

LAKE COUNTY LAW LIBRARY

Connexus

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE LAKE COUNTY LAW LIBRARY RESOURCES BOARD

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Law Library Update

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Law Library Update	1
Law Librarian in Cuba	2
Board Members	3
Printing	3
9th Annual Summer Intern Training	3
2012 National Library Week	3

LAKE COUNTY LAW LIBRARY

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Angela T. Baldree, MLS

The Lake County Law Library got off to a great start in 2012. We began the year by presenting the commissioners a balanced budget for 2012. For the last two years, the library's expenses have exceeded its income by significant numbers. We have relied on our rainy day fund to get us through. Much work was put into balancing a budget so we do not deplete those reserve funds.

In August the law library applied for a grant from the Statewide Consortium of Ohio County Law Library Resource Boards. This new agency was created in 2011 and serves as a support for all 88 county law libraries. They were in need of an executive director and offered a grant to any county law library who would be willing to share their director. Lake County was awarded that grant. Law Librarian, Angela Baldree, keeps track of the hours she works for the state and the consortium reimburses the law library for her time. This additional income added \$6700 to the law library's income in 2011. The grant continues through the end of 2012.

On behalf of the consortium, Angela negotiates statewide contracts, awards grants to county law libraries, and does monthly visits to each of the libraries. Since August she has visited 31 of the 88 counties. Library visits are a way to meet with librarians, board members and county commissioners to discuss ways the consortium can help.

The statewide consortium successfully negotiated a contract with Matthew Bender to buy 16 handbooks for each of the 88 county law libraries. Matthew Bender also extended a significant discount on those 16 handbooks to any county agency as long as they ordered through their law library. This deal saved over \$13,000 for Lake County. The law library was able to cancel their subscription to those handbooks. Several county agencies took advantage of this offer. Many agencies cancelled West handbooks and replaced them with the less expensive Matthew Bender handbooks.

In March the law library, public defender's office, and prosecutor's office renegotiated one countywide contract for Westlaw Next. Westlaw Next is the latest platform being offered by Westlaw. This upgrade has a clean, user friendly interface. There is also an app for most mobile devices. Due to the increased size of the contract all three agencies were able to upgrade their platform as well as content and stay very close to their original cost.



Law Librarian In Cuba

Every February 600,000 people attend an international book fair in Havana, Cuba. This book fair is held in the San Carlos de la Cabana fortress. Built in the 18th century by King Carlos III of Spain, the entire fortress is about 25 acres and is the largest fortress in the Americas.

Visiting Cuba has been on the top of my bucket list since I was a child. Days after turning 40, I received a solicitation email stating US librarian, authors, and bibliophiles could legally attend the book fair with a proper license. Spam or not, I had to look into this. I immediately went to the web site and found a Canadian travel agency that organizes this and other cultural tours to Cuba every year.

On July 8, 1963, 31 CFR Part 515, or the Trading with the Enemy Act was passed. For almost 50 years the US Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Asset Controls has administered a ban on US travelers going to Cuba. There are, however, two ways for US citizens to travel to Cuba legally. The first is through a General License. Visiting close relatives, official government business, journalistic activities, education activities, religious activities, and professional research are just some of the reasons a US citizen can obtain a General License.

Specific Licenses are another way of legally entering Cuba. These are issued by the Treasury Department on a case by case basis for reasons not covered under the General License. Athletic competition, public performance or exhibition, humanitarian projects, and marketing or sales of medicine or medicinal supplies are examples of reasons for a Specific License.

Travelers visiting Cuba on a Specific License need to apply for the license prior to their visit. They must wait for the Office of Foreign Asset Control to approve their trip. General Licenses consist of a blanket license the traveler fills out themselves and keeps with their travel documentation. Upon re-entry into the United States, an immigration official may ask a traveler to name all the countries visited during their time out of the US. In that case, the traveler can tell the official they were in Cuba and provide a copy of the General License.

I traveled to Cuba on a General License. A full time professional librarian, attending an international book fair and visiting several public libraries qualifies as professional research. In preparing for this trip, I filled out my General License which I had notarized. I also maintained verification (by

way of a letter signed by my board chair and a paystub) of my employment as a librarian, a cover letter explaining my reasons for travel, a current resume, and an itinerary showing my daily research while in Cuba.

Another unique preparation for this trip was the issue of money. There are no US banks in Cuba and they do not honor US currency. Unlike other international trips I have taken, I was not able to use travelers' checks or credit cards. A week before I left, I withdraw cash from my savings account in Canadian Dollars. Upon landing in Havana, I converted my Canadian Dollars into Cuban Convertible Pesos. This entire process was reversed on my way home.

I arrived in Havana on a Russian jet from Cancun, Mexico. Those who enjoy a good irony will be amused to learn that Cubana Airlines does have a first class section to their planes. I arrived on Saturday, February 11 to a very windy, overcast day with the temperatures in the mid 60's. Giant waves were crashing over the sea wall onto the Malecon, the picturesque, main boulevard in Havana. Our group of 18 checked into the historic Hotel Nacional. This hotel has been home to some of Hollywood's biggest legends including Frank Sinatra, Nat King Cole, Spencer Tracy, Marlon Brando, Robert De Niro, and Francis Ford Coppola. This hotel was also the back drop for some of the most notorious mafia meetings in the world, including the 1946 mob summit hosted by Lucky Luciano and Meyer Lansky which was depicted in Coppola's *Godfather Part II*. The hotel is located right on the edge of the Straight of Florida and during the October 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis trenches were dug throughout the property and anti-aircraft missiles lined the edge of the property. The concrete platforms for the missiles as well as the trenches are still visible today and part of a twice daily tour of the hotel and grounds.

On Sunday afternoon we finally made our way to the book fair. For those of you picturing a convention hall with a few hundred book publishers lined up in neat rows displaying their wares, well, you couldn't be further from the truth. This book fair covers the 25 acres of the San Carlos de la Cabana fortress. Most people stood in line for hours to gain access. We had Special Visitor Passes which got us through the gates

Continued on page 4

SERVICES

The law library shall provide legal research, reference, and library services to County and State employees, authorized legal practitioners, and their staffs. Services are as follows:

- Print library of over 1600 titles
- Laptops with Microsoft Office
- Sony digital camcorder
- Optoma media projector with screen
- Audio tapes, video tapes, and anatomical models and charts
- Portable X-Ray view box for courtroom presentations
- Reference assistance and technical training
- Wireless internet access throughout the library
- Complimentary copy of *Connexus*
- Document enlargement to various poster size along with matching frames
- Polycom VSX 7000 videoconferencing equipment with multipoint software for depositions, testimony, etc. **
- Fax service to or from your home or office **
- Photocopies **

** Fees for service may be charged

Board Members

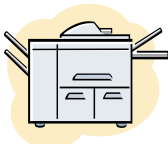
In January the Lake County Law Library Resource Board said good-bye to a long time library trustee and true friend of the library, Magistrate Francis Weiss. Frank was appointed to the Law Library Association board in 1992 to replace Judge Weaver. He was selected by the Municipal Judges to serve on the law library resource board in 2009. He has been an advocate for the library during his entire tenure. Thank you Frank, for your service.

Brooke Kocab was selected by the Municipal Judges to replace Frank. Previously Brooke served as Secretary/Treasurer of the Law Library Association. She also served as a transition member of the law library resource board. It is nice to have her part of the board again. Welcome!



Printing

Thank you to everyone who has supported the library through printing fees. We appreciate that this has been an adjustment to everyone. The money printing has generated really does help the library's bottom line.



You can avoid printing fees by bringing a flash drive and downloading your documents. Our copier also serves as a scanner. Documents can be scanned and emailed instead of printed.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

LIBRARY CLOSED

May 28, 2012
July 4, 2012
September 3, 2012

9th Annual Summer Intern Training



The Lake County Law Library is pleased to offer training sessions for any summer intern or new hire in your office. This is a great way for new members of your staff to learn their way around the Law Library.

The librarians will be giving tours on the resources available at the library and services we provide to our users.

Summer intern training will be offered at the Law Library by appointment only on May 24 or 25, 2012. Each session will be an hour in length. Please call the library to schedule a time.

2012 National Library Week

The Lake County Law Library is celebrating National Library Week **April 8-14**. This year's theme is **You Belong @ Your Library**.

This is a great time for those of you who have never been to the library to drop by and let us show you what we do; for those of you who have not visited the library recently to stop back in; and for those of you who come regularly to keep up the good work.

To tempt you even more, refreshments will be served all week long.

Please use this week to support any and all libraries. *Thanks!*



Librarian In Cuba

Continued from page 2

immediately. Once inside the fortress we were completely overwhelmed by the sheer number of people. It was the largest gathering of people I have ever witnessed – larger than the Ohio State Fair, larger than Cedar Point on July 4, larger than the security line at O'Hare Airport!

On Monday morning we visited the Jose Marti National Library in Havana. Cuba has one national library, 15 provincial libraries, and 387 local public libraries. There are around a dozen Cuban publishing companies. When they publish a new book they are required to give three copies to the National Library and one copy to each of the provincial libraries. They can choose to give one to the public libraries or the public library may purchase one if they have money in their budget. We also visited the Cienfuegos Provincial Library on Thursday. Unlike our public libraries, only a small sample of their collection is available to be browsed by the public. Most titles are stored in closed shelving. As we toured the closed stacks the most unique item I found was a book called Kim Jong-il: Lecciones Historicas De La Construcccion Socialista y La Linea General De Nuestro Partido (Historical Lessons of the Socialist Construction and the Main Line of Our Party).

The rest of our trip was rounded out with a visit to a small publishing company and two return trips to the book fair. We also found time to soak up a little sun at a near empty Caribbean Sea Beach in Trinidad, dance lessons at the home of a

local woman and her family, a show at the Parisian Cabaret, and a tour of Habana Viejo.

The Trading with the Enemy Act prohibits US citizens from purchasing goods while in Cuba. The only exceptions to that rule are the purchase of books, music or art work. I did purchase a handful of books, one art print and one wooden sculpture during my trip. I was slightly disappointed that upon re-entry into the US, neither the immigration nor customs officials inquired about my travels and thus I had no need to show my General License.

-Angela Baldree

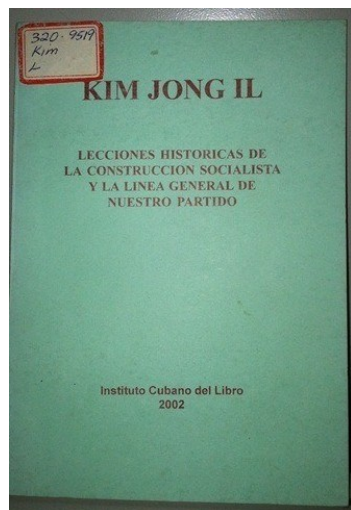


2012 Havana International Book Fair

Hotel Nacional



Cienfuegos Provincial Library



Kim Jong-il Book



Jose Marti National Library