



NYLA Council Meeting

Thursday, December 17, 2015

3:00 PM to 4:30 PM

Via Conference Call

NYLA President, Debby Emerson Presiding

Council Meeting Minutes

In Attendance: Debby Emerson, *NYLA President*; Geoff Kirkpatrick, *NYLA Immediate Past President*; Barbara Stripling, *NYLA President-Elect*; Claudia Depkin, *Treasurer*; Marcy Strong, *ASLS President*; Sarah Sachs, *FLS President*; Frank Rees, *LAMS President*; Judith Wines, *PLS President*; Julia Schult, *RASS President*; Susan Polos, *SSL President*; Mary Jo Smith, *YSS President*; Sue Kowalski, *Councilor-at-Large*; Sheryl Knab, *Councilor-at-Large*; Rebecca Lubin, *Councilor-at-Large*; Grace Riario, *Councilor-at-Large*; Charlie Kelly, *Councilor-at-Large*; Jeri Cohen, *SCLA Representative*; Rocco Staino, *ALA Chapter Councilor*; Jeremy Johannesen, *NYLA Executive Director (ex-officio)*

Guest: Mike Neppl, *NYLA Director of Government Relations and Advocacy*

Absent: Ben Lainhart, *SMART President*; Elaine Lasda, *Councilor-at-Large*

1. Welcome
2. Approval of Minutes from November 19, 2015 NYLA Council Meeting

MOTION I: Motion to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2015 Council Meeting as submitted.

Made by: Claudia Depkin, Seconded by: Sheryl Knab

Approved unanimously.

3. Finance Report
 - a. October Financial Statement / Report

NYLA Treasurer Claudia Depkin noted that an updated financial report was not available in time for printed distribution. The delay resulted from not receiving the final invoice from the Lake Placid Conference Center for over thirty days after the event. Claudia reported that the November Financial report will reflect income in excess of budget, and expenses below budget. The 2015 Conference exceeded budgeted revenue.

4. President's Update

NYLA President Debby Emerson reported on plans to develop and host a NYLA Focus Group at each of the nine Empire State Library Network (ESLN) (formerly NY3Rs) locations. These programs are intended to gather feedback to inform the NYLA Strategic Plan from both members and non-members.

Based on the results of an online poll, the May 2016 NYLA Council meeting will be rescheduled to Tuesday, May 10, and will be hosted in Central New York.

5. Executive Director's Update

NYLA Executive Director Jeremy Johannesen reported recent organizational activities including:

- The upcoming School Librarian Census to be conducted in partnership with SLSA, intended to provide supporting details for the School Librarian Bill
- Outreach to the Geneva Public Library in the form of consultation in support of their upcoming 24% budget levy increase
- Solicitation of bids for replacement of the office copier

6. Legislative Update – Library Advocacy Day

Director of Government Relations Mike Neppi reported on the recent outreach to gather sign-on from all 23 public library system directors to NYLA's call for an increase to the Library Construction Program.

Updated guidance on the Help Americans Vote Act (HAVA) has been developed and posted to the NYLA website; as of January 1, 2016 all special legislative district and school district public libraries will no longer be permitted to conduct their ballots using lever machines.

The Governor's Budget will be released on January 13 in conjunction with the State of the State address.

Library Advocacy Day will take place on Wednesday, March 2; everyone's attendance is appreciated. The

Membership and Continuing Education Committees will be conducting Community Conversations on Pre-Advocacy Day (Tuesday, March 1) other activities will include a Library Advocates Luncheon, two CE offerings and (new for 2016) a Legislative Briefing.

7. Unfinished Business

a. Appointment of Members of the Audit & Finance Committee

MOTION II: Motion to approve the appointment of Claudia Depkin, Geoff Kirkpatrick, Susan Polos, and Marcy Strong, to the Audit & Finance Committee with Debby Emerson and Jeremy Johannesen serving as ex-officio members.

Made by: Rocco Staino, Seconded by: Rebecca Lubin

Approved unanimously.

8. New Business

a. Request for Support from the NYLA Legal Defense Fund – DeWitt Library

The DeWitt Community Library is a free association library that uses the provision in Education Law 259 to place their budget levy before the local voters on the school district budget ballot. A local taxpayer brought suit against the library challenging the constitutionality of Edu Law 259. The library retained Whiteman, Osterman, and Hannah to represent them. The complaint was directed to the NYS Commissioner of Education, who ruled that SED did not have standing to rule on constitutional matters.

This might have been the end of the matter, but the plaintiff has filed the complaint with the NYS Supreme Court. On the outside chance that the court finds against the library, it would eliminate the Edu 259 mechanism for all association libraries in NYS. The DeWitt Library has already expended \$35K in legal costs defending this matter, and has requested support from the NYLA Legal Defense Fund.

There is less than \$1K in the NYLA Legal Defense Fund, but it is believed that a fund raising campaign to support this initiative would be successful in raising the needed resources.

MOTION III: Motion to commit up to \$25K from the NYLA Legal Defense Fund in support of the DeWitt Library, with the stipulation that they continue to retain Whiteman Osterman and Hannah as legal counsel.

Made by: Sheryl Knab, Seconded by: Mary Jo Smith

Approved unanimously.

b. Library Freedom Project - [Digital Privacy Pledge](#)

The Library Freedom Project is inviting the library community – libraries, vendors that serve libraries, and membership organizations – to sign the "Library Digital Privacy Pledge of 2015". For this first pledge, we're focusing on the use of HTTPS to deliver library services and the information resources offered by libraries.

MOTION IV: Motion to direct the NYLA Executive Director to sign the Digital Privacy Pledge on behalf of the New York Library Association, and to modify the NYLA.org website as needed.

Made by: Julia Schult, Seconded by: Geoff Kirkpatrick

Approved unanimously.

c. Continuing Education Committee – Professional Development Calendar Task Force

The Continuing Education Committee proposes the creation of a Task Force to investigate and address the need for a state-wide library calendar system. This group would be composed of representatives from all library professional organizations in New York State who are able to participate, in order to foster collaboration and create a sustainable method of sharing information and coordinating events to better serve our members.

MOTION V: Motion to authorize the formation of a Professional Development Calendar Task Force.

Made by: Claudia Depkin, Seconded by: Charlie Kelly

Approved unanimously.

MOTION XI: Motion to adjourn the December 17, 2015 NYLA Council meeting at 4:16 PM.

Made by: Julia Schult, Seconded by: Charlie Kelly

Approved unanimously.