

Executive Director's Report

By Annette DeFaveri.

I want to thank BCLA members for completing the surveys BCLA has recently sent out. I am aware of "survey fatigue" and am thankful that so many members have completed the surveys. It is a challenge to keep abreast of what members want and need from the Association and from the BC Library Conference. Surveying members is one effective and inexpensive way we reach members in both rural and urban communities and one way we collect and analyse information on an equitable basis.

Survey & conference planning

BCLA recently asked members to tell us what they would like to see at the 2013 BC Library Conference. This information, combined with the information from the conference feedback survey will help the Conference Planning Committee and the Program Selection Committee build an exciting and relevant conference program for delegates.

We learned several things from the survey results. Members overwhelmingly prefer conference sessions that focus on "Speaker/Panel discussions on issues" and "How-to" sessions and are hardly interested at all in sessions that focus on "What we have done." This information helps us select sessions and ensures that we are responding to members' wants and needs.

After reading comments from the section "Anything else you want to tell us?" I am reminded that we are a diverse and interesting group with many opinions and perspectives. For example, some people cited sessions they were disappointed with, or thought should be dropped. And those same sessions again appear as ones other people think we should do again!

Many people added a thank you to staff and conference organizers in their remarks. We really appreciated hearing this and are grateful that you took the time to pass your appreciation on to us.

Budget planning

On another note, BCLA is currently working on the budget for 2013. As many of you already know, and have heard about for the past few years, our finances have diminished with the ending of the database management contracts. We are currently looking at innovative ways to both save and raise money while streamlining our financial processes and establishing sustainable business practices.

Those of you involved in Sections, Committees and Interest Groups that have held events over the past year know that we are working toward a "cost-recovery" model for our events and educational offerings. Some groups have always worked in this manner, but for some it is a new approach. Both Allie and I are working with SCIGs who are new to this approach and want to hold an event or mount a course. If your group is thinking of putting on an event or offering a course please let Allie or I know as soon as possible so we can work with you to ensure that the event is a "cost-recovery" one.

Strategic plan

You may already have heard that the BCLA Board is working on a Strategic Plan (for 2013 through the end of 2015). This has been a generative process involving two Boards, the BCLA Member Survey and now out to members for feedback. It will be ideal to have the document finalized early in the new year.

The strategic planning process is a great opportunity to define BCLA's role in the library community and to members. Additionally the new plan helps us identify challenges and barriers and directs us toward possible solutions. The strategic plan helps us sharpen our focus on activities that define us as an association. At the same time the plan gives us a framework for future activities, relationships and growth. I look forward to a completed plan and thank you all in advance for any feedback you send us.

Annette DeFaveri is BCLA's Executive Director.