



## **Awareness & Advocacy Committee Meeting**

**10/14/2020, 2:00 p.m.**

**Online via Zoom**

### **Notes**

**Present:** Nancy Abashian (Binghamton U), Steve Bachman (4CLS), Danna Harris (SCRLC), Brian Hildreth (STLS), Sarah Glogowski (FLLS), Mary-Carol Lindbloom (SCRLC), Mikki Smith (Corning Museum of Glass), Jessica Philippe (SCRLC). **Excused:** Mechele Romanchock (Alfred U); Nicole Waskie-Laura (BT BOCES SLS).

#### **Notes from last meeting review**

No changes.

#### **Recent NYLA webinars -- takeaways**

On 10/6 ESLN met with Bri from NYLA; Pulisdo, with Jeremy on 10/13. The school library systems also met with NYLA. ESLN councils and maybe library systems in general have a harder time connecting personal library stories to the legislators. The public library systems find it challenging to explain their role to legislators. Bri indicated that it was ok to show how systems leverage funding, i.e., that was also important.

#### **Planning virtual legislative visits**

Virtual advocacy could lead to better give and take (and less meetings with Aides). It takes coordination but very doable. Sarah suggested that we schedule joint visits (as we do in person) in that our districts overlap. Systems of all types can advocate together. We will need to assign roles/speakers because there will be a lot of people at the virtual visit. Those not speaking are there to lend support and often nod in agreement at what is being said. Sarah's visit with Chuck Schumer involved speakers choosing an order ahead of time, picking talking points and tailoring their talk to 90 seconds. This worked well. Mary-Carol suggested reaching out to new legislators in our region to introduce ourselves and help them to understand library systems/the library landscape and our role, ahead of the larger visits.

#### **Review/update/approve Committee activities for 2020-2021**

- Update the [awareness & advocacy plan](#).
- Collaborate with regional library systems to hold a virtual legislative event(s).
- Participate in and report back on NYLA's Advocacy Day.
- Update the Awareness & Advocacy LibGuides.
- Offer additional advocacy training as needed.

Brian suggested hosting a virtual event to introduce ourselves to legislators, including newly elected legislators ahead of advocacy day. December? Early January? We could invite library staff from different library sectors to share success stories amidst the pandemic. We can invite legislators to share as well. This event would focus on positive stories and leave budget discussions for advocacy day.

### **Other**

Brian raised the issue of posting news items from legislators in an election cycle, via social media. Do you only post things from current legislators? Post from competitors to keep things balanced and non-partisan? Don't post? Are there any guidelines on this?

COVID-19 surges in the Binghamton area. BU has moved to online classes and students who leave the area are asked not to return. The library is still open regular hours, but service looks very different. Corning area had 90 cases over the weekend.

### **Next Steps.**

- Plan a virtual legislative event for December (post-election). Sarah and Mary-Carol will discuss further.
- Mary-Carol will send out a Doodle poll for the next meeting.
- Review/approve Committee activities by email.

Notes taken by Jessica