Central New York Library Resources Council

Legislative Committee

November 1, 2012

3:00 p.m. at CLRC or conference call

**Present:** Carole Kupelian (Retired school librarian), Chair, Mike McLane (Library Consultant and retired librarian), Wanda Bruchis (Mid-York), Christine Richie (OCPL), Matt DeLaney (Tully Free Library), Anna Dobkowski (CLRC), Deirdre Joyce (CLRC), Debby Emerson (CLRC)

**Unable to attend:** Sue Kowalski (ESM School District), Bob Manning (OCPL)

Carole Kupelian called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

Committee members introduced themselves and welcomed two new members to the committee.

Christine Richie represents the Beauchamp Branch, Onondaga County Public Library; and Matt DeLaney represents the Tully Free Library.

Mike McLane made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 27, 2012 meeting as corrected (S/Approved unanimously).

**Action Items: Email Wanda to let her know what we want her to do to help with creating the video for the leg breakfast.**

**Agenda Items:**

1. **Legislative Breakfasts.**

Anna reported that registration is very low right now, but that is because we are still a month out. Eastern region breakfast is December 7 at Dunham Public Library in Whitesboro. The library has 38 parking spots, with another 20-25 across the street. That should be ample parking. The library will provide tables and a microphone. We will purchase continental breakfast items locally in Whitesboro. Judy Jeroma sent information about the breakfast to the local school district and is waiting to hear back. We are set for the Syracuse area breakfast at the Philanthropy Center. Anna is meeting with the coordinator next week to discuss setup of the room. Parking is a concern there. Anna has contacted City Hall to see if they are doing “Free Parking Fridays” for the holiday season and she is waiting to hear from them. The Philanthropy needs our certificate of insurance. They have also asked to preview anything that we send out to the media for coverage. Starbucks is donating coffee/tea etc. for the Syracuse breakfast. Deirdre asked if there is a Starbucks in the eastern area that might also donate. We have a connection with the Syracuse Starbucks, but we can inquire in Whitesboro. Judy Jerome writes a blog and a column for the Utica newspaper. We should ask her to publicize the breakfasts in her writings. We normally send out press releases a week before the event. At the last meeting we talked about using OCPL’s connections with the Post Standard to publicize the event. Debby will talk to Kathy Osmond about this. Carole mentioned that items for the community calendar need to be submitted three weeks ahead of time. Anna has been sending items to the cable channel.

Talking points – at the last meeting we talked about the possibility of having talking points for discussion with the legislators. Last year we pretty much left it wide open, but perhaps we should be prepared with some seed questions to get the ball rolling. We will be saying “thank you” for the improved funding this year, but we don’t want it to stop there. We need to make sure our legislators understand what systems do, and perhaps include an anecdote illustrating the value of systems. We should encourage attendees to think about the importance of systems prior to attending the breakfast, so they can talk knowledgably to legislators. System folks should also talk about how systems cooperate with each other. Wanda gave an example of eight public library systems who pooled their LSTA funds to do a joint project. Systems are the original consolidation model. We deliver! Anna asked if the NYLA talking points will be available in time for the legislative breakfasts. The NYLA Legislative Committee meets December 15 to approve them, so it will be a little late for our breakfasts. However, many of the talking points are similar to the 2012 legislative priorities so we could certainly prepare a handout listing them. Christine asked which were the most important legislative priorities. Could CLRC identify the top three issues that we want to bring to light? That could be sent out to attendees at the legislative breakfast, to give them time to prepare.

Last year we asked each legislator to briefly introduce him/her self. We will continue that practice, and give them a time limit like “one minute”. We should also ask them to tell us exactly what district they represent, because redistricting has made it confusing. We can ask each person for a brief personal anecdote about why they support libraries. Mike suggested that for a future video presentation, we visit each elected official and have them say why they support libraries/why the library is important to them. This would be something to do over the summer.

Advocacy video/slideshow – Last year we had a video contest, asking member libraries to create library videos. There was not a great response to that, so Debby has asked one of the CLRC staff to start work on a very short, <3 minute video illustrating the importance of libraries. Debby sent out a sample video that just illustrated the Rochester Public Library. Carole would like to see academic libraries included. Mike agreed that special and academic libraries should be featured, so there is representation from all library types. Mike liked the quotes that were interspersed in the video. Carole likes the idea of giving each legislator a copy of the CD. Mid-York has two advocacy videos on YouTube already. Wanda asked if we wanted pictures with people in them, or just buildings. If there are people in the pictures, we need to seek permission to use them. Anna suggested having a picture of each individual library, so legislators could see how many libraries we encompass. Mid-York has a poster that pictures the buildings of all their member libraries.

1. **Bullet aid update**

At the previous meeting, Wanda mentioned that some of her member libraries received “bullet aid”. Remaining committee members were not familiar with the term. Debby contacted the NYLA office to ask about bullet aid. Many of the legislators found themselves with some extra money at the end of the fiscal year. Most of the aid went to schools; many legislators did not know the aid could be distributed to libraries or library systems.

1. **Mid-York update**

County Executive in Oneida County has provided for a partial restoration of funding for the upcoming year. The original budget proposal zeroed out library aid. Mid-York and its member libraries heard a rumor that Madison County was also going to zero out library funding, and they have been proactive in dealing with that. They went to a meeting of the Madison County legislature and were given an opportunity to speak. Libraries asked not to be zeroed out; they would accept a huge cut but wanted to be left in the budget. If the budget line is taken away, there is a concern that it will never come back. There are two weeks left in the consideration process, so Mid-York has an opportunity to try to get the decision reversed.

1. **NYLA and NYALS update**

The two organizations have jointly hired a lobbyist. The single message for the lobbyist is that we want to see restoration of system funding back to 2007 levels. The lobbyist is from an Albany firm and started his work with us on September 1.

**NEXT MEETING: December 11, 3:00 p.m. (brief conference call to review Eastern area breakfast and make any changes needed in the plan/format)**

Wandra Bruchis made a motion to adjourn at 4:20 p.m., (S/Approved unanimously).

Respectfully submitted,

Debby Emerson, CLRC