



OUT & ABOUT



The Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services Quarterly Newsletter

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 4

JULY 2020

FROM THE PRESIDENT...

ABOS Family,

When we chose our 2020 theme, little did we realize how it would shape our year. You have all been “Out-Doing Outreach” in so many positive and creative ways during the current pandemic. I am so proud of how you forged ahead under huge obstacles of distancing and closure to make sure that library services continued. Daily, on ABOS social media and the listserv, you are sharing your successes so that others in the field can build on your foundations - this is how our family succeeds.

I want to invite ALL of you to join us **virtually** for the 15th Anniversary celebration. We need to celebrate ABOS —15 years of moving this organization forward step-by-step, so many creative and innovative ideas that have seen outreach through this pandemic, and so many shining stars within our family connecting library services to those in need.

Indeed, we need to celebrate a year that has seen records broken, social media explode, new types of outreach brought to our attention and countless other accomplishments.

We are looking to host a record-breaking number of attendees at the virtual conference. It is my wish that each of you can attend from your home library. We are striving to keep costs low and value high. So many educational programs are being offered. I want you to know that your Board is reimagining our conference on a virtual platform. We have so many ideas and plans that are falling into place to make this an amazing 15th Anniversary experience for all. We will consistently update the membership on conference happenings. Please check the website, social media and the listserv often for updates and news releases.

In the next weeks, as we reimagine all the elements of the conference, I urge you to advocate for yourself to attend our conference. We will rework the Carol Hole and NNLM awards to suit the current needs and keep virtual attendee fees low. Of course, we will add elements of surprise and fun to this event! We just need you to be patient while we work our magic.

ABOS has had a challenging year to this point, we have risen to the challenge and moved forward with grace and dignity. I commend you all and cannot say enough, how immensely proud I am of you all.

I am looking forward to celebrating our 15th Anniversary with you all.

Your 15th Anniversary President,

Cathy Zimmerman



Cathy Zimmerman

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Whova - Award-Winning Conference App Coming Our Way!

The ABOS board has recently approved and purchased the award-winning event app, Whova, which will help enhance your conference experience. Whova will be made available before the conference and will enable participants to interact and network with other conference attendees, receive up-to-date information, participate in live polls, friendly competitions, upload recommendations, photos, interact with vendors and much more. You will be able to view the conference schedule, set up your own agenda, and research speakers and vendors before the conference even begins.

Ann Plazek, 2017 ABOS President, brought this discussion to the board three years ago. Research began back then but at the time it wasn't something we were able to set up. This year, especially in light of what is happening in the world today, I set up a committee to look into various conference apps and recommended the Whova app to the board. It is a great way to move ABOS forward, which we strive to do each year in many different ways. The app pairs well with other virtual platforms to bring a successful and engaging virtual conference experience.

Although a virtual conference will not provide the same wonderful experience that meeting face to face would bring, it is the next best thing and our goal is to make this conference the best ever. This will allow more people to attend who would not have been able to travel even under normal circumstances. We look forward to all Whova will be able to do for ABOS to keep us connected.

Look for more information on our listserv and Facebook page.

Susan Parkins, 2020 ABOS Immediate Past President



MCLS BIKE RODEO SAFETY PROGRAM

By Beth Brown, Outreach Services Manager,
Muskingum County Library System in Zanesville, OH

The Muskingum Co. Library System partnered with the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Frazeytsburg, Ohio Police Department and AIM Outreach Food Pantry to offer a bike safety rodeo. This program provided free bike helmets and a bike safety obstacle course to area youth. Even though it was raining, 45 children received a helmet and learned the importance of safety while riding bikes. This safety program was very timely. Bike sales are booming amid the COVID-19 pandemic and stores struggle to maintain their supply. More people are biking and learning how to do so safely is a key to enjoying this great outdoor activity. A big 'thank you' to the American Academy of Pediatrics for offering this great program grant and supplying the bike helmets.



Siouxland Libraries Resume Bookmobile Service



By Alysia Boysen,
Branch Librarian, Siouxland
Libraries in Sioux Falls, SD

In March 2020, we saw the first case of COVID-19 in the county we serve. By March 16, all stops were suspended and we closed physical branches. We researched ways to get our

bookmobile back on the road safely for summer. School districts in our area, like so many, switched to online learning and were never able to return to buildings before the school year ended. We knew that it would be more important than ever to get the truck back on the road so that we could get books into the hands of kids. We switched to drop-off service for roughly 35 daycares. This freed up more time to spend in neighborhoods that are far from a library branch. These daycares get 2-5 bins of materials dropped off at their facility once a month. The daycares can receive new materials while keeping the teachers and kids safe. The bookmobile will make 2-3 stops per week in neighborhoods where kids may not be able to visit a library. One of our stops is a joint venture with a local nonprofit helping to realign community resources to better serve children and families in the Riverside neighborhood. The other stop is at a Title I school serving a grab n go lunch. The remaining stops are partnerships with our Parks and Fire Departments. These partnerships are allowing us to bring not only library materials to kids who need it but a variety of other services.



The table setup at a Siouxland Library Bookmobile stop.

ABOS NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT!

Have you ever thought about what more you can do to support ABOS? Have you considered running for a board position but wasn't sure what is involved? This fall the Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services will be asking for nominations for the following board positions: Vice President/President Elect (3-year term), Secretary (1-year term) and three Board Members at Large (2-year terms). The nominations will open as soon as our conference is over in October. Consider running for a board position before the conference so while you're attending you can network with as many people as possible, ask questions of the current board, and feel confident in running for office. Even though our conference will be held virtually this year, there are wonderful networking opportunities on our conference app. I would like to take time before then to share information on the requirements to serve on the board, job descriptions, and board stories from those who have served in the past or are currently serving. Stay tuned for these updates to come by way of our listserv and Facebook page.

If you have any questions, please email me at pastpresident@abos-outreach.com. I will start off with sharing my own board story with you on the next page.

Susan Parkins, 2020 Past President, nominations committee chair





*Susan Parkins, 2020
Immediate Past President*

My Board Story

By Susan Parkins,
Senior Outreach Specialist, Laramie County Library in Cheyenne, WY

My first conference was in 2001 about five months after I started my new position as Outreach Specialist at our library. At the time it was called the “Great American Bookmobile Conference” and it was put on by Clarion University in Ohio. My head was spinning! So many wonderful programs and bookmobiles to visit. I couldn’t imagine being at a conference where everyone was talking about outreach and bookmobiles, and yet there I was, experiencing it. I have attended every 2-3 years since and have made many wonderful friends over the years.

I have been involved with ABOS as a member since the start of the organization and served on the advocacy committee off and on through the years. I was nominated to run for a board member-at-large position and felt it was time to support the organization even further. I was not elected that year but knew I wanted to continue to help so I stayed on the advocacy committee. Fast forward a few years and I was nominated again for a board position and this time I was successful. After serving on the board for a year I was nominated for the Vice President/President position. It was a big commitment but I felt it was time to move up and accepted the nomination. I was elected as VP/President in 2018 and served as President in 2019. This year has been a busy one, and I’m still very much involved as the immediate past president.

We have a wonderful network of members and those who have served in an elected position. If you choose to run, please don’t be discouraged if you don’t succeed the first time. I would encourage everyone to find a committee and help with one of those. Many hands make light work and we need your help and input. Feel free to ask us any questions you may have about serving on the board.

ABOS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ABOS Executive Board

President: Cathy Zimmerman
Vice President/President Elect: David Kelsey
Treasurer: Brooke Bahnsen
Secretary: Lori Berezovsky
Past President: Susan Parkins

Board Members '20

Katrina Ford
Wendy Ramsey
Zach Roberts

Board Members '21

Liana Morales
Robin Rousu
Karen Bradley

CELEBRATING WORLD REFUGEE DAY

By Brittany Raines, Outreach Manager, High Plains Library District in Greeley, CO

The High Plains Library District's Outreach Department celebrated World Refugee Day, June 20th, by resuming service to our International Neighborhood (IN) stops for immigrant and refugee communities. We provide walk-up service at two community locations: Delta Park (1:30pm-2:30pm) and Union Colony Elementary School (4:00pm-5:00pm). We provided masks, grab-and-go meals from the Weld County Food Bank, registered patrons for Summer Reading, distributed make-and-take Summer Reading activity kits, signed patrons up for library cards, and requested library material for them to deliver the next time we visit. We will be at these stops every Saturday through August.

Preparing for this service is a team effort that requires four staff members to run our different stations and one additional staff member to count overall patrons in our library area. We limit our area to ten patrons at a time due to COVID-19; the current health emergency has required us to implement many new processes and procedures. We created a check-in desk, where we could welcome our patrons, hand out masks, and explain our new structure (i.e. setting up a library boundary—created entirely by staff in our Outreach department—using sneeze guards at every station, and using mobile quarantine kits to quarantine everything from pencils to Summer Reading registrations). Green directional arrows assist patrons navigating through the stations. We also provided signage in over 9 languages, thanks to the CDC's website, to encourage social distancing and wearing masks.

The Outreach department was eager to start up our in-person services to our community again after being closed for months due to COVID-19. We are grateful for our patrons that came out and engaged with our staff. We were even able to support and encourage a dream for a child, who expressed wanting to work at the library when they grow up! We are also grateful for our community partners Centennial BOCES and Union Colony Elementary School who helped us advertise and promote our services along with their work in the planning process. The success of this program is a community effort and allows the High Plains Library District to carry out our mission of Helping Build Community.



Kids at the walk-up service table during the event.



Summer Reading Program materials were also distributed.



2020 ABOS AWARDS

John Philip Excellence in Outreach Award

The ABOS John Philip Award is given to recognize outstanding contributions and prominent leadership by an individual in Bookmobile and Outreach Services. John Philip, known to all as "Mr. Bookmobile", spent his long and honorable career as an advocate of Bookmobile and Outreach Services. This award honors his dedication and tireless work and serves as a pinnacle for all Bookmobile and Outreach staff to aspire to reach.

Carol Hole Conference Attendance Award

Carol Combs Hole provided exemplary leadership on behalf of libraries, bookmobile and outreach services throughout her 32 year career as a professional public librarian. Winner will receive free virtual conference registration, free 1-year membership to ABOS, and \$300 for travel and accommodations for the 2021 ABOS Conference in St. Louis, Missouri (this money is non-transferable to another individual).

Bernard Vavrek Scholarship - \$1,000

In order to contribute to the education and training of library staff working in the area of bookmobile and outreach services, ABOS has created the Bernard Vavrek Scholarship. This scholarship honors Dr. Vavrek's profound commitment to bookmobile librarianship. It will be awarded annually to a student who is currently enrolled and has completed at least one semester in a Library and/or Information Science graduate degree program (ALA accredited).

FOUR NEW ABOS AWARDS FOR 2020

ABOS Rising Stars Award

\$300 prize plus one year free membership to ABOS (3 awards presented in 2020)

Highlights the achievements of those new to the profession. Rising Stars are those people who display a passion for the bookmobile and outreach profession, both at work and via volunteer or association activities. Rising Stars Award candidates must have worked in the bookmobile and outreach field for five years or less.

ABOS Innovation in Outreach Programming Award

\$500 prize (1 award presented in 2020)

This award recognizes a library's achievement in planning and implementing an innovative or creative outreach program, which has had a measurable impact on its community. Programs should be unique and cutting-edge.

Outstanding Bookmobile Librarian Award

\$300 Award

Presented annually to a bookmobile librarian, assistant, or driver in recognition of their continuous dedication and commitment to the bookmobile profession.

NNLM Health Outreach Award

Winner will receive free virtual conference registration, free 1-year membership to ABOS, and \$300 for travel and accommodations for the 2021 ABOS Conference in St. Louis, Missouri (this money is non-transferable to another individual).

The Network of the National Library of Medicine (NNLM) is pleased to provide this award to support attendance to ABOS 2020. Current or incoming library professionals who are interested in conducting outreach in libraries focused on digital literacy, digital health literacy, health literacy and/or citizen science, are welcome to apply. The NNLM Health Outreach Award aims to provide support for early and mid-career library staff from diverse backgrounds and limited resource settings with the opportunity to attend ABOS 2020. Applicants must have a strong desire to help improve their community's access to quality health information.

For more information and to apply:

<https://abos-outreach.com/awards>

****Nominations are due August 1, 2020.**

PRESENTATIONS FOR 2020 ABOS CONFERENCE

Karen Bradley and I, co-chairs of the Conference Programs Committee for the 2020 ABOS Conference are excited to announce the selected programs for the conference.

Thank you to everyone who submitted a program proposal for this year's Conference. We have a fantastic variety of programs in celebration of our 15th Anniversary Year! And thank you to Karen Bradley, my co-chair, for all of her hard work and dedication in helping select programs.

Keep on "Out Doing" Outreach, everyone! We look forward to a wonderful virtual conference in October.

David Kelsey, 2020 ABOS Vice President

Title	Presented by
Bookin' It On the Boardwalk: Building Partnerships, Attracting New Users, and Running Down a Dream	Tara Borden
Compassion in Action: Reducing Library Access Barriers for Domestic Violence Survivors	Shannon Bowman-Sarkisian
Outreach Start-Up	Beth Brown
Creative and Alternative Bookmobile Uses in Response to COVID-19	Laura Cashell
Connectivity During the Pandemic	Eletha Davis
The PopUp Library: Driven by Community Needs	Miranda Doran-Myers and Kimmie DePinto
First Steps: Early Literacy Begins at Home	EvaLyn Flores
Improving & Learning about Homebound Services Internationally	Chris Garnsworthy
"Who's Here? Who's Missing?": Grassroots Community Organizing Strategies for Inclusive Outreach Programming	Lesley Garrett
Roll Call! How Libraries Can Serve the Veterans Who Served Our Country	Glenna Godinsky, Sarah Vetter, and Angel Bouque

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Title	Presented by
A Change Will Do Us Good: Surprising Community Transformations When Seniors Volunteer	Glenna Godinsky, Sarah Vetter and Angela Bouque
Books by Mail: Building Pre-K Home Libraries	Audra Green
Choose Your Own Adventure, Outreach Style	Rachel Hadidi and Annie Guzman
Customize Your Outreach Events	Rachel Hadidi and Kerri Rubens
Bridging the Gap: Bringing Summer Reading to Daycares and Preschools	Melanie Hornbeck
Remember When: Reminiscence Groups with Older Adults	Tamara Hurst and Roya Mortazavi
Tales and Travel Memories and Lifelong Learning for Older Adults and Those with Disabilities	Tamara Hurst and Roya Mortazavi
Assessing Outreach: Tools for Evaluating Impact and Staff Time in Off-site Services	Rick Medrano and Brittany Raines
Perpetual Pivoting: Curbside, Contactless delivery, (& more) - Redefining Services During COVID 19	Sheri Miklaski and Eric Lashley
Social Media Tools & Tips to Promote Your Outreach Efforts	Tricia Roddy
Procuring an Outreach Vehicle: A Guide to the Process, Procedures and Pitfalls of Buying a New Library Outreach Vehicle	Michael Swendrowski
Forget Me Not: Libraries Providing Dementia Resources	Paula Wager and Johnna Schultz
Pulling a 180: How to Adapt Outreach Services in Times of Extreme Change	Maggie Ward
Speak So They Listen	Tina Williams
Maximizing Your Library's Impact Through Strategic Partnerships	Mary Wood



Get involved! Join a committee today! Contact the committee chair to express your interest or ask questions.

- Advocacy—board1@abos-outreach.com
- Awards—vicepresident@abos-outreach.com
- By-Laws—board2@abos-outreach.com
- Bookmobile/Outreach Information Repository (BOIR) - board3@abos.outreach.com
- Conference Planning—president@abos-outreach.com
- Continuing Education—pastpresident@abos-outreach.com
- Finance—treasurer@abos-outreach.com
- Long Range Planning—board7@abos-outreach.com
- Marketing—secretary@abos-outreach.com
- Membership—board6@abos-outreach.com
- Nominations—pastpresident@abos-outreach.com
- Technology—board7@abos-outreach.com

ABOS MARKETING COMMITTEE

**This newsletter is brought to you by the
ABOS Marketing Committee**

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Rachel Hadidi
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Liana Morales
Michelle Parrish
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Newsletter Subcommittee

Mary Beth Adams
Lori Berezovsky
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ABOS Virtual Conference 2020

Tuesday, October 13 through Friday, October 16

For submissions to *Out & About*, contact the marketing committee chair via email: board1@abos-outreach.com or secretary@abos-outreach.com. Also, look for postings on Facebook and the ABOS listserv calling for submissions. *Out & About* is published quarterly.

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>.

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.