



Awareness & Advocacy Advisory Committee Meeting

Friday, January 12, 2024, 11:00 a.m.

Minutes

Present: Steve Bachman (4CLS), Sarah Glogowski (FLLS), Brian Hildreth (STLS); Jessica, Diane, Mary-Carol. Excused: Penny Sweeney.

Where we are with Library Advocacy

- Pre-Advocacy Day February 6. Mary-Carol will attend. Sarah cannot due to their new business manager starting on the 5th, but she will plan to attend Spring on the Hill.
- Library Advocacy Day Meetings February 7.
 - It is problematic this year because the legislators will be leaving for their districts in the afternoon. The timing this year may give NYLA a better day next year.
 - It is good to have it earlier rather than later after funding levels have been determined.
 - Brian is taking a bus (17 are registered to attend, so far).
 - Steve and Sarah are scheduling local visits instead this year.
 - Mary-Carol will piggyback on Brian's visits. She and Diane will look at which legislators are new, and who she might need to visit separately, and which visits should be arranged in the district.

Legislative Priorities

Governor's proposed funding: "Support for Libraries. The Executive Budget supports public libraries by providing \$102.1 million of Library Aid, a \$2.5 million increase over FY 2024 Enacted Budget levels, and \$34 million for Library Construction to fund various capital projects. In addition, the Executive Budget appropriates \$3 million to ensure continued access to the New York Online Virtual Electronic Library (NOVELny), a free online library of magazines, newspapers, maps, charts, research, and reference books available to all New Yorkers."

- Library Operating Aid: \$102.1M (+2.5M over FY2024 Enacted)

- Library Construction Aid: \$34M (Level to FY2024 Enacted)
- NOVELNY: \$3M

Information Campaign Activity.

- This has been on hold until we have information from the digital equity work we are doing. Brian mentioned the Civics4Action work and their October program that he attended, as well as some from outside the area, e.g. John Spears from Buffalo & Erie County Public Library. Their speaker had been from the [Civics Season program](#). STLS staff will be discussing how to implement some of their ideas, which plays into this initiative, especially with mis/disinformation.
- We also discussed the legislative breakfast for the fall, perhaps in September, though it might be best to tie it to a regional groundbreaking, at which we'd get a couple of legislators regardless. We will discuss further after the budget is passed.

[Awareness & Advocacy Plan 2024.](#)

- The major changes were links and a review of the 2023-2024 activities (below).

LibGuide Information.

- The LibGuide information was [added to the website](#) to avoid another click. We've added the ALA advocacy page. Committee members were asked to think about other information to add. The primary users are the region's library workers and SCRLC staff.

2023-2024 Activities.

- Update the [awareness & advocacy plan](#).
- Collaborate with regional library systems on legislative meetings and events.
- Participate in and share information on NYLA's Advocacy Day.
- Review the Awareness & Advocacy information on the website; suggest updates.
- Offer additional advocacy training as needed.
- Design an information campaign to bring people into libraries, including programming on misinformation/disinformation.

Next Steps

- Mary-Carol and Diane will meet to figure out visits (and where).
- SCRLC staff will review Civics Season and discuss possibilities.
- The Committee should review the [advocacy information](#) and recommend any additions to the page.

- Next meeting date was set as **April 12 at 11 a.m.**

Minutes recorded by Jessica and Mary-Carol.