Central New York Library Resources Council

Legislative Committee

September 26th, 2011

3:30 p.m.

**Present:** Carole Kupelian, chair (Ret.); Mike McLane (Ret.); Bob Manning (OCPL & Baldwinsville Board of Trustees); Wanda Bruchis (Mid-York Library System & Utica Public Library); Anna Dobkowski (CLRC); Deirdre Joyce (CLRC); Debby Emerson, CLRC liaison; Claire Enkosky (CLRC)

**Absent**: Sue Kowalski (ESM/Pine Grove JH)

**Via teleconference:** Rachael Altman, student liaison (iSchool)

**Action Items:**

* + - * Send out Save the Dates for March 6th Advocacy Day (CLRC)
      * Send the Committee links to the two submitted videos (Deirdre)
      * Send Anthony Brindisi a letter on behalf of the committee (Debby)
      * Contact J.R. Drexelius for input about the legislative breakfasts (Debby)
      * Reach out to iSchool students for volunteering at legislative breakfasts (Rachael)

Carole called the meeting to order at 3:38

**Approval of Minutes:**

Wanda made a motion to approve the minutes from March 23, 2011 meeting. (S/A).

Bob made a motion to approve the minutes from May 3, 2011 meeting. (S/A).

**Agenda Items:**

* Welcome and introductions
* Video contest
  + 2-4 minute videos about Libraries Change Lives. Anyone but Debby, Deirdre, Anna and Claire can submit a video on behalf of a library.
  + Two phases: summer phase for public libraries and fall phase for special, academic and school libraries.
  + For the summer contest we let it alone because we assumed submissions would arrive at the last minute. In the end, we only got two submissions: Fayetteville Free Library and Central Branch of OCPL. Both are very good, but it would be nice to have a little more competition.
    - Our feedback was that summer was actually too busy for public libraries. They were engrossed in summer reading. They would prefer not to do it in the summer.
    - With this feedback and low submission rate in mind, we extended the deadline for everyone to October 28th.
  + We have been accepted to present as a NYLA poster. Katie O’Connell, the intern responsible for the vast majority of the project, will help Deirdre present.
  + We heard back from grant funders who Katie had sent letters to, and one of them is interested in helping out with the prize ($700 in collection funds).
  + Mike suggests we send out another email to push the contest. Debby suggests we send out to our other lists, too.
  + Bob mentions that he may have a connection to get the videos into the Rosamund Gifford lecture series, which would give it an audience of 2,000 people or more. Kathy Osmund is the communications person at OCPL and would be the person to talk to.
  + Rachael mentions that Lesley Pease was talking about doing videos for the Learning Commons, so maybe she would be interested in participating.
* NYALS Retreat
  + New York Association of Library Systems. It includes school library systems, public library systems, and the 3Rs.
  + Wanda and Debby both attended this day and a half retreat in August. It was focused on advocacy.
  + They had a speaker named John (J.R.) Drexelius.
    - He was very dynamic. He served as legislative counsel for the NYS Senate for 25 years. He gave a presentation about the legislative process: how a bill becomes a law and how things really work in Albany.
    - He mentioned that no matter how often we meet with our local legislators, we need to make connections with the NYC caucus legislators. Wanda added that Black and Hispanic caucuses also hold a lot of sway.
    - He also talked about how legislators don’t understand what systems do. The consensus of the attendees was that we won’t spend time explaining systems to legislators, but we need to talk about how important libraries are as a unified message. A key message needs to be simple and less than 15 words long.
    - Since NYLA already has a relationship with Libby Post (author of Libraries are Essential), and already did so well, it was discussed that we all stand behind NYLA as a united front.
* Recent legislation
  + CIRA and ARIA, both through NYSHEI, were rejected with some harsh language.
  + NYLA’s construction bill was successfully passed, however.
* Library Advocacy Day
  + All feedback suggests it needs to be in February. This year it will be Tuesday, March 6th, 2011. National Library Legislative Day is April 23rd and 24th.
  + We anticipate having a bus go there again. We will be looking for group leaders for all of our legislative visits.
  + Deirdre suggests combining with RRLC to fill a bus, since ours has been only half full in the past. Debby knows that the Pioneer system typically fills up its own bus. The Monroe system has not had a bus in past years.
    - Mike points out that the bus from CLRC used to be full more often. He wants to make sure that we don’t turn anyone away.
    - Anna suggests that we allow non-librarians and the general public to come with us, like we did with Mid-York last year. That’s how Queens public library fills three buses. Mike suggests that we, the CLRC Board of Trustees, subsidize the public’s attendance so that money is not a barrier.
    - Bob suggests we try to tap the pool of three hundred Trustees. Many of them have personal connections with the legislators that would be worth cultivating. Kathy Osmund of OCPL would have more information.
* Legislative Breakfast
  + It was discussed that it would be moved earlier, but it was felt that this year it was too far in the planning to move. But next year they will be moved earlier, especially because of the election year next year.
    - RoAnn Destito has already been replaced, Anthony Brindisi. He was sworn in today. The committee recommends that Debby send Mr. Brindisi a letter on their behalf.
  + We have the places settled as well:
    - 8:30-10:30, Friday, December 2nd, Frank Basloe (Herkimer Public Library)
    - 8:30-10:30, Friday, December 9th, Onondaga Free Library
  + There has been some consideration of re-organizing the format of the breakfast.
    - Instead of having speeches, perhaps we could have more informal group meetings or, as Wanda suggests, a sort of speed dating format.
    - CLRC would pose as the shepherds to move people along. We could possibly do seeded questions, just in case.
    - We could also include giant posters with the legislators at their table.
    - Legislators would probably also appreciate the chance to talk more with their constituents.
    - iSchool students at Syracuse University could be employed as volunteer wranglers. We would probably want about 7-10 students per breakfast. CLRC would even be able to come to SU to plan a training event for November.
  + Wanda suggests that we reach out to J.R. Drexelius for input about the legislative breakfasts.
* Other
  + Bob brings up that OCPL has worked with Maxwell College of Citizenship of Syracuse University to find the Return On Investment on tangible returns. Now they’re in the phase of discussing intangible assets of libraries and that is with Whitman College of Management.
  + Bob also mentions that OCPL’s Central Branch may be renovated as part of an overall downtown renewal initiative.

**NEXT MEETING: Thursday, November 10, 2011 at 3:30 pm at CLRC**

Mike made a motion to adjourn (S/A).

Carole called the meeting to an end at 4:51 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Claire Enkosky,

CLRC