



South Central Regional Library Council

Awareness & Advocacy Advisory Committee Meeting Tuesday, May 23, 2023, 11:00 a.m. Minutes

Present: Sarah Glogowski, Chair; Steve Bachman, Brian Hildreth, Mary-Carol Lindbloom;
Excused: Penny Sweeney.

- **Welcome/Check in.** A quick around the virtual table was held.
- **Review of Minutes from Last Meeting.** Accomplished; no changes.
- **Where we are with Library Advocacy**
 - **State Budget Recap.** It is disappointing that we do not make more gains with state aid each year. The budget was restored to the current year's level, as was construction aid. Of course, with inflation and increasing costs, for all practicality, this represents a degree.
 - **NOVELny.** It is a hot mess, having a well-used resource but no way to fund. It cannot come out of current state aid, and in that electronic resources have to be negotiated ahead of time, or even multi-year, state aid of any kind would be difficult because funding levels are not known until too late in any given year. Some funding models are in the works, but so far none is tenable. While we can make our legislators aware of what is happening, without a statewide strategy it would be confusing and futile to make any recommendations to them.
- **Information Campaign Activity.** This is on hold until we have information from the digital equity work we are doing, i.e., our work with CAO and the asset-mapping/needs assessment will inform what we should do campaign-wise. We also discussed having a legislative breakfast in the fall—perhaps in November. In terms of visiting right now, it is better that legislators are out among our member libraries meeting with them individually, which they do in the summer.
- **[Awareness & Advocacy Plan.](#)** Mary-Carol and Sarah will update the plan. They are both on the Steering Committee for the New York Alliance of Library Systems, whose plan is also referred to in ours. The NYALS advocacy plan hasn't been updated for a decade, so they will work with NYALS to determine what to do with that one, as well.
- **Other.**
 - **NYALS Advocacy Launch.** The NYALS advocacy kickoff/launch is on September 19 at the Guilderland Public Library. Mary-Carol and Tessa will be providing OWL assistance for those unable to attend in person.
 - **ARPA.** SCRLC released the final 10% of ARPA funds. We will probably not receive our final 10% until after the beginning of the fiscal year.

- **Next Steps**

- Sarah and Mary-Carol will update the Advocacy Plan.
- Mary-Carol will send draft 2023-2024 activities to the Committee.
- All members will think about who is not at the table and make recommendations for new members.
- Mary-Carol will send out a Doodle poll for a post NYALS September meeting.

Notes taken by Mary-Carol