discuss issues of concern to special, academic, and school libraries in addition to those of public libraries, another with regard to time being spent on discussions of issues by non-Board members during meetings. Chair McKenney emphasized that all Board members are encouraged to bring issues to the forefront, especially with respect to their particular constituents, and that given the time restriction of LBRI meetings, public comment would be welcomed at the time for public comment on the agenda.

With regard to the letter drafted by Ms. Parent for the *Providence Journal* responding to the op-ed piece by Bruce Sundlun, it was recommended that advocacy for libraries and library users be the focal point.

## V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Committee on Planning and Budget

Ms. Barrows reported that the committee met on October 10, 2002 to review Appendix F of the Construction Regulations as requested by the Library Board at its September meeting, specifically addressing the caps on allowable costs per square foot. A report of that meeting was distributed. OLIS staff member Karen Mellor had provided data to the committee on U.S. Library Construction Costs from the annual architectural issue of the Library Journal. Ms. Barrows summarized the discussion from the meeting noting that the Northeast has higher construction costs due to higher labor costs, architect fees and state prevailing wage mandates; Rhode Island provides the highest reimbursement costs in the nation and the LBRI is proud of that and wishes it to continue; inflation is low; the caps in question are reviewed biannually, and the LBRI has a responsibility to treat cities and towns in an equitable fashion.

**The committee voted to recommend that the Library Board of Rhode Island leave the current dollar amount of the allowable construction cost caps unchanged, and remove the references to “1998 constant dollars,” so that**

Paragraph 4 would read, “Allowable costs may not exceed one hundred fifty dollars (\$150) per square foot for new construction or one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$125) per square foot for renovation and remodeling. If the actual project costs exceed one or both of these costs per square foot, the state share will be based on the not-to-be-exceeded costs.”

**The committee also recommended that the LBRI authorize OLIS to establish a “completed application deadline” for the construction reimbursement program, so that all applications from any given fiscal year may be reviewed before funds are awarded.**

**The committee further recommended that it meet again in January to explore whether there should be limits on “soft costs,” and to discuss the options for allocating grant-in-aid.**

Chair McKenney suggested acceptance of the report as given and discussion of it under New Business.

**The motion was moved and unanimously approved that the Library Board of Rhode Island accept the report, Library Board of Rhode Island Budget & Planning Committee: October 10, 2002.**

Committee on Legislation

No meeting was held.

Committee on Public Relations

No meeting was held. Tovah Reis will chair the committee.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Discussion about the Library Construction Regulations followed. Mr. Litman stated that in his experience, costs for renovation and remodeling are \$200 per square foot and new construction at \$250 per square foot. Mr. Litman would like the libraries to be aware of the difference between institutional and commercial standards and costs, and those differences be addressed in the guidelines for public library construction. Mr. Litman suggested changing the word "Allowable" to "Reimbursable" in Paragraph 4 to further emphasize that these are not recommended limits, but simply the amount to which reimbursement may be sought.

**The Library Board of Rhode Island moved, seconded and unanimously approved the following revised wording for Current caps and priorities established by the Library Board of Rhode Island, Appendix F of the Library Construction Regulations:**

**"4) Reimbursable costs may not exceed one hundred fifty dollars (\$150) per square foot for new construction or one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$125) per square foot for renovation and remodeling. If the actual project costs exceed one or both of these costs per square foot, the state share will be based on the not-to-be exceeded costs."**

**And, an additional clarification that states:**

**"Reimbursable costs per square foot reflect the maximum amount that will be reimbursed, and should not be construed as recommended costs per square foot. (Added November 18, 2002)"**

The Planning & Budget Committee is charged with further exploration of "soft costs" in construction reimbursement, and will meet in January. OLIS staff will draft guidelines

clarifying the difference between commercial and institutional construction costs with the assistance of Mr. Litman. These are expected to be made available in the construction notebooks that construction libraries receive, as well as on the LORI website at [www.lori.state.ri.us](http://www.lori.state.ri.us).

Ms. Amedeo proposed making a short presentation about Committee 211 of the United Way. 211 is an access number for information and referral for social services and may be used as a research tool. Ms. Amedeo added that in October, thirty people researched the availability of public housing from the Washington Park Library. Ms. Amadeo stated that she wished to share with the Library Board the fact that while she was making presentations to school libraries in the state, she heard that school librarians are very proud of their libraries. Ms. Crawford stated that summer patrons of the Cross Mills Public Library remark that Rhode Island has a wonderful library system. Mr. Deekle stated that Bob Martin, Director of IMLS, would like to have comments about libraries from business and community leaders.

Mr. Deekle requested time to make a short presentation at the next meeting to bring to the attention of the Library Board concerns about state funding to higher learning institutions and the disproportionate cuts to the libraries of those institutions.

#### VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

As the Library Board's liaison to the IRMB, Ms. Reeves discussed the electronic portal through which businesses and individuals can access Rhode Island government information and services. Website address is [www.ri.gov](http://www.ri.gov)

#### VIII. AGENDA FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

A meeting has been scheduled for Monday, December 16, 2002 at 4:30 P.M. at the Department of Administration. This meeting may be canceled if there are no pressing issues.

The meeting adjourned at 5:35 P.M.

LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND  
January 21, 2003  
MINUTES

Members Present: Chair Mark McKenney, Alice Barrows, Deborah Barchi, Donna Good, Rose Ellen Reynolds, Mary Cummings, Tovah Reis, Leslie McDonough, Cristina Amedeo, Joshua Teverow, Phyllis Harnick, Jay Litman

Members Absent: Peter Deekle, Donald Deignan, Joan Ankner, William Allen

Present from the Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS): Anne Parent, Beth Perry, Donna DiMichele, Karen Mellor, Laurie Scialabba

Observers: Dale Thompson, Providence Public Library; David Macksam, Cranston Public Library

The meeting convened at 4:35 p.m.

Newly appointed Library Board member, Leslie McDonough, Director of the North Scituate Public Library, was introduced. Ms. McDonough replaces Ann Crawford in representing Librarians from Small Public Libraries

I. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the November 18, 2002 meeting were unanimously approved.

II. REPORT OF ADMINISTRATION

An update of Library Board of Rhode Island Members – 2003 was distributed.

RILA, RIEMA, COLA and OLIS sponsored a reception honoring Senator Jack Reed to celebrate *Library Journal's* naming him Politician of the Year for 2002. A copy of Senator Reed's remarks is available on the LORI Website at [www.lori.state.ri.us](http://www.lori.state.ri.us) as well as a write-up of the event. The article appearing in the *Cranston Herald* was distributed.

The Museum and Library Services Act, the source of Federal LSTA funding for libraries, was reintroduced on the first day Congress re-opened. The proposed legislation in 2002 was not approved. Ms. Parent has received a commitment from Congressman Langevin's office that he will co-sponsor, and Congressman Kennedy may also be considering co-sponsorship. The office of Senator Reed is drafting corresponding legislation in the Senate. This Act would reauthorize LSTA, which still must be appropriated. The latest appropriation figures being discussed in the Senate for LSTA at \$154 million would increase funding for Rhode Island by approximately \$17,700. Rhode Island received \$820,300 last year.

In response to the op-ed piece by former Governor Bruce Sundlun suggesting that direct grants be eliminated due to the state budget fiscal crisis, Ms. Parent distributed a copy of the letter sent to the editor by the chair of LBRI and the president of RILA as co-

signatories and published by *Providence Journal*. Until the Governor's budget is issued in early February, it is not known what is being recommended for 2004. There is concern in the library community about grant-in-aid funding. A copy of the op-ed piece in the *Providence Journal* written by Frances Farrell- Bergeron, Director of West Warwick Public Library, was distributed.

In an effort to be proactive in anticipating discussions with the new administration about Library Programs, OLIS staff has begun to solicit brief informal testimonials from library staff, especially those that can point to the ultimate effect of the service on end users. A notebook containing letters received to date was distributed. There has been no information about the future of OLIS under the new administration or the Chief Information Officer position.

Reading Across Rhode Island (RARI), spearheaded by Providence Public Library, had a kickoff ceremony in December. Ms. DiMichele and Ms. Mellor serve on the RARI Committee. RARI is a new program to promote literacy. RARI is sponsored by libraries, schools and other partners to encourage communities across the state to read the same book and participate in discussions, events, and programs centered on that book. The book chosen for discussion in Spring 2003 is *Wish You Well* by David Baldacci. Further information is available at [www.readingacrossri.org](http://www.readingacrossri.org).

The Gates grants for public libraries have been finalized. The press release that includes a list of libraries that will receive the computers was distributed.

Chair McKenney, Barbara Weaver and Ms. Parent attended the funeral service for Victoria Lederberg, Justice of the Supreme Court. Victoria Lederberg was a great friend and supporter of libraries, authoring RIGL 29-6-2 regarding libraries, which has come to be known as the Lederberg Law.

Library Programs longtime staff member, Jeffrey Vale, retired in December. Mr. Vale was responsible for behind-the-scene computer services including LORI email management, the LORI website server, as well as the helpdesk and system troubleshooting. The position will not be filled since there is a hiring freeze in state service. It is hoped that other OLIS IT staff will fill in for some of his work.

A pie chart depicting the expenditures of LSTA federal funds according to the 2002 report that was filed with the IMLS was distributed. 36% of federal funds are apportioned to LORI and LORI grants, 24% to LLD and Literacy grants, 26% to Talking Books Plus, and 10% to Web Pubs. Supporting documentation is included in annual reports.

Ms. Mellor updated the Library Board on public library construction projects. Costs for Exeter and East Greenwich will be higher than expected. The Budget Office has agreed to increase state funding for these two projects.

### III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

#### IV. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

None

#### V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

##### Committee on Planning and Budget

The report of the meeting held on January 16, 2003 was distributed. Alice Barrows reported that the committee met to consider a deadline on library reimbursement applications in order to help establish priorities on a fair basis; and to consider a possible cap on certain fees covered under the program. The question of requesting legislation for a cap on the reimbursement program was raised to help OLIS by establishing a specific amount of money to work with in a given fiscal year. The following considerations were discussed: that there may be another fiscal tightening in the state budget, support for libraries runs high, revenue estimates are improving, and requests for reimbursement additions have been regularly approved by the state budget office. According to the schedule provided by Ms. Mellor, proposals "on the books" for fiscal 2008 together with projects anticipated to come in but not yet approved would total approximately \$5.6 million dollars.

**A decision was reached to ask the Library Board of Rhode Island to seek legislation for an annual appropriation for public library construction reimbursement for a five-year period, beginning in fiscal 2004 at \$2.5 million, and increasing annually by \$1 million, reaching \$6.5 million in 2008.**

The idea of deadlines for construction reimbursement applications was discussed.

**The committee agreed that absent clear indications of whether or not this would be useful, any such deadline would be left to the discretion of OLIS to set internally, if needed.**

Architect fees, which vary widely depending on the size and type of project, were discussed. The committee will inquire about AIA guidelines.

**The committee recommended to the Library Board that to cap reimbursement of architect's fees at 10% of the total construction costs was appropriate.**

Ms. Barrows stated that Appendix F of the Public Library Construction Reimbursement Program, "Current caps and priorities established by the Library Board of RI", needs to be updated given that the associated time period in #3 expires in FY2003 and in light of consideration of additional caps on "soft costs."

Chair McKenney suggested acceptance of the report as given and discussion of it under New Business.

**The motion was moved, seconded and unanimously approved that the Library Board of Rhode Island accept the report, Library Board of Rhode Island Budget & Planning Committee: January 16, 2003.**

Committee on Legislation

Rose Ellen Reynolds stated that the next meeting would be held on February 24, 2003, at 3:30 p.m., one hour prior to the next Library Board meeting, the room to be announced.

Committee on Public Relations

Tovah Reis will set up the committee and plans to schedule a meeting before the next Library Board meeting.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A short presentation was made by Cristina Amedeo on the 2-1-1 project proposed for Rhode Island. 2-1-1 is the national abbreviated dialing code for free access to health and human services information and referral, and is the access code for those in need and the appropriate community-based organizations and government agencies. In 1998, a collaborative in Rhode Island was established by the United Way and the Alliance of Information and Referral Systems. In 2000, the FCC approved 2-1-1 for community information and referral nationwide. Traveler's Aid is working with the United Way to go forward with the 2-1-1 Project. At a future point in time, Ms. Amedeo would like the Library Board to consider support for the 2-1-1 Project.

The motion was made and seconded that the Library Board seek legislation for an annual appropriation for public library construction reimbursement for a five-year period, beginning in fiscal 2004 at \$2.5 million, and increasing annually by \$1 million, reaching \$6.5 million in 2008.

When asked about what the legislation means for construction projects on the "drawing board", Ms. Mellor responded that the appropriations requested includes projects already with signed agreements with the State of Rhode Island, construction applications that have been submitted to OLIS but have not yet been approved, and proposed projects for which applications are forthcoming. Interest payments have also been included in the reimbursement projections. Two years ago, Governor Almond proposed capping the program at \$2.5 million, but this proposal was defeated after protests from the library community.

Mr. Teverow proposed that opinions about the request for legislation be sought from meeting guests Dale Thompson and David Macksam. Ms. Thompson responded that the costs for the Central Library might be greater than the amount proposed two years ago. In this case, the cap would be a detriment. Mr. Teverow stated that once the updated numbers are in, he would have no problem with the cap. David Macksam inquired if the idea to seek legislation was intended as a protection for the program. Ms. Parent responded affirmatively. Mr. Litman spoke in favor of the caps, stating that if the cap is high enough and far out enough in the future, it will protect the smaller libraries and

communities in the state. Ms. Barrows stated that \$5.6 million is the anticipated cost until FY 2008 so there is \$900,000 leeway built into the \$6.5 million figure if anything unanticipated is proposed.

**The Library Board of Rhode Island unanimously approved the recommendation of the Committee on Planning & Budget to seek legislation for an annual appropriation for public library construction reimbursement for a five-year period, beginning in fiscal 2004 at \$2.5 million, and increasing annually by \$1 million, reaching \$6.5 million in 2008.**

The motion was made and seconded that the Library Board cap reimbursement of architect's fees at 10% of the total construction costs, in Appendix F of the Public Library Construction Reimbursement Program.

In response to a question about AIA guidelines, Mr. Litman stated that there are no AIA fee guidelines, due to an antitrust suit with the government, and that he thinks 10% is a fair cap. Massachusetts has established municipal fee guidelines for public projects.

**The Library Board of Rhode Island unanimously approved the recommendation of the Committee on Planning & Budget to cap reimbursement of architect's fees at 10% of the total construction costs, and to include this cap in Appendix F of the Public Library Construction Reimbursement Program.**

A copy of the draft letter to Congressman Patrick Kennedy recognizing his co-sponsorship of H.R. 107 the Digital Media Consumers Rights Act was distributed. H.R. 107 will correct the inequities not addressed with the Digital Millennium Copyright Act of five years ago, by offering libraries and consumers "fair use" privileges similar to those already granted for print materials. Ms. Reis stated that ALA, the academic libraries and the hospital libraries continue support of H.R. 107.

The motion was made and seconded that the Library Board of Rhode Island send a letter of commendation to Congressman Patrick Kennedy on his co-sponsorship of H.R. 107, the Digital Media Consumers Rights Act.

The request was made to read the more comprehensive letter that OLIS intended to send to Congressman Kennedy. Board members would like this letter sent to Congressman Kennedy on behalf of the Library Board.

The motion was made and seconded that the Library Board of Rhode Island send the letter of commendation that OLIS intended to send to Congressman Patrick Kennedy on his co-sponsorship of H.R. 107, the Digital Media Consumers Rights Act.

**The Library Board unanimously approved sending a letter of commendation that OLIS originally intended to send to Congressman Patrick Kennedy on his co-sponsorship of H.R. 107, the Digital Media Consumers Rights Act.**

## VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Thompson had concerns about the caps that would be placed on funding for the public library construction program if the legislation were approved. If the caps were in place and if a library came up with a project that would place the state's obligation over the cap, does the library have to wait? Mr. Teverow stated that the plans for the Central Library may or may not fit. He suggested that Ms. Thompson share the current estimates for the construction for the Central Library and then the caps may need to be revisited. In response to a question as to when the cap on architect's fees would become effective, Ms. Parent stated that the resolution on the 10% cap on architect fees would go into Appendix F of the construction regulations, and any new agreements will be subject to the 10% cap.

The COLA Annual Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 11, 2003, 5:00 – 7:00 P.M., in the State Room at the State House, Providence. Representative Betsy Dennigan will receive COLA's Sweetheart of the Year Award.

## VIII. AGENDA FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meeting has been scheduled for Monday, February 24, 2003 at 4:30 P.M. at the Department of Administration. The dates of the future Library Board meetings will be sent out again, as they were last sent out some months ago. The meeting adjourned at 6:05 P.M.

LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND  
February 24, 2003  
MINUTES

Members Present: Chair Mark McKenney, Alice Barrows, Donna Good, Rose Ellen Reynolds, Tovah Reis, Leslie McDonough, Cristina Amedeo, Jay Litman, Peter Deekle, Donald Deignan

Members Absent: Deborah Barchi, Joan Ankner, William Allen, Joshua Teverow, Phyllis Harnick, Mary Cummings

Present from the Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS): Anne Parent, Beth Perry, Donna DiMichele, Karen Mellor, Laurie Scialabba

Observers: Ann Crawford, Cross' Mills Public Library; Joan Ress Reeves; Dale Thompson, Providence Public Library

The meeting was convened at 4:35 p.m.

I. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The revised minutes of the January 21, 2003 meeting were unanimously approved. The revision had added the name of Ms. Mellor as having also served on the RARI Committee along with Ms. DiMichele.

II. REPORT OF ADMINISTRATION

Two organizational charts of Library Programs that had been prepared per request of COSLA were distributed for informational purposes.

The Museum & Library Services Act, H.R. 13, has been reported out favorably from the Committee on Education and the Workforce. Congressman Kennedy did sign on as co-sponsor. Congressman Langevin was one of the first co-sponsors. Senator Reed introduced similar legislation in the Senate as S 238 and Senator Chafee has co-sponsored. These bills are for reauthorization of LSTA. The Senate bill calls for an appropriation level of \$350,000,000, while the House version's appropriation would be \$210,000,000.

A copy of the proposed legislation to fund the public library construction program was distributed. Several RILA representatives, along with Chair McKenney and Ms. Parent met with Representative Dennigan to discuss the initiative. The proposed legislation will be given a bill number this week. RILA continues to be concerned about grant-in-aid funding. The Governor's Budget is expected to be made public on March 5.

There has been no news on the future of OLIS under the new administration. In an effort to be proactive about the effectiveness of Library Programs, staff has begun to solicit brief informal testimonials from library staff, especially those that can point to the

ultimate effect of the service. A notebook of letters received thus far was passed around for review.

The LORI Website has undergone a facelift and a major technological upgrade. The drop-down menu navigation system has returned. Users should note that the extensions of all files have changed from lori.state.ri.us to lori.ri.gov.

A new Continuing Education schedule for March through June will be posted on the LORI site shortly. Using MEDLINEplus, a Free Health Information Database, offered at a time convenient for school librarians, and Leading a Book Discussion Group, with a special segment on *Wish You Well* are two noteworthy programs on the schedule. A special afternoon Excel class will be offered by the Providence Public Library to accommodate school librarians and others whose schedules do not permit morning classes.

The USA Patriot Act: A LORI Toolkit of Resources was distributed. All libraries will be affected by the Patriot Act. OLIS along with RILA co-sponsored the Patriot Act Teleconference. Ms. DiMichele reported that the LORI Committee is developing a new Interlibrary Loan Code. It will be distributed electronically and training will be offered. LORI Standards are undergoing revision and will be published on the LORI website. The LORI Committee will be a focus group for the RI Council on the Humanities for an online encyclopedia.

Ms. Perry reported on the "ASK A LIBRARIAN" email Reference service. The Providence Public Library will provide responses to library and government questions from the portal website, via the SRRC contract. A copy of the website was distributed.

### III. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chair McKenney reported that, as commented earlier, he had met with Representative Dennigan along with other library supporters about the proposed legislation, and also spoke to her at the COLA Annual Meeting. Fellow legislators were in attendance at the COLA Annual Meeting as Representative Dennigan was awarded COLA's "Sweetheart of the Year" Award.

Chair McKenney will send a letter to Robert J. Higgins, Director of Administration, requesting a meeting.

### IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### Committee on Planning and Budget

No report.

#### Committee on Legislation

A listing of House Finance Committee Members and Senate Finance Committee members were distributed.

Projects & Proposed Projects (thru FY 2008), Signed Agreements, Applications, & Proposed Projects, and a chart, Library Construction Reimbursement Funding, 2001-2008

were distributed. Ms. Mellor discussed the information received from the OLIS survey. Ms. Reynolds discussed the proposed legislation on funding for the public library construction program. RILA will handle public relations.

The motion introduced at the recommendation of the Committee that the Library Board of Rhode Island support the draft legislation being introduced and seek mirror legislation in the Senate was made and unanimously withdrawn so that these could be moved separately.

**It was moved, accepted and unanimously approved that the Library Board of Rhode Island support the draft legislation in the House.**

**It was moved, accepted and unanimously approved that the Library Board of Rhode Island encourage mirror legislation in the Senate.**

The Library Board will transmit approval of the two motions.

Proposed legislation, S 231, An Act Establishing the State Department of Information Technology, was distributed. Ms. Perry reported that this bill would remove Information Technology from under the Office of Library and Information Services. There is a slight mention of libraries on page 4. The IRMB is looking at this proposed legislation. A copy of a job description developed by the IRMB for the Chief Information Officer position was distributed.

Ms. Perry reported that H 5712, An Act Relating to Public Utilities and Carriers – Accessible Electronic Information Act, would provide funding for newspapers in digital form for blind and disabled individuals through a rate charge on telephone bills. IMLS provided a leadership grant last year. There is no current funding for this service. The Office of Social and Rehabilitation Services under the Department of Human Services would administer the fund. Mr. Deignan stated that a one-cent increase in the TTY rate has been proposed.

#### Committee on Public Relations

The committee met today. Ms. Reis will report at the next Library Board meeting and will discuss items with Ms. Parent.

#### V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

An update of Appendix F of the Public Library Construction Reimbursement Program, “Current caps and priorities established by the Library Board of RI”, which includes the 10% cap on architect fees as approved by the Library Board at the January meeting was distributed.

#### VI. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Deekle gave a report on the declining budgetary resources in academic libraries in public higher educational institutions and the impact of this on the academic library network, as well as economic conditions in Rhode Island.

The National Library Legislative Day sponsored by the American Library Association will be held May 11-13, 2003 in Washington, D.C. Library organizations in Rhode Island have been contacted by Ms. Scialabba to see if they wish to send a representative.

**VII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Deekle noted that IMLS Director Robert Martin is seeking input from business and industry leaders regarding public library services.

**VIII. AGENDA FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

The next meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, March 18, 2003 at 4:30 P.M. at the Department of Administration.

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 P.M.

LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND

April 21 2003

MINUTES

Members Present: Chair Mark McKenney, Alice Barrows, Donna Good, Deborah Barchi, Rose Ellen Reynolds, Tovah Reis, Leslie McDonough, Jay Litman, Phyllis Harnick, William Allen, Donald Deignan

Members Absent: Cristina Amedeo, Peter Deekle, Joan Ankner, Joshua Teverow, Mary Cummings

Present from the Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS): Anne Parent, Donna DiMichele, Karen Mellor, Laurie Scialabba

Observers: Joan Ress Reeves; Dale Thompson, Providence Public Library; David Macksam, Cranston Public Library

The meeting was convened at 4:35 p.m.

I. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the February 24, 2003 meeting were unanimously approved.

II. REPORT OF ADMINISTRATION

A new Museum & Library Services bill (S-888) has been introduced in the Senate by Republican Senator Gregg of New Hampshire to reauthorize LSTA. This bill, if appropriated at the level authorized, would double the base grant for Rhode Island and, in all, bring an additional half million dollars for library services to Rhode Island. This bill takes the place of S-283 by Senators Reed and Kennedy, and they have both signed on to the new version.

American Library Association National Library Legislative Day will take place May 13, 2003 in Washington, D.C with a training day on May 12. Representatives from the Library Board of Rhode Island, COLA, RIEMA, RILA, CLAN, Providence Public Library, and OLIS will attend. In addition to national library issues, support for funding legislation for "Live Homework Help," from tutor.com, a service that will provide after-school online academic support for every student in Rhode Island, will be a discussion point with Congressman Kennedy. The Library Board will write a letter of support for this project that will be presented to Representative Kennedy. Again this year, COSLINE will sponsor a luncheon for Senate aides, and Elyse Wasch of Senator Reed's office and David Morgenstern of Senator Chafee's office, have accepted. Additionally, during the training day, Ms. Parent representing OLIS and David Macksam, representing RILA, will present a special plaque of commendation to Elyse Wasch for all of her work on LSTA.

The House Finance Committee held a hearing on H-6147, the library construction appropriations bill, introduced by Rep. Betsy Dennigan, on April 2. Laypersons, library

trustees and users testified. OLIS has responded to questions from the House Finance Committee with information about the derivation of the figures for the appropriation request and administration of the program. Attempts by the RILA Legislative Action Committee to have mirror legislation introduced in the Senate have not fared well so far.

Ms. Mellor reported that construction projects at Middletown Public Library, Hope Library, and South Providence and Rochambeau branches of Providence Public Library should be completed soon. East Greenwich will start construction this week. Exeter needs additional funding, and is expected to start construction in June. Library construction projects for consideration by the new administration are a new Riverside branch in East Providence, and forthcoming applications for three projects in Providence, Knight Memorial, Wanskuck and Smith Hill. Ms. Parent thanked Ms. Mellor for her hard work.

The Reorganization Team has moved into the 4<sup>th</sup> floor at the Department of Administration. The Chief Information Officer position was posted on Sunday, April 13, 2003 as an unclassified position with no requirement for an M.L.S., but with a working knowledge of statewide planning and library services.

Seven staff members from library services and one from information technology attended the State Library Training Program sponsored by the Gates Foundation on March 31 and April 1, in Seattle, Washington. Two staff members from OLIS and some staff of the Providence Public library will attend further technological training.

An outstanding letter written by Hope Houston at Johnson & Wales to Governor Carcieri about the impact of OLIS Library Services will be included in the packet of letters of support.

### III. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chair McKenney reported that Robert J. Higgins, Director of Administration, has cancelled the scheduled meeting between himself, Ms. Parent, and Mr. McKenney. Chair McKenney and Ms. Parent wished to discuss the future of Library Services, the public library construction program, and the inclusion of the M.L.S. in the job description of the Chief Information Officer.

Chair McKenney will attend National Library Legislative Day sponsored by the American Library Association, May 11-13, 2003 in Washington, D.C.

In accordance with the bylaws, Chair McKenney has asked Ms. Reynolds to serve as Vice Chair of the Library Board, with approval of nomination of a Vice Chair to take place under New Business. Joan Ress Reeves and Mr. Deignan will review the bylaws.

#### IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

##### Committee on Public Relations

The list of members and the reports of the February 24 and March 17 meeting were distributed. Ms. Reis reported that a press release about the Gates Foundation has been distributed. Press releases about the state delivery system and the public library construction program are planned. The use of a bookmark or magnet to promote the state delivery system is planned. Libraries would be asked to put the bookmark or magnet at service points in the library and in books delivered through the system. The committee discussed development of "Quotable Facts about RI Libraries", based on the ALA model for "Quotable Facts about American Libraries." Public relations about the Library Board and OLIS for residents as well as for library staff working in Rhode Island is a concern. Suggestions for recipients of the Library Board Award will be taken.

##### Committee on Legislation

A meeting has been scheduled for Friday, April 25, with Representative Paul Sherlock, Chair of the House Finance Committee, to discuss the public library construction reimbursement legislation. The Chair of the Library Board is invited to attend. The committee and RILA are seeking support in the full Senate for the legislation, since it may not go to a Senate committee. The Library Board will write a letter to Rep. Sherlock to support the legislation to attach to the informational sheet about the legislation that has been prepared by Ms. Parent and Ms. Mellor, of OLIS Library Programs staff. The Library Board will write a letter to Senator Reed commending Elyse Wasch for her hard work and support for library issues.

##### Committee on Planning and Budget

No report

#### V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

#### VI. NEW BUSINESS

The letter sent to Chair McKenney from Donald L. Soucy, Chair of the Board of Trustees of Cranston Public Library dated April 8, 2003; the response letter to Mr. Soucy from Chair McKenney dated April 10, 2003; and the letter to Mr. Soucy from Ms. Parent dated April 11, 2003 were distributed. David Macksam, Director of Cranston Public Library, explained that funding for the library includes state funding, city funding and library general revenue, which includes fines, endowment money and proceeds from fundraising. Cranston is experiencing difficult financial times. The City of Cranston is considering deducting the amount of carryover funds, derived from the library general revenue, from the next year appropriation. The Cranston Library Board of Trustees does not support this action, and Mr. Soucy seeks clarification under R.I.G.L. 29-6-3. The clarification sent to Mr. Soucy from Ms. Parent addressed the use of non-tax based appropriations in combination with tax-based appropriations; specifically that these cannot be used as a substitute for the minimum

amount of operating tax based appropriations needed to match those of the preceding year to maintain eligibility for state grant-in-aid funds.

**It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved that the Library Board support the response sent by Chief of Library Services Anne Parent to Chair of the Cranston Public Library Board of Trustees Donald Soucy.**

The letter dated April 11, 2003 sent to Mr. Soucy from Ms. Parent will be attached to the minutes of the meeting.

Donna Good reported on the changing role of the school librarian. Declining budgetary resources, and in some cases, the nonexistence of funding in public school libraries and the resulting impact on the public and academic library networks was discussed. Public school libraries are operating under 1963 standards. The standards have been revised, but are not mandatory.

**It was moved and seconded to send a letter to the Board of Regents in support of mandatory compliance of the new standards for school libraries.**

Discussion followed.

**The motion to send a letter to the Board of Regents in support of mandatory compliance of the new standards for school libraries was tabled.**

Ms. Good, Mr. Litman and Mr. Deignan will serve on an Ad Hoc Committee to study the issue and to report back to Library Board at its next meeting.

Ms. Reeves requested that the Library Board consider approval of issuing a press release in recognition of the election of Rose Ellen Reynolds to the Chairmanship of the White House Conference on Library and Information Services Taskforce (WHCLIST). The press release was read to the Library Board.

**It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved to issue a press release in recognition of the election of Rose Ellen Reynolds to the Chairmanship of the White House Conference on Library and Information Services Taskforce (WHCLIST).**

**It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved to elect Rose Ellen Reynolds as Vice Chair of the Library Board of Rhode Island.**

Ms. Reis invited Library Board members to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of ARISHL on June 18, at the Watson International Bldg, Brown University, 2:00 – 5:30 p.m. Lectures will include the future of hospital libraries and on public health given by a faculty member. The LORI Committee will also be invited.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

VIII. AGENDA FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The Library Board canceled the next meeting that had been scheduled for Tuesday, May 27, 2003. The next Library Board meeting is scheduled on Monday, June 16, 2003.

## LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND

June 16, 2003

### MINUTES

Members Present: Chair Mark McKenney, Alice Barrows, Donna Good, Deborah Barchi, Joshua Teverow, Mary Cummings, Tovah Reis, Leslie McDonough, Jay Litman, William Allen, Peter Deekle

Members Absent: Cristina Amedeo, Donald Deignan, Phyllis Harnick, Joan Ankner, Rose Ellen Reynolds

Present from the Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS): Anne Parent, Beth Perry, Donna DiMichele, Karen Mellor, Laurie Scialabba

Observers: Louise Moulton, Providence Public Library; Joan Ress Reeves; Dale Thompson, Providence Public Library; David Macksam, Cranston Public Library

The meeting was convened at 4:35 p.m.

#### I. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the April 21, 2003 meeting were unanimously approved.

#### II. REPORT OF ADMINISTRATION

The Senate bill (S-888) to reauthorize LSTA, introduced jointly by Republican Senator Gregg of New Hampshire and Democratic Senator Reed of Rhode Island, received wide bipartisan support thanks to the efforts of librarians at ALA Library Legislative Day. The bill was approved unanimously by the appropriate subcommittee and is en route to the full floor for a vote in the next two weeks.

American Library Association National Library Legislative Day took place May 13, 2003 in Washington, D.C with a briefing day on May 12. Representatives from the Library Board of Rhode Island were Ms. Reeves and Chair McKenney. In addition to national library issues, the Rhode Island delegation advocated for support with aides from Representative Kennedy's office for a \$200,000 grant to OLIS to offer "Live Homework Help," from tutor.com, an electronic service that would provide academic support to all Rhode Island students via public libraries. As part of briefing day activities, Ms. Parent and Mr. Macksam presented an award on behalf of the R.I. library community to Elyse Wasch, legislative aide for Senator Reed, "in appreciation of (her) commitment to library and education issues." A report of this event is on the LORI website, at [lori.ri.gov](http://lori.ri.gov). A handout with the new url for LORI was distributed. The old LORI URL [www.lori.state.ri.us](http://www.lori.state.ri.us) will no longer be functional after June 30, and users will no longer be redirected. The R.I. delegation also attended a reception at the Center for the Book headquarters at the Library of Congress, and to a ceremony marking the unveiling of WebJunction, the Gates/OCLC public access computer project. Photos were passed around.

Representatives from OLIS and RILA met with Representative Paul Sherlock, Chair of the House Finance Committee, to express support for H-6147, the library construction appropriations bill, introduced by Rep. Betsy Dennigan on April 2. RILA continues to advocate with individual Senators should the bill go to the full Senate after approval by the full House.

Legislation was introduced on June 12 by Representative Gordon Fox of Providence to amend the state grant-in-aid statute to allow the Providence Public Library's endowment funds used to supplement their municipal appropriation to be considered in their grant-in-aid, up to six percent of the three-year market value of the endowment's investments. When asked about the impact of the legislation, Ms. Parent responded that the proposed legislation pertained only to Providence. Ms. Parent stated that in an OLIS survey conducted in 1989 it was revealed that 22 libraries used endowment money for operating costs. Mr. Teverow said that he recalls a discussion on endowment at a meeting some years ago and he assumes that the Library Board will not take a vote on this issue. Mr. Teverow stated that in his opinion the Library Board should not take a position on the proposed legislation.

Ms. Mellor reported that construction projects at Middletown Public Library, Hope Library, and South Providence and Rochambeau branches of Providence Public Library would not be completed by the end of this fiscal year. East Greenwich began its construction project. Barrington has submitted an application and may begin construction this year. Bristol is updating its application and may begin construction in April 2004. Reimbursement payments commence in the fiscal year following completion and audit of the project. The library must furnish a Certificate of Substantial Completion to OLIS. Due to the projects not being completed this fiscal year, the state's obligation for construction reimbursement payments in FY 2004 and will be less than anticipated. It was also noted that OLIS does not anticipate the need for more funding in FY 2005 but that could change if projects projected to begin reimbursement in 2004 move to 2005. The fiscal impact due to the changes in the completion of projects has not yet been projected for the next five years.

Library Services has been furnishing information requested from its representative on the Governor's Fiscal Fitness Team, Albert Smith. The Fiscal Fitness Team will make recommendations on reorganization within six to nine months. Two examples of Quick Start Recommendations, prepared by Ms. Parent for the Fiscal Fitness Team, were distributed. Ms. Parent met with the newly appointed Executive Director of Operations, Jerry Williams, to discuss the history and future of Library Services. While there has been no official news regarding the search for the Chief Information Officer, it has been noted that there are three candidates being considered for the Chief Information Officer position.

Computers are now being installed at public libraries in high poverty areas of the state, courtesy of the Gates Foundation. A fully equipped training lab was awarded to Providence Public Library. The lab will be relocated to the Knight Memorial Library branch once construction there has been completed. Ms. Parent will attend the American Library

Association Annual meeting and a preconference “Staying Connected”, which is sponsored by the Gates Foundation.

A new round of LORI resource-sharing grants has been posted on the LORI Website, [www.ori.ri.gov](http://www.ori.ri.gov), under which up to \$65,000 will be available September 1, 2003 through August 31, 2004. Priority will be given to proposals with a multi-type application, and to those involving more than one library. A LORI library should be designated as the grant recipient/administrator.

NELA has selected OLIS staff member Chaichin Chen as one of 24 participants in its first New England Library Leadership Symposium (NELLS), sponsored by NELA and the six New England state library associations. The symposium will be held July 14-18 at the Canonicus Camp and Conference Center in Exeter. Ms. Parent noted that special thanks are due to RILA for assuming the \$400 cost for Ms. Chen to attend.

The OLIS contract with Capitol Records for housing and shipping of talking books will expire in September. The cost for this service is currently approximately \$158,000. OLIS is in the process of reviewing bids from Capitol Records and Perkins School for the Blind, located in Massachusetts. .

Seven staff members from OLIS attended the two-day RILA Annual Conference. Staff attending all commented that the quality of the programs was outstanding.

### III. CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT

Chair McKenney attended the RILA Annual Conference banquet and delivered birthday greetings to celebrate 100 years for RILA from the Library Board.

Chair McKenney attended National Library Legislative Day sponsored by the American Library Association, May 11-13, 2003 in Washington, D.C., and reported on the high level of commitment and cooperation on library issues by the congressional delegation. There is a high level of advocacy by the Rhode Island library community on the federal level.

### IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### Committee on Public Relations

No report.

#### Committee on Legislation

No report.

#### Committee on Planning and Budget

No report

## V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

## VI. NEW BUSINESS

Louise Moulton of Providence Public Library's Community Services gave a presentation on plans for the newly designated Center for the Book at the Providence Public Library. A retreat was held at Jamestown Philomenian Library. Ideas for the Rhode Island Center for the Book will include collaboration among groups, recognition of local authors, and activities and programs. The website will be the virtual location. OLIS will contribute staff support through its VISTA position; COLA furnished \$200 for a facilitator at the retreat. Library Board members and others are invited to join the Steering Committee at its next meeting on July 25, 2003 at 9:30 a.m. at the East Providence Library. Ms. DiMichele serves as the OLIS representative on the Steering Committee.

Ms. Good reported that the Ad Hoc Committee formed at the April 21, 2003 Library Board meeting met on May 14, to study the issue of support for mandatory compliance of the new standards for school libraries. At the meeting, Mr. Deignan, Ms. DiMichele and Ms. Good drafted a letter to be sent to the Chairman of the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education. Ms. Good presented the draft letter to RIEMA on May 30, where additions and corrections were made. Copies of the two draft letters were distributed.

It was moved and seconded to send a letter presented by the Ad Hoc Committee on School Library Standards to the Board of Regents to in support of mandatory compliance of the new standards for school libraries.

Discussion followed, yielding the following changes:

From existing Paragraph 2., first sentence:

“As you well know, the standards currently in force...”

Changed to:

“As you well know, the literacy standards currently in force...”

From fourth paragraph”

“The Library Board of RI is a statewide group composed of citizens and representatives...”

Changed to:

“The Library Board of RI is a statewide group appointed by the Governor and composed of citizens and representatives...”

The fourth paragraph will be moved to become paragraph two.

The name of the Chairman of the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education will be checked for accuracy.

**It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved that the Library Board send a letter drafted by the Ad Hoc Committee on School Library Standards, with changes by the Library Board, to the Board of Regents in support of mandatory compliance of the new standards for school libraries entitled School Library and Information Literacy Framework.**

Ms. Scialabba will forward a copy to Library Board members.

It was moved and seconded that the Library Board send a letter to Robert J. Higgins, Director of Department of Administration and a copy to Governor Carcieri to lend the assistance of the Library Board in the evaluation of candidates for the Chief Information Officer position. Discussion followed.

The question was asked as to what would happen if a Chief Information Officer were appointed prior to the letter being sent. The response was that a briefing or orientation would be requested.

**It was moved and seconded and unanimously approved that the Library Board send a letter to Robert J. Higgins, Director of Department of Administration and a copy to Governor Carcieri to lend the assistance of the Library Board in the evaluation of candidates for the Chief Information Officer position.**

Ms. Scialabba will forward a copy to Library Board members.

#### VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Reeves commented that the award to Elyse Wasch by Ms. Parent and Mr. Macksam was presented in front of a national audience.

#### VIII. AGENDA FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Ms. Reis reminded the Library Board of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of ARISHL on June 18, and thanked Library Board members for responding to the invitation.

The next meeting of the Library Board is scheduled on Monday, September 15, 2003. Board members were asked to review their calendars for the third Monday of every month September 2003 through June 2004 for possible conflict. A meeting schedule will be set at the September meeting

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.