



Awareness & Advocacy Committee Meeting
9/28/2020, 3:00 p.m.
Online via Zoom
Notes

Present: Steve Bachman (4CLS), Brian Hildreth (STLS), Sarah Glogowski (FLLS), Mary-Carol Lindbloom (SCRLC), Mechele Romanchock (Alfred U), Jessica Philippe (SCRLC)

Excused: Nancy Abashian (Binghamton U); Nicole Waskie-Laura (BT BOCES SLS), Mikki Smith (Corning Museum of Glass)

Welcome & Introductions

- Library System directors gave overviews of where they are at. COVID has affected checkouts (e.g., FLLS had a 49% decrease), funding has been lost all around (state, county, friends groups, etc.), some systems are facing layoffs. For SCRLC, the RBDB program's FY changed from calendar year to July-June-- the current amount (-22.59%) must last 18 months.
- Alfred has had 20% cuts across the university. Some gift funds were utilized for immediate needs, so this year was okay, but next year will be harder. One open position will not be filled. Usage is also lower for them.

NY Alliance of Library Systems Meeting Recap & Legislative Developments

Bri will be offering webinars to Pulsido and ESLN to discuss a strategy for legislative advocacy for our new situation, but we don't have a lot of information yet. The library aid ask will be \$123K, so it will be lower than previous years, but is it realistic? Probably not. We need talking points and strategies from NYLA sooner than later to plan virtual visits. Legislators should theoretically be more available to constituents now that we are operating virtually. Sarah mentioned how good Bri's training was prior to meeting with Senator Schumer. She covered the talking points, participants chose the one to discuss, then she helped them hone and practice their 90 second message. Everyone was assigned a role. In all likelihood (Jeremy gave it a 2% chance of happening), any Library Advocacy Day for February 2021 will be virtual.

2020-2021 Advocacy Committee Activities

Mary-Carol will update the activities listed on our committee page and send them out to the committee to review/approve. Among the activities will be weighing in on the SCRLC Plan of Service--the advocacy section and otherwise.

Committee Chair replacement needed

Sarah volunteered and was unanimously approved. Steve “happily nominated Sarah for the Chairpersonship of this august Committee.” Brain seconded. Thanks to Brian for his 3 years of service to this committee as chair!

Next Steps.

- After attending webinars with Bri to discuss the strategy and takeaways, meet as a Committee to plan virtual legislative visits for Nov/Dec.
- Sarah (or Mary-Carol) will send out a Doodle poll for the next meeting.
- Review/approve Committee activities by email.

Notes taken by Jessica