

October 2, 2012

To: Deborah Malone, President

From: Paula Gilbert, Co-chair
Joseph L. Sherwood, Co-chair
Legislative Committee

Re: 2012 Legislative Committee Activities – Conference Report

The following is a report on the Legislative committee activities for 2012:

- It has been a busy year for the Legislative committee and we want to mention and thank the members of the committee for their service. They are:
 - Brian Dawson, Barbara Ellis, Karen Gartner, Paula Gilbert (co-Chair), Rob Leshner, Debbie Malone, Darlene Marshall, Evelyn Minick, Sylvia Orner, Mike Packard, Susan Pannebaker, David Schappert, Janis Stubbs, Lynne Tharan, Mary Ann Yonki and myself.
 - Glenn Miller (staff)
 - Kara Beem and Angie Gohn (Greenlee Partners)
- State budget is always a major focus for the Legislative Committee. This year we were fortunate enough for the basic library subsidy to be level funded, although the other line items did see a 5% reduction. This was possible through the efforts of all of the libraries and librarians across the Commonwealth. Some of the items that seemed to make the most impact included:
 - We reminded Legislators of the 35% reduction overall in the last several years (since 2008), we'd paid our dues.
 - We utilized (as much as possible) the PA Forward language to try and increase the impact for every one of a common message and theme. The PA Forward partnerships have had a big impact with Legislators and their knowledge that important businesses and groups were part of what we were doing as an organization.
 - The efforts of our lobbyists, Greenlee Partners, have provided us access, information and strategies that have proven invaluable.
- PaLA supported PSLA with written testimony at the House Education Committee hearings.
- Other legislative areas that we followed included:
 - Mandated Child Abuse reporter legislation.
 - Redistricting and how these might affect our legislative relationships.
 - Library code legislation – SB1225 (Should be up for a final vote in the House on Wednesday and then back to the Senate for concurrence).

- The Public Notices legislation (proposed to eliminate the need for newspaper public notices and use website or other electronic means of public notification).
- Voter ID and supporting PA Forwards efforts with the PA Department of State.
- ALA Legislative Day
 - Was held on April 23rd.
 - David Schappert coordinated our efforts.
 - A small, but energetic group visited 8 PA legislators and dropped off packets with the rest of the delegation.
- Web Site – Several committee members were involved in the web site redesign effort to ensure our advocacy information is presented in the most effective ways for our members. We revamped the Legislation portion of the website.
 - Two pages will be shown at the Annual Business Meeting:
 - The main Take Action page gives an introductory portal to legislative action.
 - The Learn the State issues page, gives you more information on PA specific issues.
 - Additional pages that we're working to update include:
 - Contacting your State Officials
 - Learn the Federal Issues
 - Learn to be a Library Advocate
 - We have additional pages planned:
 - A resources page to give you information you use in your advocacy.
 - A feedback page so you can tell us what's going on.
 - We're continually working to try and give you valuable information and links throughout the Take Action portion of the website. However, we don't always see it all. If you find something we should consider adding, send it to a committee member and we'll certainly consider it.

As usual, we're heading into the unknown in 2013. However, with support from PaLA librarians and the great work PA Libraries do, we'll rise to any challenges as we work to move PA Forward.