CALL TO ORDER: A meeting of the ALS 2011 (Symphony Users) group was held at the Superiorland Library Cooperative in Marquette and via videoconference at the Bayliss Public Library in Sault Ste. Marie. Other participants dialed into the meeting via ReadyTalk audio and web conferencing service. The meeting was called to order at 10:08 a.m. EDT.

Attending:
Officers (At Marquette):
Treasurer: Suzanne Dees, Superiorland Library Cooperative

Other ALS Representatives:
At Superiorland Library Cooperative: Amy Becker and Caroline Jordan, Peter White Public Library; and Shawn Andary, Jean Montgomery and Steven Wiig, Superiorland Library Cooperative
At Bayliss Public Library: Pam Flood, Bayliss Public Library
Dialing in via ReadyTalk: Linda Blanchard, Curtis Library; Renee Augustine, Dickinson County Library; Mary Jean Thoreson, Crystal Falls District Library; Kathy Holman, Forsyth Township Library; Deb Oyler, Houghton High School Library; Pat Cheski, Menominee County Library; Lisa Cromell, Munising School Public Library; Cheryl Hoffman, Spies Public Library; and Denise Engel, Wakefield Public Library

Others Attending:
At Marquette: Pamela Malmsten (Superiorland Library Cooperative), Recorder

After the roll call, Suzanne introduced the new Technology Specialist, Steven Wiig. Steven will work 20 hours per week, with salary costs split evenly between ALS and SLC.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: The agenda was approved as presented by consensus.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Pam Flood moved that the minutes of February 16, 2011 be approved as presented. The motion was seconded by Mary Jean Thoreson, unanimously approved, and carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Approval of the Bills and YTD Report: Suzanne Dees presented the financial report. Year-to-date expense and revenue reports and cash disbursements for February and March 2011 were reviewed. There were no questions on the bills and Suzanne noted that year-to-date expenses and revenues were as expected. Pat Cheski moved that the year-to-date expense and revenue reports as of March 31, 2011 and cash disbursements of $16,334.14 for February 2011 and $16922.62 for March 2011 be approved. The motion was seconded by Pam Flood, unanimously approved, and carried.

Revised ALS Budgets for FY 2010/2011 and FY 2011/2012: Suzanne reported that the ALS budgets for FY 2010/2011 and FY 2011/2012 were revised slightly. Changes to both expense budgets include an increase in the Professional and Contractual—SLC contract health
insurance line item to reflect a 15 percent projected increase beginning July 1, 2011 and an increase in the SLC contract salary expense line item to pay for the part-time Technology Specialist through September 30, 2012. The FY 2012 communications line item was reduced from $2,580 to $2,100 because Suzanne was able to negotiate a better plan with AT&T. Other expense and revenue line items were adjusted slightly in both budgets; Suzanne noted that the revised budgets are still balanced. **Caroline Jordan moved that the revised budget for FY 2010/2011 (with expenses of $290,309 and revenues of $290,999) and the revised budget for FY 2011/2012 (with expenses of $288,218 and revenues of 288,247) be approved as presented. The motion was seconded by Denise Engel, unanimously approved, and carried.**

**COMMITTEE AND OTHER REPORTS:**

**COSUGI (SIRSI) Conference Report:** Shawn Andary and Amy Becker attended this year’s COSUGI Conference which was held April 19-21 in Phoenix, Arizona. Shawn reported that highlights included:

1. Development of self-paced online training courses.
2. Improved Customer Support: Sirsi is revamping the Enhancements Requests Process using a system called IdeaScale. The focus will be to make Symphony functionality comparable to Horizon. Each institution will receive a set number of “chips” that can be used to support various enhancement requests. The enhancements will be also synchronized with programming development cycles. Another customer service improvement is the Strategic Partnership Program, which will allow libraries to participate in the development process. Shawn said she has already signed up for the RDA SPP that will begin in June; anyone else interested in participating should let Shawn know.
3. New Applications: An upcoming Facebook “app” will allow patrons to search the online catalog on Facebook, and maintain a bookshelf that could be associated with the patron’s home library. The next version of BookMyne (3.0) will feature improved enhanced content material and better integration with GoodReads accounts.
4. New Products and Services: Web Services 3.1, which will be released later this year, will allow information exchange between the ALS Symphony server and applications such as BookMyne and Enterprise. Enterprise 4.1 is SirsiDynix’s “patron discovery” product that, along with many other features, can be used to search the online catalog. Shawn said that online demonstrations of the product will be available soon. [Note: on May 23, Shawn sent a message to the Listserv indicating that webinars on Enterprise 4.1 and Facebook applications were scheduled.]

Shawn displayed screen shots of upcoming Symphony and Workflows enhancements. New features include: right click context menus that will allow tasks to be completed without leaving the wizard, an ONSHELF Items Wizard that will allow staff to generate up-to-date pull lists for PII whenever it is convenient, a User Standing Map that will allow more flexibility with actions that can be allowed or disallowed based on patron standing, and an Item Group Editor that will allow batch changes. Shawn added that browse indexing problems in user name fields and extraneous html code showing up in enhanced content have been corrected in the new release. [Note: since there were some technical difficulties displaying the screen shots on ReadyTalk, Shawn sent a Symphony 3.4 pdf presentation to the Listserv on May 23.]

Amy Becker reported that she attended sessions on topics relating to mobile devices. Sirsi is working on improved search capabilities for BookMyne, the mobile application for users
and is focusing on “pocket circulation”—basic circulation and inventory capabilities using mobile devices. Amy also attended a session on the RDA (Resource Description and Access) cataloging standard; no RDA upgrades will be scheduled until the national libraries have made the decision on whether or not they are going to adopt RDA. An announcement will be made 3 weeks after the national libraries’ decision is announced. Amy added that she learned more about the bibliographic and authority control services offered by SirsiDynix. She said that more ALS catalog authority control work will be necessary after RDA is implemented.

OLD BUSINESS:

Timing for Upgrade to Symphony 3.4: Shawn reported that the Symphony Upgrade will be scheduled sometime in the fall, probably on a Sunday.

RDA Training: Amy Becker offered free webinars that provided an overview of the new RDA cataloging standard. The webinar is now available online at http://als2.web.uproc.lib.mi.us/uproc/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=54&Itemid=72. A free hands-on RDA cataloging workshop addressing the integration of the RDA standard into the ALS database will be scheduled for late summer or fall.

NEW BUSINESS:

SirsiDynix Online Training: SirsiDynix will be offering self-paced online training (some free) through the Mentor program. Shawn said she would send more information to the Listserv. In June, Shawn will also be presenting a workshop on best practices for managing PII and Melcat.

Privatize Report: Currently, after 90 days, user identification changes to “private” on patron bills and checkouts. Shawn asked the group to comment on whether the 90 day time period is working out for everyone or whether it should be changed. It was agreed that Shawn would send out a survey that would include questions on satisfaction with other policy default settings regarding patron privacy and record retention. [On May 26, Shawn sent a message to the Listserv that included a link for the survey.]

Overdrive Downloadable Digital Media: Suzanne asked for comments about the Overdrive program. She noted that library Friends groups from Alpena and Escanaba made substantial donations to the collection. It was agreed that Suzanne would develop a survey to determine satisfaction with the collection and seek opinions on Overdrive policies such as lending times. It was noted that Overdrive allows variable loan periods for different types of media. Currently, mostly recent best sellers are purchased, and second copies are purchased on very popular titles. It was suggested that a one-year leasing plan (with unlimited checkouts) also be considered. Suzanne invited anyone interested to participate in the selection process. There was also some discussion about patron difficulties with different types of ebook readers. It was noted that Overdrive’s GLDL web page “help” menu and video tutorial are very good resources; Shawn said she would find out if the video could be highlighted on the page.

Mango Languages: Mango languages is an online database that offers easy, interactive conversational language training. Suzanne said the current price quote for the product is $2,400 a year, but she felt that the price could be re-negotiated if enough libraries were willing to commit about half the quoted price. Roscommon Area District Library, Dickinson County Library, Munising School Public Library, Ironwood Public Library, and Peter White Public Library all expressed interest in the product.
NEXT MEETING: It was agreed that the next ALS meeting would be tentatively scheduled for November 15, 2011 from 10 am to 12 noon.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:23 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Malmsten, Recorder