

Colorado Association of Libraries, Legislative Committee Minutes
Friday, Feb 2, 2018 at 10:00 am
Commissioner's Room, Denver Public Library

Call to Order

ATTENDING: Jerry Braden, Ray Coffey, Jim Duncan (online), Brittni Ehrhart, Eugene Hainer, Megan Hartline, Diane Lapiere (online), Erica Martinez, Lauren Seegmiller, Jacqueline Murphy, Pam Nissler, Ellen Patterson, Brittany Raines, Elena Rosenfeld, David Sanger, Mollie Steinemann, Stephen Sweeney (online), Amber Valdez, Ruben Valdez, Aspen Walker, John Wilkinson

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES: January minutes were accepted as corrected.

Report from CAL Board:

The CAL Board is meeting today. The 2018 Board members are attending a morning training which will be followed by a regular meeting scheduled to begin at 2:00 p.m.

Calendar of Activity updates for 2018

Event Date	Event Name	Details
January	Convening Day of Legislative Session	Wednesday, January 10, 2018
February	CALCON program proposal deadline	February 15, 2018
March	Lobby Day	March 27, 2018
April	County Assemblies	Date varies
May	National Library Legislative Day	May 7-8, 2018 – John Wilkinson is coordinating
May	Legislature Adjourns	May 9, 2018
June	Colorado Primaries	Tuesday, June 26, 2018
July – September	Legislative Committee Meeting Hiatus	A meeting can be called if needed
September	CALCON	September 13-15, 2018
November	Submit committee budget request	Usually a zero budget for regular work and requests to support National Library Legislative Day
December	Final Report to CAL Board/Membership	

REPORTS:

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

Legislative Committee Award Presentation

The CAL Award will be presented to Representative Leslie Herod on Saturday February 3, 2018 at 1:30 p.m. as part of Juanita Gray Community Service Award and biennial Blacks in Colorado Hall of Fame induction ceremony. The event is being held at the Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library. Robin Filipczak and Amanda Rewerts have coordinated efforts. Denver Public Library's Commissioner Rosemary Marshall will present the award to Representative Herod.

Legislative Session Update

- Much of this Legislative Session will be spent on legislators positioning themselves for the November elections. Expect many bills to be introduced to show that the legislator is attempting to support an issue even as the bill is likely to fail.
- Representative Susan Beckman has not put forward a bill that would impact libraries or the Colorado Library Consortium (CLiC). Options she may pursue include getting permission to introduce a late bill, asking contacts in the Senate to take action, or adding an amendment to other legislation. The CAL Lobbyists will continue watch for possible action.
- Six bills have been introduced to address the opioid problems in Colorado. Funding any efforts will be one of the top concerns.
- The future of Public Employees' Retirement Association (PERA) will likely be a hot issue this year. However, since no bills were introduced, it is unclear what will happen. PERA is in a better position due to the stock market being strong. Expect to hear about some form of compromise as the conversation moves forward.
- Sexual harassment issues continue at the State Capitol. Representative Steve Lebsock, who was accused by Representative Faith Winters of sexual harassment has refused to step down from his position despite encouragement from members of the Democratic party. It is expected that the House will have the 2/3 majority to require his removal if the 3rd party organization reviewing the accusations recommend that action. Meanwhile, his committee has refused to move his bill forward for consideration. An accusation against Senator Randy Baumgardner have been found credible. It is likely that an Ethics Committee will be moved forward in March of this year.

Meanwhile, a required sexual harassment training was held at the Capitol. Most decided not to attend.

Bills

- HB 18-1013 The Colorado Nonprofit Sustainability Act, sponsored by Representative Alec Garnett and Senator Kevin Priola creates a tax credit for those who donate to nonprofit endowments, has passed the Finance Committee. Al Garnett says it will stay in Finance for a while. Speaker not sure if she wants to move it forward. IT will be a fight.
- HB 18-1067 Right to Rest Act, sponsored by Representative Joe Salazar was reintroduced after it failed in 2017. It currently looks like Representative Salazar doesn't have enough support to get the bill out of the Local Government Committee.
- SB 18-001 Transportation Infrastructure Funding, sponsored by Senator Randy Baumgardner, Senator John Cook, and Representative Perry Buck. The bill has been introduced in the Senate Committee on Transportation and referred to Finance. It is anticipated that if the bill gets through the Senate, it will not pass the House. While Representative Faith Winters has suggested referring the question to the people, it doesn't seem likely that it will be added to the ballot. Polling shows that people won't support gas increase but will approve a sales tax increase for roads.
- SB 18-88 Taxation of Retail marijuana Sales, sponsored by Senator Bob Gardner and Representative KC Becker. This Bill generates marijuana funds for special district funding. The Bill has passed the Senate and has gone to the House for review. It's speculated that this same bill failed during the Special Session as punishment for passing SB 17-267 which supported hospital provider fees.

Budget Information

- Governor is asking that some of the funds from the \$256 million general fund revenues go to transportation. There is a possibility of the legislature finding a level of compromise to take that action.
- Many are awaiting the March report from Legislative Finance and the OSBP. Often their reports align although there have been times this has not been the case. The March report is a high priority this year. The current projections are looking positive with \$179 million more than projected.
- The Republicans on the JBC want to defer funding new efforts until there is enough for transportation so action will likely await the March projections. The Republican preference is to take \$300 million from the current budget and allocate those dollars for Transportation.

Upcoming Elections

It's expected that this year's elections will have the most dollars spent than all previous elections. Money is being raised by the individual and national fundraising efforts. This election will also have a significant impact on the leadership of both parties as all of the current leadership is term limited.

- The Joint Budget Committee (JBC) will be losing four of their six members due to term limits. Both Senator Dominick Moreno and Representative Bob Rankin will stay for another term.
- Representative Faith Winter will run for Senator Beth Martinez Humenik's seat. It's expected to be an expensive fight. It's likely that Representative Winter will focus on her stance on transit.
- Former Congressman Tom Tancredo has withdrawn from the Colorado Governor race.

2018 Legislative Agenda

- The CAL Lobbyists are quietly sounding out the possibility of increasing the funding for State Grants to Publicly Funded Libraries.
- There is a separate line item to support resources for the blind that will receive a funding increase.

Informing Library Community of the Role of our Lobbyists and the Legislative Committee

Ideas shared via email were briefly discussed at the Legislative Committee Meeting.

- Diane Lapierre is submitting a CAL program proposal.
- Ideas for how to provide advocacy training at local libraries throughout the state was strongly supported. A challenge is how to fund travel for those providing that training.

More ideas and discussion are pending.

State Lobby Day – March 27, 2018

- The Committee is pleased to report that a number of people are willing to help make Lobby Day 2018 a success. This year we have three co-chairs: Brittni Ehrhart, Erica Martinez, and Lauren Seegmiller.
- They will be working with fourteen volunteers to get the event organized. Their current intention is to provide interactive activities ranging from a board to post why people love their libraries to a craft-making or "maker tools in action" table. Other thoughts and ideas include:
 - Using libnet to get some statements on how libraries use grant funds to make a difference;
 - Hands-on of idea labs such as making puzzles;
 - Showing products;

- Posting a large sign saying THANK YOU LEGISLATORS FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF LIBRARIES;
- Sharing stories or doing things that demonstrate how libraries connect with workforce, resume assistance, etc. For example, one library is working with members of their homeless population to create crafts from bore beetle wood to sell.
- The Committee was asked to alert participants that parking is increasingly limited and expensive. Also, security is tighter so timing needs to be considered.

LEGISLATIVE WEBPAGE

There was a brief discussion about the Legislative Committee's section of the CAL Website. A committee is now looking at updating the website software and adding more administrators to better manage updates in a timely manner.

NATIONAL LEGISLATION

- The American Library Association (ALA) Midwinter Meetings are being held in Denver February 8-13, 2018. It was recommended that the Legislative Committee suggests to ALA that they should alert attendees about legal use of marijuana, highlighting facts such as smoking marijuana in public spaces and hotel rooms is not legal and reminding attendees that they cannot legally transport marijuana across state lines.
- John Wilkinson is starting the conversations about top issues to cover at National Library Legislative Day. He shared ALA's list of top issues on the Legislative Committee email list. Top issues in 2018 include Every Student Succeeds, Cyber-security, copyright issues, and Internet neutrality. It was noted that States are now starting to create their own laws regarding Internet neutrality.,
- Grant funds tied to the Library Service and Technology Act (LSTA) and Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL) have not been approved as the Senate and House still need to reconcile their differing versions of the Federal spending budget for 2018. Once the budget has been set and approved, work will then start on gathering support for the grants in 2019.
As done in 2017, we will again be asking our legislators to sign *Dear Appropriator* letters.
- Participating in local conversations with our Federal legislators is a strong way to connect without travelling long distances. Jefferson County Public Library held a brown bag lunch with their legislators. Attendees were reminded that many libraries host successful town hall meetings in their library locations.

COLORADO LIBRARIES POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE is a completely separate organization than CAL that helps support our efforts. 2017 was a good year for the PAC. Both Ray Coffey and Brittany Raines are working with Aspen Walker as of 2018. Aspen shared that, due to the election cycle, the reporting schedule is very tight.

Those interested in sending a check to the PAC can either hand it to Dave Sanger or Aspen Walker during the Legislative Committee meeting or mail it to:

PAC FUNDRAISING –
Colorado Library Political Committee
P.O. Box 48032
Denver, Colorado 80204

Assignments follow-up and next steps

Who	Action
Jerry Braden Amber Valdez, & Ruben Valdez	Town Hall Meetings throughout the state
Funding for Legislative Committee Task Force	
PAC Fundraising Plan Team	Ray Coffey, Diane Lapierre, Aspen Walker
Volunteers	Lobby Day Planning

ASPEN Institute

NEXT MEETING March 2, 2018

For Remote Access use the following link:

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