

## SCOTT COUNTY LAW LIBRARY (SCLL)

Meeting of the Board of Trustees

July 15, 2014, 7:45 a.m.

### Present

J. Rex Stacey, Comr. Barbara Marschall, Library Director Jake Grussing, and Law Librarian Mary Freyberg.

### ***Librarian Report***

#### SCLL Use

- 2010 – 8379 people visited, participated in a clinic or were visited by the Scott County Law Librarian
- 2011 – 13,590 visited the Law Library and 365 people attended Law Library outreach programs
- 2012 - 12,036
- 2013 – 10,853
- 2014-June-5366 this puts us right on par with 2013. There has been a marked increase in email and phone reference questions

#### Programs

SCLL offered 38 programs in 2013, (11 over 2012) with 413 people participating in these free Programs. Topics included:

- Monthly Pro-Bono Clinics
- Spanish-Speakers Law Clinics
- SKYPE Clinics
- Bankruptcy (VLN)
- Divorce Clinics
- Foreclosure (VLN & CDA)
- Modification of Child Support (Self-Help Center Attorneys)
- Unmarried Parent Clinic (Walter Burk- CMRLS)
- Scott County Judicial Panel Presentation at Prior Lake High School
- Senior Legal Clinic (Prior Lake)
- Debtor's Rights

### ***New Partnerships in 2014***

#### Column in "The Scene"

After a feature article written by former Senator Robling appeared in "The Scott County Scene" in the October/ November issue regarding the Law Library, there was increased usage (over 80 people the day after the article ran). Based on the interest it was determined that Mary should write a regular column. The column seems to be a success and has increased Law Library usage

and visibility. Mary has written three articles so far, covering Power of Attorney, Health Care Directives and Criminal Expungement.

Click link to see article written by Claire Robling:

<http://www.co.scott.mn.us/CountyGov/News/theScene/Documents/SCENE%20October%20November%202013.pdf>

#### Minnesota Self Help Center, Minnesota Justice Foundation

As was discussed at the last meeting, regarding the intention to revamp the Monthly Divorce Clinic, the law librarians met with Sara Schwebs from the Minnesota Justice Foundation (MJF) and Melissa Kantola from the MN Judicial Branch Self-Help Center and were able to coordinate training for law students with the I-Can Divorce program. The students, Sara Schwebs and both law librarians attended the first training at Hamline University. Sarah has continued training the law students as they are added. This program has worked out wonderfully. Dakota County Law Librarian Shannon Stoneking and Legal Aid attorney Rachel Estrella have both observed our clinic and Dakota County is now offering a similar clinic during regular court hours. It is important to offer the clinic at the most accessible time for the users (Saturday mornings). The added benefit is that the County's computer training area available for use on Saturdays.

#### Le Red de Abogados (VLN)

Direction of La Red has changed and we are now working with Gabriella Bruner to revamp the assistance that SCLL offers to Spanish-Speakers. The SKYPE program has been temporarily closed until we find a better location. After meeting with Jeannie Granaas from Global Gatherings, it was decided to wait until that program is off the ground (presently only has 1-2 people coming). SCLL has shared reference and resources that might be helpful to her clients.

#### ***Collection Development***

Mary reported that SCLL renewed its subscription with West Law as its representative offered an early renewal package and an additional 5% savings if the SCLL would agree to a Library Management Agreement (LMA). Mary reported that she agreed because of the added savings, but hesitated because she has repeatedly requested, but not received a breakdown of the actual savings and an actual dollar amount assigned to each item/title. This lack of information makes it impossible to compare current charges with previously paid prices. Some of the print options have been reduced, the Minnesota Digest or Words and Phrases are no longer being updated, and purchases of the NOLO titles for the branches has been reduced to every other or two years between replacing popular titles at the branch libraries.

#### ***Budget***

The budget was discussed and the balance sheet for the period ending April 30, 2014 presented. [See attachment.] It was noted that there is approximately a 14% decrease in revenue. Both law librarians have noted a substantial increase in requests for fee waivers and reported that Scott County District Court Administration had presented to them a report of an approximate 40% increase in IFP's waived since June of 2013. [See attachment.] Looking at the budget, it was determined that SCLL's spending is close to the on-line estimates for the planned budget. Mary

voiced her concern is with the reduced revenue. The Minnesota Legislature passed HF2660/SF2244/CH200, effective August 1<sup>st</sup> that amends *informa pauperis* statutes and authorize the Court to order partial payments, but these fees will go to the general fund, rather than county law libraries.

### ***Recommended Improvements***

Mary recommended the purchase of four armless chairs for the SCLL. Three of the chairs would be for the public work station and the fourth would be for the second librarian work station. The current chairs were purchased in 2005 and long outlasted expectations so the recommendation was to purchase the same chairs in hope that they will last as long and we know they will match. The spending request was approved.

### ***Professional Training, Responsibilities and Awards***

- Mary was asked to speak the 8th District Bar Association on March 14<sup>th</sup>. She reported it was a great opportunity to talk about all the programs that the SCLL offers and to recruit new volunteer lawyers for those clinics.
- Mary informed the Trustees that she planned, coordinated the videotaping and attended the Minnesota Coalition of Law Libraries (MCCLL) Education program May 7<sup>th</sup> for MN Public Librarians. Seventy-four Public and Law Librarians attended and because the program was professionally videotaped, it will be made available on U-Tube.
- Both Law Librarians attended webinars. Barbara attended the following: Legal Workshops/Webinars, Minnesota Legislative Reference Library, Federal Administrative Law, Distinguishing Legal Information from Legal Advice and Criminal Expungement/Institute on Justice. Mary attended a webinar entitled “What Makes a Library Worth a Million’ and “Most Wanted”- Connecting Patrons with Legal Services.
- Mary described a six week online class she also attended, offered by ALA titled: **Cutting the Red Tape: Finding and Using E-Government Tools and Resources**. This class was very helpful in identifying Government Agencies and their webpages.
- Mary, Scott County’s representative on the MELSA eGovernment Task Force, an on-going Task Force that started meeting in November 2013. As she described it, the duration of the Task Force depends on the work plan, studies, legislative request recommendations, law library services and other issues. Mary is the only law librarian on the Task Force and stated her personal goal is having Minnesota public librarians ready when self-represented litigants start e-filing court documents in 2015 or 2016. To further that goal, she told the trustees, that she invited Ali Turner from Hennepin County Library to speak at the last meeting regarding her role in the Hennepin County eGovernment Team. Mary stated Hennepin County’s approach to a one-stop online system for their constituents is amazing and voiced the thought that this is a challenging and exciting team! Mary is acting as the Co-Chair of the Task Force.

- Mary related that former State representative Claire Robling requested that she present a program at the Annual Association of Minnesota Counties in December. She reported she has approached Volunteer Lawyers Network (VLN) about partnering to offer a program highlighting the resources available at the local law library and some of the free (and innovative) clinics and programs that SCLL offer. Mary intends to specifically talk about the Saturday Divorce Clinic that is available because of the partnering of the County, MN Self-Help Center Attorneys, local volunteer attorneys and the Minnesota Justice Foundation (MJF). The trustees stated their approval