

STATE ADVOCACY AND STATE FUNDING

Please talk up Advocacy Day in Albany on March 6 with your trustees and friends! Rebekkah will be sharing details on the day and the bus to help participants travel to and from Albany.

Letters have been sent to Senators William Larkin, James Seward and Stephan Saland in recognition of their appointment to the new Senate Select Committee on Libraries and for their continued interest in and support of library service. It is a nineteen member committee chaired by Senator Hugh Farley.

I hope to line up some visits in the next couple of weeks that would include Mid-Hudson Trustees. If there are any directors of the forty-one libraries that fall into either the 51st 41st, 39th Senate District, and who would like to join us, please let me know! Member Library Trustees are most welcome.

The visits will have at least two objectives, letting the Senators know that we are available to help them in their work on the committee and that there's still a disparity between the state funding of libraries and the funding of schools.

Schools are slated for a 4% increase in 2012-2013. But it's "back to the future" with state funding for library services stuck in 1994. Of course, we expected slightly worse with a return to the \$76 million the Governor proposed last year, and to which the Senate last year fortunately added \$3 million. So it's relatively "good news" that state library funding is expected to be at least the same as this year's and will total \$79 million.

Although flat funding may be reason for some relief, particularly when you consider the support of library service in Texas, California, and Ohio, it's hardly cause for celebration. State funding in New York will continue to be 22% below funding in 2008. Reduced system capacity and the increase in member library support appear more and more to be the new "normal." Regarding the latter, see the Regents Advisory Council on Libraries recommendation for library systems.

Michael Borgias leaving NYLA after Advocacy Day is a major hit on our advocacy work in Albany. His proactive handling of the tax cap and guiding the development of the Office of the State Comptroller's implementation of the law was hugely important for minimizing the law's impact on libraries. He will be missed!

Public Library System Directors and the New York Alliance of Library Systems are planning to join with NYLA in an additional advocacy campaign focused on the Assembly, where restoration of state support for library services tends to falter. The objective is to lobby New York City Assembly members who "have the ear" of Sheldon Silver.

RECONVENING THE SYSTEM FUNDING TASK FORCE

There is good news for member libraries on member assessments in 2012! The Holds and Delivery fee has been adjusted downward from \$0.3500 to \$0.2942 because of the use of \$40,000 in central library development aid for delivery. (Thank you Central Library and Collection Development Advisory Committee!) Copies of an updated 2012 Member Assessment Table is included in your February meeting packet.

In discussing other revisions that will be needed for 2013, I've asked that the System Funding Task Force be reconvened. As I see it, the Task Force objectives would include:

- Identifying other possible opportunities to reduce member assessment fees.
- Updating the years used to determine the three-year average for Holds and determining whether this should be a rolling three-year average that changes year to year.
- Determining whether Circulation should also be based on a three-year average and roll forward year to year.
- Clarifying that populations-served are based on the official numbers provided by the Division of Library Development and how changes in chartered service populations will be applied.
- Clarifying when chartered populations-served will be updated to the 2010 Census.
- Determining whether the populations of unserved areas placed under contract, either formal or implied, with member libraries should be applied to the calculation of member assessments.

Tom Lawrence has agreed to serve again as chair. Past members of the task force were Frank Rees, Kent Public Library; Linda Deubert, Heermance Memorial Library in Coxsackie; Debra Kamecke, Cairo Public Library; Gloria Goverman, East Fishkill Community Library; Sally Alderdice, Claverack Library; Gillian Thorpe, Butterfield Library in Cold Spring; Pat Kaufman, Mahopac Public Library; Jeanne Buck, Reed Memorial Library in Carmel; Margie Menard, Kingston Library, and Karen Garafalo, Philmont Public Library.

UPDATE ON 2012 DATABASE SHARED-COSTS

Also included in your February packet is an updated 2012 System Database Share-Cost Table. There were a couple of versions of this floating between the PPLD, administer of the central library program, and the Library System's Business Office. When the first bills went out in January, the cost-shares were not in complete agreement. There is a zero dollar net change for member libraries in the revised table. Central Library and Collection Development Advisory Committee had decided to increase support for Overdrive, which had not been included in the Library System's version of the table. This increase is included in the revised table.

PROGRESS REPORT ON HIRING OF AUTOMATION COORDINATOR

We are nearing the end of our recruitment process and the hiring of a new Automation Coordinator. We had fourteen qualified applicants. Julie Dempsey, the in-coming chair of the Resource Sharing Advisory Committee, joined staff members Robert Drake, Linda Vittone, Kit Kassel, Karen O'Brien and Merribeth Advocate and me in reviewing applicants and conducting interviews; we interviewed four candidates; we are pretty much on schedule. I'm confident that we'll have someone in the position by March.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR 2012 GOALS

As part of my annual evaluation, the Mid-Hudson Board of Trustees asked that I identify my goals for 2012. I would be interested in your suggestions as well as your comments. These goals include:

- Coordinate our advocacy efforts with state representatives, the governor and others to better leverage my advocacy, the advocacy of system staff and trustees, and member libraries.
- Recruit and hire an automation coordinator.
- Explore the possibility of shared and consolidated services with other library systems.
- Report to the Board on the implementation of the 2012-2016 Plan of Service.
- Report on the completion of the system's 2007-2011 plan of service by March 1.
- Administer the bidding process for the replacement of the auditorium roof in March.
- Compile and distribute a statistical portrait of the Mid-Hudson Library community by April 1, which had been done by staff and the Executive Director in the past.
- Lead negotiations in April for a new delivery contract, balancing levels of service to system and (member library) costs. Contract to be approved by the Board in May.
- Coordinate a public relations audit and develop a plan by July 1 for how and to whom we need to communicate the system's role, goals, objectives and activities.
- Coordinate the migration of the system's website to a content management system by October 1 to serve as an anchor in the system's public relations and communications efforts with the integration of social media, use of web 2.0 technologies, and improved organization of system online resources.
- Continued focus and advocacy for needed digital collections and technologies.

2010 CENSUS SERVICE POPULATIONS

Please look at your 2010 Census chartered service area populations. There have been at least four or five libraries that have had their numbers changed after questioning the Division of Library

Development on the numbers. So, if you suspect any issue with your numbers, let me know or contact Cassie Artale at DLD, 518/474-1479, CARTALE@MAIL.NYSED.GOV.

ANNUAL REPORTS

Without an Automation Coordinator, preparation of the data provided member libraries for their annual reports meant new and additional work for System Staff. Under Merribeth Advocate's leadership, these tasks went very, very smoothly! Merribeth, Tara Stohr, Kerstin Cruger, Karen O'Brien, and Robert Drake, along with Linda Vittone and Joan Kay in the business office, deserve a special thanks!

REGENTS ADVISORY COUNCIL ON LIBRARIES - REMINDER

Comments on the second draft of the Council's [*Creating the Future: A 2020 Vision and Plan for Library Service in New York State*](#) can be submitted in writing to the Council through February 15 at NYSLRegComments@mail.nysed.gov. The Council plans to present the report to the Regents in April.