

LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND

The regular meeting of the Library Board of Rhode Island was held on
March 19, 2018
at William Hall Library
1825 Broad Street, Cranston, RI 02905

Members Attending: John Bucci, Melody Drnach, Annette Feldman, Kenneth Findlay, Edward Garcia, Louise Herrington, Rosita Hopper, Phyllis Lynch, Monica Nazareth-Dzialo, Doug Norris, Rose Ellen Reynolds, Robert Sloan, Thomas Viall

Members Absent: Cristina Amedeo, Phyllis Humphrey, Alison Davis-Maxell, Joan Ress Reeves

Present from the Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS): Karen Andrews, Donna DiMichele, Karen Mellor

Guests: Kathi Kromer, Associate Executive Director, American Library Association (ALA), Washington Office; Dr. Alan Inouye, Director of Public Policy, ALA, Washington Office; Jack Martin, ALA State Chapter Councilor and Executive Director, Providence Public Library; Kieran Ayton, President, Rhode Island Library Association (RILA) and Rhode Island College Emerging Technologies Librarian; Julie Holden, Vice President, RILA and Assistant Director, Cranston Public Library; Cheryl McCarthy, President, Rhode Island Coalition of Library Advocates

Materials Distributed:

- Draft letter of support for H7076 and H7422, Net Neutrality
- Press Release, Studio Rhode Grants

I. WELCOME

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES from the February 05, 2018 meeting

Moved by: Mr. Garcia

Seconded by: Mr. Norris

The meeting minutes were approved with no changes.

III. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

A. Acknowledgments

Mr. Viall extended his gratitude to Mr. Garcia for providing the venue for today's meeting, and to Jack Martin for making the arrangements for today's guest speakers from the American Library Association's (ALA) Washington Office: Kathi Kromer, Associate Executive Director, and Alan Inouye, Director of Public Policy.

B. National Library Legislative Day (NLLD)

National Library Legislative Day will be held in Washington DC on May 7-8, and registration for the event is open. Mr. Viall attended an NLLD online webinar about best practices for approaching Congressional members with concerns and issues of importance to libraries.

C. Coalition of Library Advocates (COLA)

COLA's annual meeting is scheduled for April 10 from 5-7:30 p.m. at the RI State House. Jim Neal, President of ALA, is the event's keynote speaker and COLA's Sweetheart of the Year award will be presented to Neeltje Henneman, COLA Board member and Treasurer.

D. Marrakesh Treaty

A bill to implement the Marrakesh Treaty to facilitate access to published works for persons who are blind, visually impaired or otherwise print disabled was introduced to Congress and, if passed, will allow copyright restriction exemptions to be made in the reproduction of materials for the blind and visually-impaired. The Marrakesh Treaty was adopted by the World Intellectual Property Organization in 2013, and has been ratified by 37 countries. ALA has more information about the treaty on its website.

IV. CHIEF OF LIBRARY SERVICES REPORT

A. Ongoing

i. OLIS Staffing

Andrew Egan, Regional Librarian for the Talking Books Library (TBL), retired from state service as of February 9. OLIS is moving to fill the position as soon as possible. Alicia Waters, Library Program Specialist, is currently coordinating daily TBL activities to ensure that there is no gap in patron services.

One of two Library Program Manager positions is vacant as of March 7.

B. Studio Rhode

OLIS, in collaboration with the Office of Innovation, awarded four additional Studio Rhode grants to RI libraries through a competitive grant process. Funding was provided through a grant to the Office of Innovation by the Carnegie Corporation.

Grant awards ranged from \$9,300 to \$10,000 for community and digital learning projects. Award winners include: Central Falls Library's "Teen Space on Wheels", Providence Community Library's "Virtual Providence", Greenville Public Library's "Get Growing at Greenville", and Warwick Public Library's "Virtual Worlds at Warwick." The grants were made available through an extension of the 2017 Studio Rhode project, which awarded grants to Woonsocket Public Library and Westerly Public Library.

Mr. Viall inquired if libraries receiving Studio Rhode grants could make presentations to the LBRI about their projects. Ms. Mellor reported that grant presentations are included as part of the project and future presentations to the LBRI can be arranged. Additionally, OLIS is working with Studio Rhode libraries to present at the New England Library Association (NELA) and Rhode Island Library Association (RILA) joint 2018 conference.

C. National Library Service (NLS) Promotional Campaign

The Library of Congress' National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, represented locally by OLIS' Talking Books Library (TBL), has launched a promotional campaign to raise public awareness of its services for the print disabled. The campaign has increased program visibility, and TBL staff report that applications for and use of TBL services have increased.

The TBL program currently serves approximately 1,500 patrons. Once hired, the new supervisor for the Talking Books Library will be tasked with conducting community outreach; an estimated 20,000 Rhode Islanders may be eligible for TBL services.

Ms. Nazareth-Dzialo inquired if libraries will be able to assist patrons with their requests for large print books or books on CD. Ms. Mellor responded that most public libraries' collections include large print books and audio books; libraries can also acquire materials for their patrons from other libraries. OLIS works with public libraries to publicize TBL services and has provided training sessions for public library staff to assist patrons with downloading books from NLS systems. Libraries are also encouraged to become institutional members of TBL so that they can receive NLS equipment and enroll patrons in NLS services.

D. Census 2020

An End-to-End Test in preparation for the 2020 US Census will be conducted in Providence County starting later this month; it is the only complete test in the country. The 2020 Census will be the first census that utilizes online surveys; it is anticipated that public libraries will play an important role in providing access and assisting the public with census surveys. Ms. Mellor has been working with the Census Bureau, libraries, and the American Library Association to identify roles that libraries may play in helping the Census Bureau get an accurate count, which is critical to many programs in RI that are federally funded.

OLIS is also working with the Urban League of Rhode Island, youth serving organizations, and the Census Bureau on an April workshop aimed at bringing community leaders together to discuss strategies to get accurate census counts of traditionally undercounted populations, including minority children ages 0-4 and young men.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Federal & State Legislative Updates

Kathi Kromer, Associate Executive Director, and Dr. Alan Inouye, Director of Public Policy, from the Washington Office of the American Library Association (ALA), presented an overview of key national legislative issues of concern to ALA and libraries.

The reauthorization and funding of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA); level funding for the Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL) Program; and the potential elimination of the Institute of Museum and Libraries Services (IMLS) in the proposed FY19 Federal Budget, are issues of primary importance to ALA.

ALA supports Net Neutrality rules that promote equal access to all information transported via the internet. Maintaining the ability for all internet users to access information available via the internet at the same speed as large media organizations ensures a competitive market.

E-Rate is a federal program that provides discounts to libraries and schools for costs related to telecommunication services, wi-fi, and internet access. Because of E-Rate funding, almost all US public libraries now provide public internet access and wi-fi.

ALA supports the Marrakesh Treaty Implementation Act to ratify the Marrakesh Treaty, which would allow copyright exemptions to facilitate the access of materials to persons with print disabilities.

More information about the legislation that ALA supports can be found on the ALA website. <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/>

VI. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

A. Mr. Findlay

Mr. Findlay announced that the books purchased through the Department of Corrections' Books Beyond program are ready for distribution to public libraries. He thanked OLIS staff, Alicia Waters and Danielle Margarida, for their work on the project. Ms. DiMichele reported that OLIS staff has packaged the books for delivery through its library delivery service.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Board Strategy for Support of School Libraries (S 2338)

Mr. Garcia reported on Senate Bill S 2338 stating that it would set standards to ensure that students have access to school libraries and their services during school hours, and an hour before and after school sessions. The bill is sponsored by RI State Senators DiPalma, Gallo, Gee, Miller, and Sheehan. The bill is scheduled to be heard on March 28.

Dr. Lynch noted that RI's Basic Education Plan (BEP) is framed to give Local Education Agencies flexibility, however it does not require a full-time librarian in every school. The BEP regulations are designed to afford school districts flexibility in how they manage various school processes as they relate to their individual communities.

B. Net Neutrality

Prior to today's meeting, Mr. Viall circulated a draft letter in support of proposed bills that relate to Net Neutrality to the Board for input. The Board supported submission of the letter to legislative leaders.

i. House Bill H 7422, Net Neutrality Protection Act of 2018

H 7422 prohibits unreasonable interference with end users' access to broadband internet service and content available to end users over the internet.

ii. House Bill H 7076 and Senate Bill S 2008, Net Neutrality

H 7076 requires state agencies, public authorities, and municipalities to purchase internet connection services only from providers that follow Net Neutrality principles. The bill is scheduled for a hearing on March 16.

S 2008 is the Net Neutrality companion bill to H 7076, and has been referred to Senate Commerce but has not yet had a hearing.

iii. House Bill H 7162 Gun Crime Statistics Library Provision

Mr. Garcia discussed adding a provision to H 7162 that would require gun crime statistics to be issued to RI public libraries for dissemination to the public.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

X. FUTURE MEETINGS

The next LBRI meeting is scheduled for April 16, 2018, from 4:15 – 5:45 p.m. at the Department of Administration, Conference Room C, 2nd Floor, One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI, 02908.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: Mr. Garcia

Seconded by: Ms. Nazareth-Dzialo

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.