

Colorado Association of Libraries, Legislative Committee Minutes
Friday, February 3, 2017 at 10:00 am
Commissioner's Room, Denver Public Library

Call to Order

ATTENDING: Jerry Braden, Deborah Deal, Robin Flipizak, Jim Duncan, Eugene Hainer, Jody Howard, Diane Lapierre, Amy Phillips, Brittany Raines, Elena Rosenfeld, David Sanger, Stephen Sweeney (online), John Wilkinson, Amber Valdez, Ruben Valdez,

Guests: Jefferson County Public Library Trustees: Deborah Deal, Julia Hill-Nichols, Kim Johnson

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES: January Minutes – Approved as written.

Report from CAL Board Meeting: No Report

Calendar of Activity updates for 2017

Event Date	Event Name	Details
March 14, 2017 from 8 am to 1pm	Colorado State Lobby Day	<p>Amy Shipley is leading the event this year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amy Phillips and Brittany Raines are helping coordinate. • Event Location: outside of the Old Supreme Court Chambers on the 2nd floor of State Capitol. • Request for volunteers is slightly behind schedule; however, we have the CALLI Cohort participating. • The 2017 Core message will drive conversations which will focus on how grant monies are helping communities. • David Bonderchuck confirmed that Scratch Catering will participate in the event.
May 1-2, 2017	National Library Legislative Day	<p>John Wilkinson is serving as our State Coordinator.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The rest of the team includes: Deborah Deal, Julia Hill-Nichols, Eugene Hainer, Michelle Jeske, Kim Johnson, Diane Lapierre, Sasha Miller • Representatives for CD 2 and 4 are needed. • CAL Board approved \$300 stipend for up-to three people who need it; but only 1 person per Congressional District. • Orientation meetings are being held with state representatives so all are prepared before going to D.C. • Top issues (currently) include revisions to copyright; loss of federal funding to programs such as ESSA, LSTA, NEA, and NSF; and requests that the FCC change rules on Net Neutrality and eRate
June	Identify Legislative Award Recipient	Deadline to submit name to Awards Committee
November	Budget Setting for Legislative Committee.	<p>Usually a zero budget for regular work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2016-17 request to increase payment to CAL Lobbyists • Request grant funds for NLLD attendees

REPORTS:

LOBBYIST'S REPORT [Jerry Braden, Amber Valdez, Ruben Valdez]

Legislative Items/Town Halls

- Community engagement is currently very strong. Town Hall events have been full. Those using virtual meetings, such as Perlmutter had are finding that the volume of callers is breaking the system. For his phone meeting, there were 6,000 people trying to call.
 - Diana Degette is hosting one and is finding that she may need to move it to a larger space;
 - Cory Gardner is receiving more than usual calls. He is claiming many of the people calling are paid rather than true constituents.

- Transportation continues to be an area of focus. Speaker of the House, Crisanta Duran and President of the Senate, Kevin Grantham have been working on this together to develop a proposal. The Republican position is to increase revenues while paying less taxes. Polling says that people are willing to pay (but polling vs reality are often different) – so not sure if anything will happen.
- There are 40 Regional Jobs to represent President Trump in Colorado. It's expected that a number of people within the Colorado legislature may move to those positions, leaving vacancies to be filled for the rest of this legislative term.
- The City and County of San Francisco filed a "Sanctuary City" lawsuit through the Ninth Circuit Court against President Trump's executive order against sanctuary jurisdictions. Their intent is to clarify that San Francisco fully complies with section 1373 of the United States Code.
- Expect the 2018 gubernatorial election to be a wild ride. At this time, those running – or are considering running – for Governor include:

Democrats	Republicans
Noel Ginsburg, Denver Business CEO	George Brauchler, DA for Arapahoe, Elbert, & Lincoln counties*
Mike Johnston, State Sen.	Mike Coffman, US Rep.
Cary Kennedy, former State Treasurer	Steve House, State GOP Chair
Steve Lebsock, State Rep.	Tim Neville, State Sen.
Donna Lynne, Lt. Gov	Ray Scott, State Sen.
Michael Merrifield, State Sen.	Walker Stapleton, State Treasurer
Ed Perlmutter, US Rep.	Kent Thiry, Kidney-Dialysis Co CEO
Jared Polis, US Rep.	
Joe Salazar, State Rep.	
Ken Salazar, former Sen.	

*Note: George Brauchler is financially supported by the Koch brothers.

State Budget

This year, the Gallagher Amendment will impact State Budget Concerns, especially interaction of TABOR, Amendment 23, and Gallagher – this may impact Districts at the cost of a 10% drop in revenues. As Gallagher drops the residential property taxes, then see a loss.

Marijuana taxes are outside of Tabor limitations. But the percentages of fund distribution can be changed by law.

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B624KfwdKC9LbURkcV9WbkRIQms>

- Everyone is awaiting the March Revenue Forecast to assess what needs to happen. The Joint Budget Committee is working in a situation filled with unknowns. At this point, they will be looking to cut \$100 million from the 2018 budget. More cuts are likely. Funding streams such as Hospital Provider Fees and the newly implemented Internet Sales Tax will likely be refunded due to TABOR limitations.
- Proposed changes to taxes/revenue streams:
 - The Koch brothers are financially backing support to keep Hospital Provider Fees within TABOR and other anti-tax related efforts;
 - Bills supporting business property tax revisions are unlikely to pass;
 - There is a proposal to cut gasoline taxes and add to the cost of purchasing a vehicle. However, this might face opposition from city governments as they rely heavily on sales tax and state-added taxes will likely cause problems.
- The Federal Government seems to be moving forward in making Medicaid a Block Grant. If this happens, it will likely result in a drop in Federal funds for at-risk populations. Currently, funding for Medicaid is about 50/50 from the State and Federal governments. Some Governors (from both political parties) have pushed back on this plan.
- Senator Larry Crowder and Representative Dan Thurlow are working to change the State's spending cap formula so that it is tied to personal income rather than consumer inflation plus population change.
- State Grants to Libraries – sense of whether it's at risk? Don't know due to the chaos...just staying quiet until it's time to make noise.

Bill Tracking

- More bills are expected to be posted this evening. Much of the legislation being put forward may be setting the stage for those running for Governor. So, the focus is on sponsoring bills that meet constituent interests.
- Expect bills moved to State Affairs to die in committee.

Bill Number & Title	Sponsors	Details	Continue Tracking?
SB17-008 – Legalize Gravity Knives and Switchblades	Sen. O. Hill Rep. S. Lebsock	Removes these knives from list of illegal weapons. Passed 3 rd reading	Yes – may impact library safety concerns.
SB17-041 – Higher	Sen. K. Priola	Contract positions in Higher	No – does not impact

Education Employment Contract Terms	Rep. Y. Willett Rep. E. Hooton	Ed funded by revenues through auxiliary activities.	Academic Library staff
SB17-062 – Student Free Speech Public Higher Ed Campuses	Sen. T. Neville Rep. S. Humphrey	Declares all spaces in public higher ed as open forums for free speech.	Yes – may impact academic libraries.
SB17-116 – Concealed Handgun Carry Without a Permit	Sen. T. Neville Rep. K. Van Winkle		Yes – may impact library safety concerns.
SB17-150 – Restrict Employment of Relatives by Public Officials	Sen. A. Kerr	Prohibits public official from any involvement with the hiring, promotion, or advancement of a relative who may/is working within the same state agency.	Yes – until more is known.
HB17-1106 – Extend Early Childhood Leadership Commission	Rep. B. Pettersen Rep. J. Wilson Sen. B. Martinez Humenik	Expands membership of commission – Possible to add library representative?	No – section of interest was removed in amended version.
HB17-1161 – Tax Increment Financing Transparency	Sen S. Beckman	Requires public distribution of report TIF fund use.	Yes – direct impact to Library Districts and awareness for libraries

Library News

- Denver Public Library – is now listed as a project under the upcoming City 2017 GO (General Obligation) Bond. In Spring, the Mayor will start community conversations about all of the proposed projects.
- Jefferson County Public Library – the mill levy, which included deBrucing, was approved by voters. Actions being taken include, restoring library hours and renovating the Columbine Library. There is also an opportunity to work with the City of Edgewater where a vote for new civic center was passed. The building is designed to include 10,000 sq ft for the library. The trustees are committed to making best use of these funds and working with the County Commissioners.
- High Plains Library District – the lawsuit is coming to a close. Last minute negotiations are taking place this week to see if there can be a settlement outside of court.

NATIONAL LEGISLATION

- The new leadership is going to challenge many of the programs that support library work. LSTA conversations are starting-up. Most of the items that need to be considered are listed in the **Calendar of Activities** in reference to National Library Legislative Day (NLLD).

PAC Fundraising Report

- Paid \$200 to Crisanta Duran's campaign.
- Diane Lapierre will be willing to help with a fund-raising effort after finishing with this year's Lobby Day.

Assignments follow-up and next steps

Who	Action
Jerry Braden & Ruben Valdez	Forward list of other Town Hall Meetings throughout the state
All Committee Members & Lobbyists	Identify issues that need monitoring and/or action
Task Force Needed	Develop Fundraising Plan for Legislative Committee
Collaboration with PAC Needed	Develop Fundraising Plan for PAC
Eugene Hainer	Coordinate a meeting with the current Commissioner in March/April

NEXT MEETING: March 3, 2017