

## **Executive Director's Column**

By Adam Wright, Executive Director, NTRLS.  
November, 2008

Happy November!

Our theme this month is "The New Senior Citizen – What are they looking for?" Leanna Cowen, director of the Alvarado Public Library, has written a guest column on this subject while our latest Librarian Live features Pat Wagner and her take on how we can best serve the wiser generation.

Do you have a Senior Spaces Librarian? Pretty nifty job title isn't it? I found it on a blog title Senior Spaces (<http://www.seniorspaces.blogspot.com/>).

There are plenty of resources out there on how best to serve the growing senior community. The [Library Success Wiki](#) has an entire page devoted to seniors as does [WebJunction](#). In fact, it was WebJunction where I located a list of [25 things](#) a library can do for their seniors.

1. Establish Senior Day during Older Americans Month in May
2. Host tax counseling during tax season
3. Start an oral history project on community life in the 1950's, 1960's and 1970's
4. Celebrate Veterans Day with oral history events from the Korean and Vietnam Wars
5. Develop inter-generational genealogy projects
6. Establish a Senior Services Advisory Board including Baby Boomers to develop ideas
7. Host a program during Older Americans Month for the five oldest community residents
8. Organize a great issues discussion group, including Boomers and older adults
9. Develop meaningful volunteer opportunities for Baby Boomers at your library
10. Host a book discussion program on best sellers of the 1960's and 1970's.
11. Develop a community bulletin board where people can post volunteer options
12. Organize a "Lifelong Learning" institute at your library with peers teaching peers
13. Develop a "SENIORNET" type computer lab utilizing older adults and Baby Boomers as peer-to-peer instructors
14. Partner with a local bank to offer pre-retirement financial programming
15. Develop "fun" programming for Baby Boomers, such as, "Remembering the Beatles"
16. Organize monthly cultural programs that reflect the community's diversity
17. Utilize active seniors and Baby Boomers to assist with homebound delivery of books
18. Invite the local garden club to exhibit samples of flowers each month
19. Develop booklists for distribution that focus on senior & Boomer issues and concerns

20. Utilize seniors and Baby Boomers to volunteer to give tours of the library to groups
21. Encourage the local historical society to partner with the library on programming
22. Develop an area with the library for older adults and Baby Boomers to “chat”
23. Designate a library staff person as a “Senior & Boomer Services Librarian”
24. Develop a library marketing plan to “target” older adults and Baby Boomers
25. Develop relationships with other local agencies that serve older adults and the Baby Boomers

I firmly believe that we have an opportunity with the wiser generation that we do not have with the generations that came after them. These individuals love the library for all the traditional reasons. Many of them have some discretionary spending as well as time on their hands. If you do not have programs specific to this generation, I implore to try out some of the ideas listed above.

## **LP3 Conference**

*"Get 'Em In!"*

The first annual all-day  
**North Texas Conference for  
Library Program Planners and Presenters**

**Thursday November 20, 2008**  
at the  
**Lockheed Martin Recreation Area**  
in Southwest Fort Worth

[map](#)

Designed for folks responsible for presenting and / or coordinating library programs, the event will include training sessions, some presenter showcases, dedicated time to visit exhibits, time to network with peers, and even refreshments and lunch!

[Registration](#) is now open!

For more information, please go to <http://www.librarypresentationsnetwork.com/conferencenews.html>.

## **Regional Meetings**

Our remaining regional meetings scheduled for November.

### **Region 4**

Haslet

Friday, November 7

**Region 5**

Haltom City

Wednesday, November 5

**Region 6**

Benbrook

Tuesday, November 11

**Region 7**

Alvarado

Friday, October 31, 2008

**Program and services updates from October****Special Interest Groups & Conferences**

- LibraryPresentationsNetwork SIG
  - <http://LibraryPresentationsNetwork.com> is public. Note: If you have been looking for the Performer's Showcase, it has been incorporated into this conference.
  - 133 subscribers have joined the PRESENTATIONS-SIG discussion list.
  - First Annual North Texas Conference for Library Program Planners and Presenters (LP3) is scheduled for November 20, 2008 at the Lockheed Martin Recreation Area (LMRA). Theme: *Get 'Em In!*; Keynote Speaker: Jeff Crilley, Emmy-Award winning TV Reporter; almost all available session spots, showcase spots and exhibit spaces have been filled.
  - Presenters directory is being updated and is gaining listings.
  - Second Annual LP3 is scheduled for Thursday Nov. 12, 2009 at the LMRA.
- LibrarySupportersNetwork SIG: Planning is underway for the First Annual North Texas Conference for Library Supporters - Saturday Jan. 31, 2009 at the LMRA.
- LibraryTechNetwork SIG: Planning is underway for the TechNet 2009 - Thursday May 7, 2009 at the LMRA.
- LibraryYouthServicesNetwork SIG: Planning is underway for the CYC 2009 - Thursday Aug. 13, 2009 at the LMRA.

## **Serving Patrons with Special Needs Program**

- Information about the program has been posted at <http://www.ntrls2.org/default.asp?action=article&ID=305>
- Items for the Low-Vision Work Station have begun arriving. The work station will be set up in the Library Foundation of North Texas office, and is available there to anyone who wants to try out the hardware and software when considering what to purchase.
- Five large print keyboards for low-vision patrons have arrived and are available for check-out to libraries wishing to test them within their communities.
- Information about funding assistance for developing and implementing Accessibility Fairs for Local Residents with Special Needs was distributed at the TLA District 5 meeting and is being distributed at the NTRLS regional meetings.
- Design of toolkits for development and implementation of Accessibility Fairs for Local Residents with Special Needs is underway.

## **Consulting**

### Region 2

- Nocona – Weeding
- Jacksboro – Collection Development/General Library Help
- Newark – Spoke with City Council Member and City Secretary about recent issues

### Region 3

- Krum – Open Meetings Act; library presentations

### Region 5

- Haltom City – library presentations

### Region 6

- Azle – Consult on Staffing Needs for New Library

### Other Consulting:

- Carrollton Public Library – Staff Development Speaker on “Knowing Your Community”

- University Park – library presentations

## **O2U Projects Requested**

### *Region 1*

Seymour - 1 request

### *Region 3*

Aubrey Area Library - 2 requests

Carrollton Pub. Library - 2 requests

William T. Cozby Public Library, Coppell - 2 requests

Denton Public Library - 2 requests

Flower Mound Public Library - 31 requests

Frisco Public Library - 2 requests

Justin Community Library - 2 requests

Krum Public Library - 2 requests

Lake Cities Library - 2 requests

Lewisville Public Library - 2 requests

Little Elm Public Library - 2 requests

Pilot Point Community Library - 2 requests

Plano Public Library System - 2 requests

Betty Foster Public Library, Ponder - 2 requests

Roanoke Public Library - 2 requests

Sanger Public Library - 2 requests

The Colony Public Library - 2 requests

### *Region 4*

Saginaw - 1 request

### *Region 5*

Haltom City - 1 request

Mansfield - 1 request

### *Region 6*

Benbrook - 1 request

Fort Worth - 3 requests

Watauga - 1 request

### *Region 7*

Alvarado - 1 request

## **Shared Integrated Library System (SILS)**

The North Texas Library Consortium met on October 9<sup>th</sup> to review bids received on their Request for Proposal. The librarians selected Equinox as the

winning vendor. NTRLS staff will negotiate a contract with Equinox to provide Integrated Library System (ILS) services to the 13 communities. This contract will include configuring a server with the Evergreen ILS. This server will be housed in the Equinox offices in Atlanta, Georgia.

### **Libraries for Literacy**

All three of the pilot projects have met and planned their literacy instruction activities. Alvarado Public Library decided to hold a ESL class in their meeting room every Thursday morning and offer one-on-one tutoring classes for other literacy students. At the October 2 informational session, twenty-one patrons signed up to attend the ESL classes. Baylor County Library in Seymour decided to hold adult literacy classes in the library on a one-on-one basis. Seven volunteers have signed up to learn how to provide literacy instruction. This training will take place in early November with the tutoring beginning in January. The John Ed Keeter Public Library of Saginaw will work with the System and Literacy Instruction for Texas (LIFT) to hold one ESL class and adult literacy classes on a one-to-one basis. Training of volunteer tutors will begin in December with classes starting in January.

### **TSLAC Update**

#### **Grant Writing**

NTRLS was informed earlier this month that the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) received further clarification on the grant writing restrictions handed down by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). It seems that NTRLS can pursue grant writing as long as the grant application supports TSLAC's LSTA goals as outlined in their five year plan. Below is the email received from Chris Jowaisas from TSLAC.

After further discussion with IMLS, we have received approval to allow System staff to proceed with any activity related to preparing grants from non-federally funded sources that support state LSTA plan goals.

This means that System staff can prepare grant applications on behalf of their members according to the following process:

- 1) Systems will have to prepare a prior approval form (see attached) and submit to TSLAC grant administrator for review.
- 2) If approved, the activity related to preparing the grant can be undertaken.

System staff should not expend staff time or grant-funded resources on any activity related to preparing grants until they receive approval from TSLAC staff.

We are also working on the issue related to System staff participating in any activity related to preparing grants from non-federally funded sources that DO NOT support state LSTA plan goals, but fit within the System mission. We see this range of activity being a very narrow one and there are additional questions about the requirements for a cost reimbursement plan that would have to be in place that we are working through currently. We expect that we will have additional information to communicate within the next month on this issue.

This is good news for the System as we are now free to pursue grant opportunities of any sort as long as we receive prior-approval from TSLAC.

I would like to end this column by paying tribute to Jayne Hudson, Director of the Justin Public Library, who passed away unexpectedly this past month. She was always smiling and willing to listen. She will be missed.