Central New York Library Resources Council

Legislative Committee

September 27, 2012

3:00 p.m

**Present:** Carole Kupelian, chair (Ret.); Sue Kowalski (EMS School Dist.); Debby Emerson (CLRC liaison); Deirdre Joyce (CLRC); Anna Dobkowski (CLRC)

***via Teleconference:***

Wanda Bruchis (Mid-York Library System); Michael McLane (Ret.); Robert Manning (OCPL)

**Absent:** None

**Approval of Minutes:**

Mike made a motion to approve the minutes from March 1st as amended (S/A).

**Action Items:**

* Wanda to forward NYLA’s congratulatory letter on Bullet Aid
* Visit applicable Senators at the end of the year to educate them on Bullet Aid
* Debby to approach NYLA about Bullet Aid
* Wanda to look into forming a tighter relationship between the local news and Mid-York
* Anna & Déirdre to look at last year’s legislative breakfast attendees for soliciting new committee members

**Agenda Items:**

* March 15th notes
  + Wanda okay’d notes
  + Katie Campos from the Governor’s office suggested collecting the data and presenting it in a more meaningful way
  + Collect info from other yearly reports; CLRC’s, school system reports
  + Déirdre: discussion at workshop that state reports don’t capture reality, especially electronic usage/wireless usage, other nontraditional usage (including downloadable content)
  + Debby: Many people are using employment resources, but we have no data on how many people have benefited (received a job) from these resources
  + Debby: Jeremy at NYLA had counter-intuitive advice—he advised that legislators want stories, not data
  + Katie Campos advised the opposite of Jeremy—she wants to see numbers
  + Attorneys particularly want numbers to see trends
  + Possible collectible data:
    - Digital downloadable numbers (these are impressive-- Wanda met with Gov. rep and found that there were 34K check-outs on a collection of 3K items)
    - Leg Committee to draw up a specific set of questions to send out to libraries that we can’t tap into via the larger systems (academic, larger institutions that might purchase additional resources)
    - Mango language software use
    - Ask 24/7 statistics; good because this is library-specific
  + Déirdre: best argument is built by data that is backed up with specific anecdotes
  + Public/private partnerships are attractive to legislators
    - Déirdre interrupted a conversation at Best Buy, informing a woman buying a computer about DeWitt’s library’s computer classes
    - Wanda & Bob commented that Barnes & Noble has partnered with libraries on events.
    - Framing the library as supporting the interests and education that consumers need to continue consuming, thereby driving the economy.
    - Pathways to NY History: get libraries included in this tourism effort , capitalizing on the trend towards content creation with geocaching and geotagging
* NYLA & NYALS (Debby)
  + These groups have hired a lobbyist who has only one message: to get library funding back to the 2007 levels ($102 mil in 2007 v. this year’s $82 mil)
  + One unified message is beneficial because priorities have historically been segmented, and legislators don’t distinguish between different library initiatives
* OCPL (Bob)
  + The county’s budget season is right now, and there are 7 new legislators
  + The County Executive proposed a favorable budget, so OCPL is not gearing up for a fight. There will be no lay-offs, there is even a little bit of an increase
  + Restructuring/renovating Central Library. The County Executive has received $2.5 mil from the Governor for this process; it is costing roughly $8 mil. The project will start in 2013; finish in 2014. Changes will include a ground floor entrance and increased presence on the street at that entrance
  + OCPL was able to accomplish the project because of the positive people in each position: County Executive, Legislators, and Elizabeth Daily
* Mid-York (Wanda)
  + Oneida County: 25% cut last year; this year it is 50%; 2013 will see a 100% cut in library aid. Oneida has very little control over their budget; the only opportunity they would have to give the library money is if the state mandated relief
  + Madison County: Mid-York recently testified in front of the planning committee. There is a projected 5% cut, but Mid-York is slightly hopeful for same funding level as last year.
  + Herkimer County: Haven’t heard from them
  + Bullet Aid: (replacement for pork) caused anxiety in Oneida and Madison because neither received Bullet Aid; in Herkimer each library received $2K, but Mid-York received nothing.
    - Met with Assemblyman Brindisi because Utica public library received nothing. He was under the impression that Bullet Aid could only be awarded to schools. Since Mid-York corrected that assumption, this money might be available for libraries next year; Brindisi advised that Mid-York visit and submit a proposal when the budget is being put together.
    - Bullet Aid to Herkimer came from Seward
    - Senior members of the Senate used up the aid
    - No application for this like Member Items used to be
    - Senator DeFrancisco gave some Bullet Aid to schools in his district
    - OCPL received a grant from DeFrancisco that has to be shared with member libraries; this is probably Bullet Aid
  + Maintenance of Effort legislation is going to be a significant problem for Mid-York; they can ask for a waiver, but all that will do is prolong the inevitable. Mid- York has been trying to stay on as at least a line-item in the budget no matter what the cut, because once they slip off, getting back on will be impossible
  + Madison Senators: McGee, Volesky
  + Advocacy committee to go make visits at the end of the year , make Senators aware of Bullet Aid
  + Mike: since NYLA sent out the congratulations to libraries who received the aid, they could also send out an explanation of what it is
    - Wanda: it’s possible that NYLA did send an explanation. She will look for the letter and forward to the committee
  + Debby: Bullet Aid has never been discussed at council and it should have been; NYLA is supposed to be our legislative voice
  + Bob: OCPL’s relationship with the Post Standard has yielded editorial support for the libraries; OCPL has been able to feed the Post Standard issues and information to expand their knowledge of what libraries can do and what challenges they face. They’ve written several pieces on this information.
    - Wanda to consider this approach with Mid-York
* Committee Membership
  + Student member (Rachel Altman) graduated
  + Sue can rarely attend meetings because of the nature of her position
  + A broad call for committee members doesn’t usually generate much interest, and is too wide.
  + Carole: approach iSchool again? The experience benefited Rachel
  + Déirdre: approach iSchool faculty to be on the committee/ other colleges/ other college students
    - Mike agreed that having an academic community member would strengthen the committee
  + Most people working in schools have obligations during the business day
  + BOCES involvement? Does not have to be a librarian, just someone supportive of the cause
  + Mike: solicit from people volunteering for legislative breakfast? We already know that they have the interest
    - Anna & Déirdre to check last year’s list of attendees
* Legislative Breakfast (Anna)
  + Dec. 7th: Dunham Public Library in Whitesboro wants to host it (last time they hosted it was in the mid-80’s). There will be plenty of parking
  + 14th: Dec. CNY Philanthropy Center (outside of downtown). Can hold up to 98 people standing. Looking for free parking, but downtown usually offers free parking between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Near the Fireman’s Park/ across from the State Police on State Street.
  + Speed-dating concept to be continued; start with specific question prompts/talking points?
  + We’ll bring our own food
  + New legislators may be elected in November
    - Anna: invite the new ones; it would be awkward to have the lame-duck legislators because they can’t do anything for us. Not too many races in Syr. are contested (just Miller , Roberts, and Tenney)
    - Stirpe came last year after he didn’t win his election
    - Mike suggested that we still invite defeated legislators who have proven to be friends of libraries, as a thank-you
    - Déirdre : it would be awkward if we have both the new and old legislators in the same room
    - Anna: we can find another way to thank them before they leave office
* Public speaking class in October
  + Set as a result of last year’s advocacy day so people can be more confident and persuasive in a small group setting
  + Speaker is Peter Iglinski, and he’s willing to come back for a special session next February to speak to people before getting on the bus for Advocacy Bus. Planning on discounting the bus ride if they sign up for the special session.
  + Debby: Peter is from Rochester; he was a communications director for WXXI; he is now working for a college in Western NY. He has an independent website (speechrepair.com)and is a dynamic instructor.

**Next Meeting Date: Thursday, November 1, 2012 at 3:00pm.**

Bob motioned to adjourn at 4:40 (S/A)

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Helsher

Clerical Assistant