

LAW LIBRARY BOARD

Meeting Minutes for June 8, 2010

In attendance were trustees: J. Hooten, Comm. Marschall and Attorney McNellis, Library Division Head Birdsey and Law Librarian Freyberg.

The date, time and agenda for the meeting were posted on the County's web page.

Discussion regarding current Westlaw contract

- Current contract was renegotiated in October, 2009 for much more favorable terms
- New monthly fee is \$1421.00-old fee was \$3655.51- savings of \$2234.51
- Added MN Westlaw package at PL,SAV & NP libraries at a cost of \$1101.00 per month (It is a twelve month contract, and will be reexamined in September, 2010)

Law Library Programs Update

- The law library continues to be very proactive in seeking partners and volunteers in offering legal information to the public.
- The monthly pro bono clinic is still well attended. Recruiting volunteer attorneys, however, is getting more difficult. Bridget Germander, Legal Services Government Program Manager with the MN Judicial Branch, has been working on lining up some contacts. Ms. McNellis indicated she was aware of an attorney who might be interested in volunteering and would locate her contact information.
- The law library brochure was updated in January, 2010, with information about Self-Help clinics added to the back page.

Law Library Outreach Information

- Unmarried Parent Clinics, "Do it Yourself" Divorce Clinics and Child Support Clinics are conducted about every three months if there is sufficient interest, and held off-site at the local libraries.
- The Child Support Clinic offered in June is being facilitated by Melissa Kantola, an attorney with the MN Judicial Self-Help Center and County Child Support Officers. We are sponsoring this program cooperatively with the Scott, Carver, Le Sueur and Sibley County Child Support Offices. The requests for child support legal assistance are increasing exponentially.
- Ms. Freyberg reported that in October, 2009 she spoke at the annual Minnesota Library Association (MLA) Conference in St. Cloud on Law Library-County Library Collaboration.
- A Justice Panel was sponsored by the law library, in May, 2009 and 2010 at Prior Lake High School, at which Scott County judges, attorneys, including a public defender, and law librarian spoke to about fifty students.
- In September, 2009, to celebrate Constitution Day, the law library sponsored a poster contest for 5th and 6th graders. Judge Hooten, Commissioner Marschall, Attorney McNellis and Law Librarian Freyberg awarded the prizes in person.

- On May 8, 2010, Ms. Freyberg, spoke to the Minnesota Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (MACDL). Her goal was to promote law libraries metro-wide. She prepared a power point presentation, available on the law library's webpage, addressing the non-criminal issues that might be facing defendants and offering resource links. The program was very well received and there has been a marked increase in law library visits by the attendees of the meeting.
- Ms. Freyberg reported that a pilot program is being implemented in the local library branches in the County. The law librarian visits a branch for two hours in the evening, usually from 6 to 8 p.m. Such visits have already been held at the Savage, Jordan and New Prague libraries. While a few patrons have been assisted, the more important goal of creating awareness among library users that Scott County has a well-staffed Law Library which offers many helpful resources is being spread.

Other Information

- The Minnesota Coalition of County Law Libraries (MCCLL) has been formed to encourage professional development and advocate for both metro and outstate law libraries.
- The law library had 6,400 visitors in 2009. We have had almost 3,000 visitors already this year. The most interesting statistical changes involve the phone and e-mail reference questions. Phone and e-mail requests for reference information have gone from only a few a day to 10-15 a day in the last six months. Most calls are either repeat users or have been referred by a friend/relative.
- The State Child Support Office has received grant money to revamp the state's expedited child support modification forms, hopefully resembling or part of the "I-Can" program, and has asked for assistance. Ms. Freyberg reported she has been working on recommendations and has very strongly recommended that the state work with the Self-Help Center staff on this project.
- Ms. McNellis recommended that Ms. Birdsey and Ms. Freyberg give a presentation to the Scott County Board of Commissioners regarding all the work of the law library as part of the on-going program to keep the Board informed of what the County's Divisions are accomplishing. Commissioner Marshall agreed and Ms. Freyberg indicated she would put something together.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:40 a.m.