Report to the Utah Library Association
December 1, 2017

State Librarian – Donna Jones Morris

Utah State Librarian/Division Director Donna Jones Morris announced her retirement effective January 1, 2018. Her reception will be held at USL on Tuesday December 12th from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. Please r.s.v.p. to Marjorie Moore at (801) 245-7202

New Utah State Librarian
The position is still open and a national search is ongoing. An interim director will be appointed soon by Jill Remington Love, Executive Director Department of Heritage and Arts (DHA).

USL Staff Important Accomplishments
• The Third Annual Public Library Director’s Summit was held at The Homestead, Midway, Utah, from October 5 – 6, 2017. The Summit went well with many director’s saying that they always look forward to this yearly event. USL had 47 people in attendance for 12 contact hours totaling 564 contact hours for the event. Peter Bromberg, the Director of the Salt Lake City Public Library, said that he learned some new things and enjoyed the networking opportunities. All together total programming attendance (including the Director’s Summit) came to 195 and total contact hours came to 1229.
• The partnership between the Utah Educational Savings Plan and the Utah State Library helps encourage students to read during the summer months through the Summer Reading Program and to register for the drawing of four $1000 scholarships and $500 for the winner’s home libraries to purchase materials. October is the month when awardees are honored and the partnership is publicized. State Librarian Donna Jones Morris and Youth Services Coordinator/Consultant Sharon Deeds organized recognition of winners at the Taylorsville Library, Salt Lake County Library System; Helper Public Library, and Richfield Public Library. The Hyrum Public Library winner was recognized by Hyrum Public Library staff. The net result of this is that all participating students read during the summer and keep or enhance their reading skills, plus they have the opportunity to win the $1000 scholarship. Next summer encourage all Utah youth 18 and younger to sign-up for this program, which supports Governor Gary R. Herbert’s new Utah Education Roadmap 2018-2027.
• Children’s and Teen Book Enhancement Project
USL completed a mini-grant award to 126 libraries that applied for and received children and teen books to enhance their library collections. This was an LSTA-funded project through which public, school and academic libraries could apply to receive books for their collection. Libraries could choose up to three lists of pre-selected book titles, ranging from the 2017-2018 Beehive Book Award nominees to non-fiction and fiction for children and teens. The books were purchased by USL and shipped directly to the library or school.

New Staff
Kimberly VanBeck was hired as the Library Tech for Iron County Bookmobile
Stacy Vincent was hired as the Innovation Coordinator/Librarian III
Rachel Cook was hired as the Grants Coordinator/Librarian III
Matt Boyer was hired as the Admin Assistant for MultiState Center West

Representatives / Committee Members from USL
Donna Jones Morris – Liaison from State Library to the ULA Board and Liaison to the Legislative Committee, (801) 715-6770, dmorris@utah.gov
Bookmobile Librarian Shawn Bliss – Member-at-Large, and Vice Chair Rural and Small Libraries Committee (435) 760-8935, snbliss@utah.gov
Government Information Coordinator Ray Matthews, (801) 715-6752, raymathews@utah.gov and Metadata Cataloger Char Newbold (801) 715-6740, cnnewbold@utah.gov are both members-at-large at the recently re-convened GODORT.

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