**DRAFT**

Central New York Library Resources Council

Legislative Committee

December 15, 2011

3:30 p.m.

**Present: *via teleconference:***

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

**Excused:** Sue Kowalski (ESM/Pine Grove JH); Rachael Altman, student liaison (iSchool)

Carole called the meeting to order at 3:46 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Mike made a motion to approve the minutes as amended from November 11th, 2011 meeting. (S/A).

**Agenda Items:**

* Legislative breakfasts
	+ Feedback
		- Bob Manning reported that from OCPL’s perspective, it was one of the most successful legislative breakfast in recent memory. The attendees and legislators enjoyed the new format because there was no idle time. He reported that the feedback was very positive.
		- Mike agreed with Bob that people seemed very pleased with the format. Carole and Wanda also agreed and reported positive feedback.
		- Debby remarked that legislators seemed very pleased with the new format. She added that the first legislator left Herkimer at 10:15 or 10:20; they stayed long after they needed to.
	+ Improvements for next year
		- Bob suggested that there be more of a visual element in the beginning during the introductions.
		- Anna had sent out invitations to every single school library in the region. She noticed that the legislators loved seeing the video contest winners. She emphasized the importance of getting school groups to come in. Carole recalled that the last group of students that attended a legislative breakfast actually walked to the library from their school, because transportation funding is difficult to attain.
		- Mike remarked that there was no press coverage. Anna had sent out press releases to all newspapers. The only press that we received was a morning radio show in Utica on the Wednesday before the Herkimer breakfast.
		- Wanda suggested that someone record the session and post it on YouTube and Facebook. Claire mentioned that there was a video created by a Syracuse University library student and it has been posted to CLRC’s Facebook wall.
		- Carole heard someone suggest that the legislators get different colored name tags next year so that they are more easily identified.
		- Another comment Carole recounted is that both locations were public libraries. Anna responded that CLRC does a round robin to choose locations.
* OCPL Government Relations Committee
	+ Bob Manning recounted the meeting from yesterday, December 14th. OCPL is in the midst of three efforts:
		- A meeting has been set up with the Post Standard for January, hopefully to result in an opinion piece about the importance of libraries. Elizabeth Dailey is carefully picking the limited number of attendees. OCPL has never done this before.
		- OCPL has just finished the round of meetings with local legislators. Assemblyman Roberts and Senator DeFrancisco were especially helpful.
		- OCPL is planning an “invite your legislator to the library” campaign for February. 8 of the 17 county legislators are new this year.
	+ Debby has been invited to participate in the committee as a member-at-large so that CLRC and OCPL can work together with advocacy efforts. She appreciates the opportunity to do so and thinks it will be very helpful.
* Advocacy day
	+ NYLA’s annual advocacy day is Tuesday, March 6th, in Albany. CLRC will be chartering a bus as we have done in past years. We’re going to be working on the arrangements for that and will send out information right after the holiday season.
	+ Anna commented that usually we have lunch in Albany from 12-1, with a 1 p.m. appointment with a legislator. She suggested that this year perhaps the post-lunch appointment will be 1:30 to allow for security checkpoints.
* Other
	+ Debby mentioned that on November 29th, she attended the Library Hearing with the assembly Library committee in Albany.
		- Our local assemblyman, Sam Roberts, is on the committee. There were four committee members there the entire day, listening to testimony, from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. with only a ten minute break.
		- Most of the people giving testimony were from public libraries or public library systems. Debby testified with another 3R director.
		- About halfway through the day, one of the committee members commented that the systems were achieving economies of scale and saving us money. The legislators were starting to understand what we do and why it’s important. They volunteered tell their colleagues about the importance of library systems.
		- Wanda agreed with Debby’s comments.
		- Carole thanked Wanda and Debby for attending the hearing and representing the legislative committee.
	+ Bob Manning suggested that Debby join Elizabeth Dailey to go on Bridge Street, a local Syracuse television program. Carole remarked that having an upcoming event would make it easier to get on the show. She suggested that Tim Fox is the contact person for the show. Debby suggested that Advocacy Day would be an appropriate choice.
* Next Meeting Date
	+ **Monday, January 23rd, 2012 at 3:00 p.m.**
* Adjourn
	+ Wanda made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:21 p.m. (S/A).

Respectfully submitted,

Claire Enkosky, CLRC