

Issue Highlights

- *Words on Wheels: 40 Years of Success*
- *First Year Impressions on the Road in Bozeman*
- *ABOS Awards Applications Open*
- *Pets and People*

FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT...

For the majority of us, it has been a long, cold, snow-filled winter. There were many days of closed libraries and schools and horrible road conditions preventing usual outreach activities. Now as spring approaches, we are facing new challenges, such as devastating floods in many states. As we look ahead, Past President Tina Williams and I will proudly represent ABOS at the ALA Annual Conference in Washington, DC in June. Your ABOS board is busy planning our own conference to be held Oct 23 – 25 in Omaha, NE. I hope you are making your plans to attend—early bird registration will open soon! Last year saw a record number of attendees and we would love to break that record again. Watch for announcements on all media platforms. Applications for our yearly awards are open. If you need financial support to attend the conference, consider applying for a Carol Hole Award. Do you know of someone who is outstanding in the field of Outreach? Consider nominating that person for the John Philip Award of Excellence. ABOS also has a scholarship for students in honor of Bernard Vavrek. Applications for all can be found on the ABOS website. Have questions? Contact us at awards@abos-outreach.com. Enjoy spring! See you in Omaha...

—Cathy Zimmerman, Vice President



Cathy Zimmerman, ABOS Vice President

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OUT & ABOUT

“In 1979, using federal seed money and do-it-yourself grit, librarian Alan Reider transformed a former bread truck into a bookmobile.”

WORDS ON WHEELS PROGRAM A 40-YEAR SUCCESS

Forty years ago the Montgomery County-Norristown Public Library created the Words On Wheels (WOW) bookmobile program to serve seniors throughout Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. In 1979, using federal seed money and do-it-yourself grit, librarian Alan Reider transformed a former bread truck into a bookmobile by adding book shelves and a wheelchair ramp to the vehicle’s cargo area. In 2019, the third-generation Words On Wheels bookmobile continues to provide public library services to senior patrons who have mobility challenges or do not have a public library in their community. The program is supported with sustained funding from a County Coordination Aid Grant via the Pennsylvania State Bureau of Library Development. The Words On Wheels bookmobile presently makes 90 stops each month at senior residential communities and activity centers throughout Montgomery County.

The WOW is a full-service branch library stocked with large print items, audio books, and movies. WOW patrons also have access to items in the union catalog shared with the other public libraries in the district, statewide ACCESS PA interlibrary loan services, and online electronic resources. For homebound patrons not served by a WOW stop, the Montgomery County-Norristown Public Library offers its free Books by Mail program, which delivers library materials directly to the patron’s door. In addition, patrons who have difficulty reading or listening to standard book formats are referred to the statewide Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped program. This full spectrum of services ensures that all seniors in Montgomery County have the opportunity to experience the joy of reading and life-long learning. (Continued on p. 3)

**2020
ABOS
Conference
Dallas, TX**



The current Words On Wheels bookmobile is ready to roll!

40-YEAR SUCCESS, CONT.

The Words On Wheels program is managed by the Bookmobile and Outreach Services Department of the Montgomery County-Norristown Public Library. The department operates a fleet of four bookmobiles and five cargo vans. Every four weeks, the department performs:

- 500 courier van deliveries to district libraries
- 50 Extension Branch bookmobile stops in thirteen municipalities
- 120 Books Go Round Branch bookmobile stops at preschool classrooms
- 90 Words On Wheels Branch bookmobile stops for seniors
- Books by Mail service for temporarily and permanently homebound residents of the county

Thomas Fluharty is Head of the Bookmobile and Outreach Services Department at Montgomery County-Norristown Public Library, Norristown, PA.

STILL HERE AND KICKING!

Many people assume that the greater the number of years a person has lived over the age of 18, the less they are interested in 'romance'. How wrong they are! Visiting a new retirement community with our Traveling Library, residents asked for, and received, many different genres; however, we had obviously not brought enough of one genre. One lovely lady asked about romances. We showed her the Christian romances and some others. Her response was, "No, honey. I'm not dead yet! I want the stories with steam!" We now double check that 'steamy books' are in every Traveling Library!

Nancy Venable is the Extension and Volunteer Services Manager at Campbell County Public Library, Gillette, WY.

BOIR PROJECT BYTES

After several years of product development and a few setbacks, the BOIR (Bookmobile and Outreach Information Repository) committee is proud to announce that the BOIR tool is entering its BETA Testing phase. 60 libraries across the country began entering their outreach program data and library information in mid March. Stay tuned for updates! The project continues to gain financial support through generous donations from vendors, ALA affiliates and our ABOS membership. This support will help the project move into the next phase. For more information on how you can help, please visit the ABOS website at www.abos-outreach.com.

Cathy Zimmerman is Vice President of ABOS, and is the Bookmobile Associate at Scott County Library, Eldridge, IA.

ABOS ANNOUNCES OPENING OF AWARDS APPLICATION PROCESS

The ABOS Awards Committee is please to announce the opening of the application process for the Carol Hole, John Philip and Bernard Vavrek awards. The Carol Hole travel awards are given for 2019 conference attendees and this year we will give out six of them. The John Philip award is the highest honor given by ABOS in the Outreach field. The Bernard Vavrek Scholarship of \$1000 is awarded to a graduate student in the field of Outreach and Library Sciences.

Please go the ABOS website: <http://abos-outreach.com/awards> for more information on the awards and the application process.

Questions may be directed to: Cathy Zimmerman, Awards committee chair at vicepresident@abos-outreach.com.



OUT & ABOUT

FIRST-YEAR IMPRESSIONS FROM BOZEMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY



Carmen Clark (above left), submitted a collage of photos representing the Bozeman Public Library's first year with their bookmobile. It looks like it was a very successful and exciting year!

Carmen is the Bookmobile Librarian at Bozeman Public Library, Bozeman, MT.



PETS AND PEOPLE: BRINGING DELIGHT TO SENIORS

As an Outreach Librarian at the Clinton-Macomb Public Library in suburban Detroit, I offer programs on a quarterly basis at senior residences in our service area. My latest round of visits has centered on therapy pets. When I first started planning, one of our branch librarians put in me in touch with Cody, a beautiful Golden Retriever that works PAWS for Reading, and Barb, his human owner. Barb was willing to work an irregular schedule with me, traveling all over our township visiting seniors. I was also able to purchase a library “cat” with funds from our Innovative (or Things-To-Go) Committee. Mac, our robot cat, is a Joy for All Companion pet, most often used in care facilities with people with dementia. When we’re not out and about, Mac’s basket is on our public desk. After these outreach sessions are finished, Mac will be a circulating item. At each location we start with a short presentation about therapy pets. In just 5-10 minutes I cover the different types of work that therapy pets, service animals, and emotional support animals do and the training and licensing requirements of each. We also discuss the varied popu-

lations that therapy animals work with and the studies that show therapy animals can calm people, lower blood pressure, and improve certain health conditions. Sometimes I show a short YouTube video. I then introduce Cody, Barb and Mac, and we move about the room, making sure each person has a chance to hold Mac and pet Cody. We eat snacks and talk while enjoying the pets. Many people share stories of dogs or cats (or horses or cockatiels!) they owned in the past. Barb has been a wonderful partner in this endeavor, graciously answering questions about Cody, his puppy years, his training, his behavior and more. Barb and Cody are licensed and insured through the Alliance of Therapy Dogs. Although some facilities have other sessions with therapy dogs, they were happy to add us to their schedule. Barb and Cody have even gone back to one site again on their own. I have been visiting many of these residences for a year or more, but several residents who came down for this therapy pet program were new to me. And of course, I know the research

on therapy pets’ impact on health, but being present for Cody’s visits – and Mac’s – would make anyone a believer. This has been a great program to introduce the library to new users and bring a little warmth into our winter!

Meghan Mott is the Outreach Librarian at the Clinton-Macomb Public Library in MI. Contact her for more information on this program at mott@cimpl.org

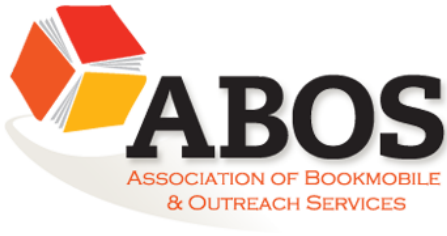
Many people share stories of dogs or cats (or horses or cockatiels!) they owned in the past.



Mac the robot cat in his basket (left) and being loved by a patron (below left).

Barb and Cody (below, right).





THIS AND THAT

Get involved! Join a committee today! Contact the committee chair to express your interest!

- Advocacy—board1@abos-outreach.com
- Awards—vicepresident@abos-outreach.com
- By-Laws—pastpresident@abos-outreach.com
- Bookmobile/Outreach Information Repository (BOIR) - board3@abos.outreach.com
- Conference Planning—president@abos-outreach.com
- Finance—treasurer@abos-outreach.com
- Long Range Planning—president@abos-outreach.com
- Marketing—secretary@abos-outreach.com
- Membership—board6@abos-outreach.com
- Nominations—pastpresident@abos-outreach.com
- Technology—board5@abos-outreach.com

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For submissions to Out and About, contact the marketing committee chair via email: secretary@abos-outreach.com or look for postings on Facebook and the ABOS listserv calling for submissions.

ABOS LISTSERV

Not on the listserv? Be a part of the conversation! Communicate your ideas and issues with your colleagues by joining the ABOS Listserv. To join, email webmaster@abos-outreach.com. More information can be viewed at <https://abos-outreach.com/listserv>.

Mark your Calendars!

*ABOS Annual Conference
October 23-25, 2019
Omaha, Nebraska*

On the Road | Out of the Box

The Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services is comprised of libraries of all types and sizes. Library administrators, support staff, library staff, governmental officials, trustees, friends of libraries, and professionals from other fields comprise this movement.

Equity, diversity, and inclusion are fundamental values of ABOS and its members.

The Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services is a 501(c)(3) organization. Donations are tax deductible as allowed by law.