All Hands on Deck for Library Funding

NYLA Legislative Committee
November 14, 2019
NYLA Conference, Saratoga Springs
NYLA Legislative Committee

Charge:
Serves to represent each of NYLA’s constituent groups for the research, monitoring and support or opposition to state legislative and funding issues that impact New York’s library community

Composition:
8 NYLA Section Representatives
10 Affiliate & Ex-Officio Representatives
6 At-Large Representative
NYLA Past-President, President and President-Elect
NYLA Executive Director
NYLA Director of Government Relations & Advocacy
The State Budget Cycle

1. Agency Budget Preparation (June - September/October)
2. Budget Division Review (April - March)
4. Legislative Action (January - March)
2019 State Library Funding

$96.6M in State Library Aid
$34M in State Library Construction Aid
2020 Funding Asks - Part 1

$200M State Library Aid (operating aid)

• New York State must guarantee information equity for all New Yorkers through aggressive investment in library services.

• Information inequality plagues vulnerable, marginalized, and historically oppressed populations. New York’s failure to act risks creation of a permanent “digital underclass.”
2020 Funding Asks - Part 2

$75M State Library Construction Aid

• The New York State Library estimates the deferred maintenance need of public libraries throughout the State at over $1.5 Billion.
• Nearly half of New York’s library buildings are over 60 years old.
2020 Legislative Priority

Equal Access to School Libraries and Librarians

• All students have an inherent right to equity of instruction in information literacy and in this age of misinformation it is needed now more than ever.

• Over 21 state studies have confirmed that school librarians and school libraries support students in academic achievement, lifelong learning, 21st century skills, and reading.
What Can One Pirate Do?
ENGAGE

• Visit Legislators

• Email Legislators

• Snail Mail Legislators

• Send Out Press Releases Highlighting Legislators Support of Local Libraries

• Invite Legislators to Libraries and Library Events

• Include Legislators in Library Newsletters and Social Media
In-District Visits and Events
Library Advocacy Day
February 25, 2020
Answer NYLA’s Call for Action
Support New Yorkers for Better Libraries PAC
Engage on the National Level

ALA / NYLA National Network

Congressional Key Contact Program

New York has been selected as one of the 3 pilot states for a new initiative of the ALA Public Policy & Advocacy Office.
Q & A