

NOBLE Executive Board meeting
April 8, 2009
@ NOBLE

In Attendance: NOBLE Executive Director Ron Gagnon, Linda Hummel Shea, Brian Courtemanche, Dennis Kelley, Myron Schirer- Suter, Lorraine Jackson, Doug Rendell, Pat Cirone, Martha Holden

- I. Call to Order:** President Linda Hummel-Shea called the meeting to order at 2:25 p.m.
- II. Approval of Minutes:** A Motion to approve Minutes of the February 4, 2009 Executive Board meeting was forwarded by Dennis Kelley, seconded by Pat Cirone, and unanimously approved.
- III. Treasurer's Report:** Doug Rendell distributed the Treasurer's Report as of March 31, 2009. Pat Cirone forwarded a Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion was seconded by Brian Courtemanche, and unanimously approved. Myron asked about the record enhancement line that has not yet had any activity. Ron reported that about half of the funds budgeted will be used for Library Thing.

The Board discussed Ron Gagnon's e-mail request of April 7, 2009 to transfer to NOBLE's capital account, interest of \$18,090.76 gained on a CD that renewed in February. The CD is currently in the amount of \$619,348.55 at 2% APY. Motion to transfer \$18,090.76 was forwarded by Martha Holden, seconded by Myron Schirer-Suter, and unanimously approved.

- IV. Executive Director's Report:** Following are items reported by Executive Director Ron Gagnon:
- ✓ MLA reported 214 library advocate registrations plus 78 legislators/aides at the State House for Library Legislative Day on April 2. Doug and Ron met with Representative Ted Speliotis prior to the event.
 - ✓ Overdrive statistics show a marked increase in usage in March. Circulation exceeds last month's by 37.5%. The Overdrive Roundtable met last week, and new promotional materials are currently being distributed by NOBLE.
 - ✓ Ron is representing NOBLE on the Statewide Delivery Committee's working group on automated central sorting. Although Ron missed the first meeting due to his recent jury duty obligation, he was able to attend a meeting with representatives from Bibliotecha, a company that sells automated sorting systems. We may want to discuss RFID technology with Bibliotecha in the future as this is their specialty, and we may consider RFID technology at some point soon.
 - ✓ NOBLE no longer prints the yellow hold cancellation notices. These are available to libraries online in a secure location, that is passworded and access limited by IP address. NOBLE is determining the best procedure for removal of the notices at the appropriate time.
 - ✓ Library Thing enhancements to the catalog were recently implemented by NOBLE. The new catalog features include "similar books" suggestions and tags. These were recommended by ERDWG after months of considering enhanced catalog features that are available to NOBLE in the short term. "Similar books" feature is generating mixed reviews.
 - ✓ Due to budgetary constraints, the State is discontinuing the Literary Reference Center database for libraries. Due to NOBLE's relationship with EBSCO, Ron was able to secure pricing at a 40% discount for NOBLE libraries.
 - ✓ NOBLE PCs – NOBLE recently replaced four staff PCs with Millennium-compatible Dell Vostro machines.
 - ✓ The Gates Foundation is offering two grants programs for libraries – one for broadband access, and the other for PC support. The PC program is eligible to libraries who are "underserved" based on access to technology and socio-economic factors. The Broadband program is available to libraries with a lower-than-T1 connection to the Internet. There is a 2-day broadband workshop on April 30 and May 1 for invited libraries – in NOBLE that includes libraries with branch locations. The Board discussed Ron's concern that T1 capability will not be sufficient for libraries in the near future due to current usage and ever-growing demand. Participating NOBLE libraries are urged to voice this concern.

The Gates PC Program provides funding for libraries for new PCs and access to the Internet. The funds are for public PCs, and there is a required local match for the funds. Neline, working with the Gates Foundation, offers facilitation of the PC purchases. NOBLE recently secured more favorable pricing for the Dell Vostro machine, that NOBLE considers suitable for public PC use. This pricing is available to all NOBLE libraries regardless of Gates participation.

- V. Open Source Investigation Grant / Server Grant Update:** Ron reported that both grant applications were submitted in early-March. The Open Source request is for \$412,000 in LSTA funding. This would cover the cost of a project coordinator for two years (\$162,000), and \$250,000 for software development and migration. NOBLE's in-kind contribution to the project is \$485,000 for staff contribution from three networks. Ron reported that NOBLE staff loaded a Koha demo on the NOBLE server. NOBLE is in the process of adding patron and item records. Koha does not require a client on a staff pc but uses a web-based client model. The system was not originally created for consortia use, whereas the Evergreen system was created specifically for consortia use. Ron noted that the system that would be ideal for NOBLE would be scaled somewhere between the two approaches.
- VI. Interlibrary Loan Center Contract Update** – NOBLE's contract with NMRLS for ILL service expires June 30. Ron distributed the ILL Center annual budget overview from FY01 to the present, as well as a "fill report" from FY05 to the present. When considering overhead, NOBLE staff support, and an uneven balance of requests between the two ILL centers, Ron asked the Board to consider whether it is in the best interest of NOBLE to continue to provide ILL service; or whether there is a reasonable reimbursement rate at which it would be feasible for NOBLE to continue. After much discussion, including consideration of NMRLS' offer to better balance the workload, Brian Courtemanche forwarded a Motion to authorize Ron Gagnon to contact NMRLS Executive Director Greg Pronevitz and offer to continue to provide the service for a reimbursement of \$95,000 per year, plus postage. Martha Holden seconded the Motion that was unanimously approved.
- VII. Statewide Planning Day Recap and Discussion:** The Statewide Planning Day in Worcester was considered well-organized and well-attended. The most consistent desire expressed by libraries was for "seamless" service. Libraries requested one statewide library card; a uniform ILS; open source software integration; and local branding of services that are uniform in consistency across the state. The Board discussed the respective roles of networks, regions and the MBLC and how these may evolve or diminish with changes in library service.
- VIII. New Business** – Martha Holden submitted the report of the Nomination Committee with regard to nominations for NOBLE Executive Board Vice President/President Elect and Secretary effective July 1, 2009. Pat Cirone was nominated for the position of Vice President/President-Elect, and Brian Courtemanche for Secretary. The Executive Board approved the nominations and Martha thanked Doug Rendell for his help with the nominations process.
- IX. Adjournment.**

Respectfully submitted:

Martha Holden
Secretary Pro Tem