

Morro Bay Friends of the Library
President's Report
2/16/07

1. Central Coast Book Festival – scheduled September 8, 2007 at Mission Plaza from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. – Handout provides information and contact persons for various committees. Our group is encouraged to participate. Being involved also meets one of our issues identified at our retreat – “communicate with other Friends”
2. Meeting with Supervisor Bruce Gibson on 2/15/07 – Supervisor Gibson requested a meeting with the Friends President’s in his District that included Morro Bay, Los Osos, Cayucos and Cambria. Some of the ideas that were generated by Supervisor Gibson included:
 - a. Creating or endorsing a vision statement for the libraries of SLO County. Perhaps the Friends throughout SLO County could participate in a Library Summit Conference with Library staff to consider developing a Long Term Vision Plan.
 - b. Supervisor Gibson is very committed to making Libraries a high priority for himself on a weekly basis, and is looking for community support in finding alternative funding to support Libraries. He believes having a vision plan, similar to a parks plan or land use plan would make it much easier to seek important funding for libraries.
 - c. Role of Library is changing – The library can become a point of contact between library & government, thus libraries can continue to be information experts as well as service organizations.
3. As Friends we can take initiative and speak with different Friends groups and representatives about creating a Library vision statement that incorporates what the community wants.
4. We can identify who the important people and groups are in our community who can be potential supporters of the library to help create a contact network through Supervisor Gibson’s office.
5. It was suggested by the group that we might want to consider creating a Friends President’s Group for our county, thus helping to open up communication between other Friends. This is a great networking opportunity for all the Friends, a great way to move towards a collective vision for the SLO County Libraries, as well as discuss ongoing issues experienced by Friends organizations.
6. It was duly noted that it was going to be most important that this idea of a vision include county staff since they are the Library experts. Supervisor Gibson feels he can play an integral role in helping to bridge differences between how Friends and staff see the future of our libraries.