



## PIMA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARDS'RETREAT

**SATURDAY, MAY 1, 2009  
8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

*Joel D. Valdez Main Library, 101 N. Stone Ave, Tucson, Arizona.*

**ATTENDEES:** John Byrnes, Liz Miller, Barbara Prentice Foundation, Joan Domash, Carol De Luca, Rosemarie Britton, Jan Norbury, Joyner Green Valley Friends, Dorothy Swerdlow, Dorothy Filip, Kirk-Bear Canyon Friends, Martha Briggs, Friends of Oro Valley, David Bailey, Green Valley/Sahuarita Friends, Annabelle Nuñez, Marjorie Gerdes, Tom Ward, Miley Clark, Obdúlia González, David Ellington, Maureen Lueck, Library Advisory Board, Bonny Bruce, Jere Voigt, Karen Thayer, Melody Ballard, Pat Corella, Nancy Ledeboer, Steff Koeneman, Kendra Davey, Mary McKinney, Daphne Daly, Aaron Valdivia, Coni Weatherford, Jennifer Nichols, Leanne Yoder, Ken McDonald, Pima County Public Library, Hank Atha, Pima Deputy County Administrator.

**Welcome, Introductions and State of the Library:** Nancy Ledeboer, Library Director, welcomed all and went around the room with introductions. Nancy commented that the retreat is once a year, to bring together all the groups that support the Library to share their accomplishments and goals.

Library Director Nancy Ledeboer gave a brief update on progress made over the past year in each of the service roles from the Library's Strategic Plan. She shared highlights from the following areas:

- Be an Informed Community Member: Local, National and World Affairs
- Create Young Readers: Early Literacy
- Literacy for Success in Everyday Life: Adult, Teen and Family Literacy
- Satisfy Curiosity: Lifelong Learning
- Succeed in School: Homework Help
- Visit a Comfortable Place: Physical and Virtual Spaces

She explained that in addition to system-wide goals each branch developed a service plan with programs and activities that support these six service roles. The posters around the room were created by the branches to share highlights of the services they offer based upon their community partnerships. The library is offering services in partnership with County departments such as Elections, the Health Department and OneSTop. In addition, we partner with many non-profits to extend free educational programming to the community. The library is vital in each and every community.

For Fiscal Year 2010-11 the Library has submitted a budget that is \$2 million less than this year's operating budget. We were able to save \$2 million that will carry over to FY 2011. The County Administrator has recommended a 4.5 cent increase to the Library District property tax. This will generate about the same amount as the current rate due to declining property values. With the carry over and the proposed revenue from property tax the Library will still need to draw upon reserves. This will allow us to maintain current levels of service in the coming year. We expect another challenging budget year in 2012. We hope that the Board of Supervisors will approve the recommended tax rate and the budget as proposed.

Nancy indicated that she is very proud of the staff and their accomplishments this year. The Library has been busier than ever and has maintained quality of service despite staff vacancies and increases in customer demand. The job clubs have been highly successful, computer use is up and people who have been impacted by the current economic downturn appreciate the value of the library. Library staff have been both dedicated and creative in offering programs and services to meet community needs. New partnerships have been forged that allow the library to leverage resources and provide creative and innovative services.

## **HIGHLIGHTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

### **A. Pima County Library Advisory Board:**

*Marjorie Gerdes*, President, agreed that the Library is a wonderful library system. She thanked the Foundation and Friends groups that help support the library.

She explained the role of the Library Advisory Board. Members are appointed by the Board of Supervisors (BOS) to meet monthly and talk about issues and advise library administration. The Advisory Board makes recommendations to the BOS regarding policies and programs that have a budget impact. We have a wonderful board this year, with 100 % participation. It was a pleasure to participate in the Strategic Planning process and to see how it is being implemented.

### **B. Pima Library Foundation:**

*John Byrnes*, President, stated that it has been a very busy and successful year for the Foundation. Activities include solicitations of all community members to donate to the libraries. Community support is strong and has focused around our commitment to raise funds for Homework Help. The annual event, Outstanding in the Field honored the founders of the Book Festival last year and this year will honor the founders of the Friends of the Library. He mentioned that they have two new members, Liz Miller and John Humenik and he introduced Barbara Prentice who was one of the founders of the Foundation. Ms. Prentice has also served on a national library board of Friends and Foundation members.

### **C. Friends of the Pima County Public Library:**

*David Ellington*, Vice President stated that the economy did not hurt the Friends. Book sales have flourished and the Friends continues to raise funding for library programs. The Friends will open a donation center where books that do not sell can be used by other non-profits. The Friends opened a bookstore at the Main Library that is doing great! Next year they hope to open a bookstore at the Valencia Branch. There are bookcarts in most of the libraries. The Friends sold books at the Tucson Festival of Books and hopes to have an even larger presence next year.

Nancy commented that the Friends provided \$225,000 for library programs this year.

### **D. Friends of the Joyner-Green Valley Branch Library:**

*Carol DeLuca*, shared that the Green Valley/Sahuarita Friends raised funds through membership fees and book sales. A mailing was sent to members who have not renewed in the past two years and many joined again. Funds are given to the library to purchase books and fund programs. The program Carol is most proud of is the scholarship program. Employees of the library who are enrolled in a masters of library science program are eligible to request a scholarship from the Friends. Next year they will continue doing all the work they are doing now.

Nancy thanked the Friends for their scholarship and she noted that the current Branch Manager of Green Valley was a recipient of the scholarship many years ago.

### **E. Friends of the Kirk-Bear Canyon Branch Library:**

*Dorothy Swerdlove*, President commented that the shopping center where they kept their used books went into foreclosure. They are working with a new owner to maintain their "Book Barn" in the center. They continue with their book sales to raise funds. They sent scholarship funds to the U of A and Pima College in memory of the circulation manager of Bear Canyon Library who passed away last year. They funded equipment to create an Art Gallery at the library which has become quite popular.

Nancy thanked the Friends for supporting continuing education since Pima County has had to reduce support for tuition reimbursements.

### **F. Friends of Oro Valley Library**

*Martha Briggs*, president, reported that the Friends is working on making this library as pleasant as possible. The Friends donated about \$80K to the library. They have 2 book sales a year and online sales too. They have great volunteers. The OV Friends is now accepting credit and debit cards. She reported a successful partnership with realtors. They let clients who are moving know that they can

donate books to the Library. Next year our goal is to make more money!

**G. Friends of the Ajo Library**

*Karen Thayer*, Library Administrator read a report submitted on behalf of the Friends of Ajo by Beverly Pralgsuske, President. The Friends of Ajo are busy with monthly meetings, book sales, puppet shows about pet care and author programs. They enjoyed a visit from JA Jance and are hoping that Jeffrey Deaver will visit next year.

**H. Friends of the Arivaca Branch Library:**

*Jere Voigt*, Library Administrator read the report submitted on behalf of the Arivaca Friends by Wendy Dresang, President. Jere reported Arivaca is an amazing community. The Friends of Arivaca provided support to the Caviglia-Arivaca library programs including stipends, refreshments, attendance and ideas for programs. They give every graduating high school senior a stipend and distribute dictionaries to students at their local elementary school. The Friends volunteers contributed 487 hours to the Arivaca Library.

*Mary McKinney* and *Kendra Davey* shared information about a new program that is being introduced at all libraries called "Meet me at the Library". Library staff will be trained by the League of Women Voters to facilitate conversations with elected officials, local experts and other people that the community would like to get to know. The goal of the program is to foster community engagement and give community members an opportunity to get to know leaders in our community and our state. Additionally library staff will gain facilitation skills. Members of the audience contributed suggestions for who might be asked to participate in these library conversations.

*Daphne Daly*, *Mary McKinney*, *Dendra Davey*, *Aaron Valdez*, *Jennifer Nichols* and *Leanne Yoder* gave brief talks about the posters that represented services at their library. Everyone was encouraged to check out the posters that were scattered around the room. Nancy challenged everyone to find at least one service that they were surprised to see being offered in a library. She encouraged participants to talk over lunch about the Meet Me at the Library program and about the services represented on the posters.

**A catered lunch was provided.**

After lunch Jennifer Nichols and Leanne Yoder presented the Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) concept and how it is being used in the library to develop community partnerships. They shared examples of how ABCD works and gave highlights of programs offered at the Quincie Douglas Library that are based upon the strengths of community members. Two groups were formed to discuss new ways that the library might work with the communities. The two groups reported their discussions.

Nancy thanked everyone for coming and sharing their ideas and suggestions. She felt that the retreat was successful in renewing the library's commitment to the Strategic Plan and she hoped that everyone left with knowing a little bit more about the many services offered by the Library. She thanked everyone for continuing to be advocates for the library and for their continued support.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.