

Director's Report  
March 2011

SCLS and PTFS have scheduled a Go Live Date for the implementation of Koha. The "soft opening" will be Sunday, April 17 and the remaining majority of members will go live Monday, April 18. Members have been notified and SCLS staff has been preparing for the migration. It helps that we had a "practice run" earlier in the year with our postponed Go Live Date.

I attended my first Wisconsin Library Legislative Day on March 21. The driving rain did not dampen the spirits or voices of the march to the Capitol building. I, along with several other librarians and trustees, met with Senator Mark Miller and Representative Gary Hebl. Both men each spent over 30 minutes with us. They said they supported libraries and their mission. Throughout the day, I met with many of our members as we marched, ate, cheered and commiserated on the issues of the day.

In response to the volatile and fluid budget situation, the Administrative Council voted to delay its All Directors meeting to July 28. It is hoped that the delay will give SCLS and its members time to produce budget numbers based on facts and not just guesses. Factors impacting the 2012 budget are the projected 10% cut to library system aid; loss of members' maintenance of effort requirement; and the reduction of shared revenues for our members. SCLS has been contacted by other library systems and some members asking about reducing their delivery service from 5 to 3 days. The reduction of delivery service could have a devastating effect on SCLS funding and statewide resource sharing. As of the writing of this report, the state requirement for SCLS staff to pay into their pension in 2011 is on hold while the legislators and attorneys work on implementing the legislation. SCLS staff is already reviewing ways to cut expenses and save money in 2011 and 2012. We are reviewing all services to see what is still relevant and mission critical for our members. One event we are proposing to eliminate is the annual System Celebration for 2011 and 2012. Attendance has dropped in recent years and its advocacy message can be delivered elsewhere. It has a projected annual savings of \$3,500 and countless staff hours. The Associate Director position will not be filled due to the 10% reduction in state aid to the system.

Jean Anderson of SCLS will be demonstrating e-books to the Board of Trustees at the April meeting. It will be a fun activity and I'm sure Jean won't mind staying after the meeting to answer questions about your individual e-book devices. If you have one, bring it!

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Van Pelt