

**Minutes of April 14, 2005 Meeting
Stanislaus County Library Advisory Board**

I. Chairman David Lopez called the meeting to order at 4:35 .

Present were David Lopez, Marilynne Allen, Sloane Ardis, Sandy McDowell, Sheridan Beuving, Vanessa Czopek, Susan Lilly

II. Approval of Minutes of the January 20, 2005 meeting. Marilynne Allen made a motion to approve, Sheridan Beuving seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

III. Public Comment Period – no public comment.

IV. Old Business – none.

V. New Business

a. New Young Adult Member Sloane Ardis was introduced. She's a junior at Beyer High School and happy to be serving on the Library Advisory Board.

b. Renewal of Terms

i. Sandy McDowell and Sheridan Beuving agreed to serve another three-year term.

ii. Randee Stidham completes her second three-year term in June and will retire from the board.

c. County Librarian Report

i. Annual volunteer appreciation luncheon is April 16. All Library Advisory Board Members are invited to attend.

ii. Remodel update – restrooms were demolished during the March closure of the Modesto Library. The new ADA compliant restrooms and the lighting project are expected to be completed in June. During the Modesto Library closure, circulation increased by 68% in Salida, and by 22% in Ceres.

iii. The Stanislaus County Library Foundation will present the Shining Star Awards, June 23 at the Modesto Library. Shining Star Awards recognize outstanding contributions (volunteerism, advocacy, fundraising, and/or financial contributions) for the library in three categories: Individual, Company or Organization, Friends of the Library member(s).

iv. Budget – the Library has been using fund balance to bridge the gap between revenue sources (sales tax, state and county funds, misc. – grants, fees, donations, etc.) and

budgeted expenditures. A decision has been made to maintain the fund balance at a minimum of \$1 million, in order to plan for potential emergencies. In order to maintain this minimum balance, some reductions are necessary. The FY 05/06 book budget will be cut by \$400,000; \$40,000 will be cut from literacy; and \$10,000 will be cut from special programs. The library will look to Friends groups and the Library Foundation to help compensate for these cuts. In the meantime, the two most urgent needs in the library system are expansion/renovation of libraries in Turlock and Modesto .

v. A \$600 million State Library Bond Act for library construction/renovation funds will be on the June 2006 ballot. Assuming the bond passes, funds will be available through a competitive grant process. Libraries that applied but were not awarded funds from a previous bond will be given priority. Then other libraries will be able to apply for funds, probably in January 2008. Under the provisions of this bond act, libraries may apply for 65% of their project costs. The remaining 35% must come from local sources.

d. Literacy Report – ReadingWorks director, Karen Williams

i. In Stanislaus County :

1. 32% dropout before completing high school, compared to 12% nationwide (based on those 25 years and younger)
2. 11% have bachelor's degree or higher, compared to 29% nationwide
3. 51% of Stanislaus County residents are functionally illiterate. At Literacy Level 1 (can recognize a few words) or Literacy Level 2 (can read more words than level 1, but not well enough to decipher a bus schedule)
4. Low literacy rates are not attributed only to immigration – 63% of non-literate adults speak English as their first language.
5. Literacy has a direct impact on a person's ability to gain employment. Because of technological advances, jobs which used to be considered unskilled labor now require a higher level of education and skill.
6. Funding for literacy is on the decline nationwide.
7. Priorities for the Stanislaus Literacy Center :
 - More local funding for literacy
 - Recruit more volunteer tutors (weekly commitment of 2-3 hours)

VI. Item too late for the agenda

a. Dave Lopez reported that he would like to see a countywide chess tournament at the Modesto Library, as was held when he was growing up in Modesto . Dave will talk to Modesto Library Manager, Charles Teval.

VII. Adjournment – Sloane Ardis made a motion to adjourn, Sheridan Beuving seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

VIII. Next Meeting: June 16, 2005 , 4:30 p.m. , Modesto Library Conference Room

Minutes respectfully submitted by

Susan Lilly