

Colorado Association of Libraries, Legislative Committee Minutes
Friday, Dec 1, 2017 at 10:00 am
Commissioner's Room, Denver Public Library

Call to Order

ATTENDING: Dana Abbey (online), Jerry Braden, Ray Coffey, Jim Duncan (online), Eugene Hainer, Diane Lapierre, Jacqueline Murphy, Rose Nelson (online), Brittany Raines, Elena Rosenfeld, David Sanger, Mollie Steinemann, Amber Valdez, Shelley Walchak (online), Aspen Walker

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES: November minutes were accepted as amended

Report from CAL Board: Next Board Meeting is Friday, December 8, 2017.

Calendar of Activity updates for 2017

Time allocated: 10 min

Event Date	Event Name	Details
October	CALCON	10/12/2017 - 10/14/2017
December	Final Report. CAL Budget	Usually a zero budget for regular work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2016-17 request to increase payment to CAL Lobbyists • Request to reinstate grant for NLLD attendees
January	Start of Legislative Session	
March	Lobby Day	March 27, 2018

REPORTS:

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

Expectations of this Legislative Session

- Representative Steve Lebsock has been accused of sexual harassment which may impact his running for State Treasurer. House Speaker, Crisanta Duran is under attack for not acting when the allegation was first made. Meanwhile, Representative Faith Winter has also filed a formal complaint against Lebsock, which was supported by Senator Dominick Moreno and Representative Alec Garnett. A third-party organization will be handling the fact-finding efforts starting December 15th. One of the lobbyists noted that harassing behaviors have been accepted as 'part of the job' in the State Capitol and that bringing in a confidential complaint process through a third party is a healthy move. What remains to be seen is how this will impact how people work together in the Capitol and how many will resign. Currently, Senators Randy Baumgardner and Jack Tate have allegations against them as does Representative Paul Rosenthal.
- The Democrats anticipate that the 2018 elections will see them regaining control of the State Senate in light of what is happening in Washington D.C.
- Expectations of bi-partisan support for initiatives are very low. Many are blaming this on the Governor's Special Session. While Democrats supported the effort, the Republicans have spoken against it which allowed for lines to be clearly drawn.

Budget Information

- The Governor's proposed budget includes some significant changes in the General Fund from expected FY 2017-18 appropriations:
 - Department of Corrections: \$57.8 M (+7.5 %)
 - K-12 Education/Department of Education: \$84.6 M (+2.1%)
 - Higher Education: \$86.9 M (+9.7%)
 - Health Care Policy and Financing: \$98.2 M (+3.5%)
 - Department of Human Services: \$60.2 M (+6.9%)
 - Restoration and Addition to the General Fund Reserve: \$154.6 million
- The reserve increase includes restoring an estimated \$77.2 million reserve shortfall that carried over from FY 2017-18. The request also includes resources for increasing compensation for State employees, which amount to \$94.7 million total funds, \$48.8 million General Fund. These expenses are accounted for within each department's total increase.
- Concern was raised that not enough money is being allocated towards roads. The Governor's response was that roads are already funded. Transit, in general was not part of this conversation.
- PERA funding is a hot conversation in light of the Governor's plan. Senator Jake Tate support of PERA funding has raised the question of whether the lobbyists who voiced support for the Senator after sexual harassment allegations were made are supporting him or PERA.

- The compromise to keep hospital provider fees outside of TABOR limits as outlined in Senate Bill 17-267 also includes a 2% cut to State departments.
- Colorado's Children's Health Program (CHIP) will lose a significant amount of funding if the Federal Government decides to discontinue support.
- There will be many new members on the Joint Budget Committee (JBC) after the 2018 elections due to the number of members who are term limited. Expect meetings this year to be full due invited guest legislators attend and ask questions as they prepare for possible future membership.

Election 2018

- Governor's race – the prediction is that the race will, ultimately, be between Tom Tancredo (R) and Jared Polis (D). Attorney General Cynthia Coffman (R) has also joined the race, however, there has not been a visible swell of support.
- Representative Clarice Navarro (R) who has represented House District 47, has resigned her position to become the Colorado Farm Service Agency's state executive director for the Trump Administration. She is being replaced by Judy Reyher, from Swink. Reyher has already come under fire for posts criticizing African Americans, Muslims, and others.
- During the 2017 elections, the City of Aurora seated three Democrats in the City Council. One representative is Crystal Murillo who is the youngest council member (23 years old) and the daughter of Mexican immigrants.
- The rumor that Hickenlooper will run against Gardner for US Senate is still in place.
- Members of Governor Hickenlooper's Cabinet are leaving. Lieutenant Governor Donna Lynne may have the opportunity to pick the next executive directors. Both Senator Irene Aguilar and Representative Millie Hamner are being considered. If Representative Hamner is selected, she would leave the JBC.
- The sign posted by ink! Coffee about gentrifying the neighborhood is causing problems for the Denver Mayor Michael Hancock. The gentrification of the five-point area is mostly driven by the strong economy and housing prices.

2018 Legislative Agenda

- The CAL lobbyists recommended that CAL not actively pursue a funding increase at this time. Instead, they will assess this situation and return with a recommendation on best actions.
- The Committee discussed the history of the State Grants. Committee members were reminded that the motivation to restore funding was based on legislative interests on early childhood education. The focus on providing circulating materials was to support the fact that the funds are for direct service to the public.

Informing Decision-Makers About the Role of Libraries and Library Staff

- For Library People to talk to those lining-up to be on JBC, wait and see until have more clarity about who is most likely to move to this role.
- Jacqueline is creating a document outlining what libraries are doing in their communities.
- Lobbyist Amber Valdez is working the Representative Leslie Herod's staff to set a date to present the CAL Legislator of the Year award.

State Lobby Day – March 27, 2018

- The Lobby Day team membership includes Brittany Raines and Aspen Walker. A chair is needed. The Co-chairs will ask Joanna Powell and Andrea Reveley.
- Gene confirmed that the State Library can, again, provide a map showing the grant distribution. The document will also have space to highlight what libraries are doing to connect with their communities.
- Jacqueline Murphy will talk with Trustees about being involved.
- Dianne Lapierre will contact David Bondarchuck to ask him to save the date for Lobby Day.
- Planning for 2019 - Douglas County Libraries will be training volunteers to serve as advocates. The 2019 Lobby Day would be a good opportunity for these volunteers to take action. Aspen will also about possible involvement in this year's event.

NATIONAL LEGISLATION

- National Tax Cut – If approved, the tax cut will, ultimately increase costs for the poor and middle class and provide savings for the rich and large corporations.
- The FCC is planning to repeal Net Neutrality rules. If individuals want to take action, they must ask their representatives to contact the FCC as feedback is through any elected official. There have been allegations of cover-ups or false reports which are being investigated. Internet providers such as Comcast have already quietly changed their policies to remove net neutrality.
- There is the possibility of a Federal Government Shutdown on December 8, 2017. If it occurs, it will not impact federal funding.
- The 2018 National Library Lobby Day event will be held on May 7th through 8th. The first day focuses on informing delegates on the issues and the second day focuses on meeting with legislators and/or their aides.

PAC Fundraising Report

The fundraising effort at the 2017 CALCON was very successful. In addition, more donations have been made since the conference. The PAC will pay for the State Lobby Day caterer in addition to a donation to Representative Leslie Herod. Aspen Walker, Ray Coffey, and Jacqueline Murphy will meet to discuss more fundraising opportunities.

Assignments follow-up and next steps

Who	Action
Jerry Braden Amber Valdez, & Ruben Valdez	Town Hall Meetings throughout the state
Task Force Needed	Develop Fundraising Plan for Legislative Committee Team looking at fundraising.
Collaboration with PAC Needed	Develop Fundraising Plan for PAC
Volunteers	Lobby Day Planning

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

NEXT MEETING Jan. 5, 2018 – just before the weekend of fundraising parties

For Remote Access use the following link:

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: <https://zoom.us/j/986432704>