

**Colorado Association of Libraries, Legislative Committee Minutes  
Friday, Jan 5, 2018 at 10:00 am  
Commissioner's Room, Denver Public Library**

**Call to Order**

**ATTENDING:** Jerry Braden, Ray Coffey, Jim Duncan (online), Robin Filipczak, Eugene Hainer, Megan Hartline, Diane Lapierre, Jacqueline Murphy, Brittany Raines, Elena Rosenfeld, Dave Sanger, Amber Valdez, Ruben Valdez, Shelley Walchak (online), John Wilkinson, Rebecca Winning (online)

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:** December minutes were accepted as presented

**Report from CAL Board:**

- The Board was made aware of what is happening with EBSCO. There is no call for action at this time.
- Intellectual Freedom Committee Chair, Jay Ballenberger, Colorado Mesa University, is working to reinstate CAL as an active member of the Colorado Freedom of Information Coalition (<http://coloradofaic.org>).
- CAL's 2018 budget is looking very tight. While there was intent to use some of the CAL Reserves Funds, it looks like the amount needed is double the amount anticipated.
- The CAL Board asked that the Legislative Committee heighten our visibility and value to the Membership – especially the support we receive thanks to our lobbyists. Suggestions shared included ways to give our lobbyists a larger 'face presence' through an introduction during Lobby Day and/or a video update on the legislative session from our lobbyists that can be posted.
- Braden and Valdez have agreed to continue their services with CAL. Carol Smith, the new CAL President has signed the 2018 contract and has forwarded it for their signatures.

**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, Amber Valdez, Ruben Valdez]

**Legislative Committee Award Presentation**

The CAL Award will be presented to Representative Leslie Herod on Saturday February 3, 2018 at 1:30p as part of the 2018 - 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 will work with Amanda Rewerts to get the award to present to Representative Herod.

**Expectations of this Legislative Session**

- Be ready for a session that is going to be very partisan. Politics will be impacted by the hard feelings over the October Special Session and the focus on the upcoming November elections.
- The State will be looking at ways to resolve the statewide teacher shortage. Colorado is now 49<sup>th</sup> in the nation when it comes to teacher wage competitiveness. Pay is so low that housing and transportation are unaffordable. Colorado's Amendment 23 which was passed in 2000 to refund schools stipulated that K-12 funding to be "cost of living" plus 1%. However, the economic downturn in 2009 led to the legislature's creation of a "negative factor" work-around which lowered the budget increases and allowed Colorado to further lag in educational support when compared to other states.
- The Legislature will be focusing on opioid overdose issues. There are already six bills put forward however all need funding. It is likely that the bills will either be killed in Appropriations or left unfunded. Part of the pressure is due to the decrease in Federal Funding despite Federal recognition of the opioid crisis. The undetermined status of Federal support of Medicaid will also impact what happens this year.

- The CAL Lobbyists will alert others in the Capitol about Representative Susan Beckman's support of removing EBSCO database services from libraries.
- Expect to see more actions connected to broadband service this session.
- There will likely be discussion about the impact of U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions' rescinding of a more lenient stance on marijuana. At this time, Colorado's Attorney General and Governor Hickenlooper agree that there are no plans to change current processes.
- The Federal Communications Commission's (FCC's) repeal of Net Neutrality Rules may lead House Democrats to propose a bill for net neutrality within the State. Republicans have already promised to kill it.

### **Budget Information**

The Governor's Office of State Planning and Budgeting (OSPB) has reported greater than forecasted revenues. This will increase the General Fund to support the top priorities of Transportation, K-12 Education, and rebuilding reserves. Details about the impact of TABOR limits are yet to be determined. The official report will be released on March 20, 2018, one-week before Long Bill.

The 2017 deal that kept Hospital Provider Fees separate from the General Fund should allow the State to keep revenues growing for two years before TABOR limits are reached.

### **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.

- Both National politics and the ability of unaffiliated voters participating in primary elections will impact the 2018 election cycle. The CAL lobbyists speculate that it is unlikely that House will change leadership; however, there might be a change in the Senate.
- Colorado seems to be part of a National trend of legislators choosing to leave their party and participate as unaffiliated. Senator Cheri Jahn from Jefferson County has left the Democratic Party to continue her tenure as an unaffiliated legislator. While this might be a decision based on the increasing popularity of being unaffiliated, her decision means that she won't get a seat from the Governor, will no longer be invited to go to caucus, and will need to leave the Legislative Audit Committee which must have an equal number of Republican and Democratic members.
- Democrat Faith Winter will be running against incumbent Senator Beth Martinez Humenik (R).
- Former Representative Tom Tancredo's campaign has raised a lot of money. The rumor is that White House chief strategist, Steve Bannon, is connected with his campaign.

### **2018 Legislative Agenda**

The Lobbyists will quietly sound out the possibility of increasing the funds to meet our \$1 per person goal. They will also highlight how libraries support education, literacy, career growth, and workforce development in addition to providing materials and broadband access. They should be able to determine if there is enough support to try for another half-million-dollar increase.

Representative Bob Rankin, who is on the Joint Budget Committee, is husband to Joyce Rankin, a member of the Colorado Board of Education who participated in the Aspen Institute dialogs. As Joyce Rankin is still asking Gene Hainer questions about Colorado libraries, this might impact Representative Rankin's level of support.

Jacqueline Murphy is working on the report of the Aspen Institute convening and will give copies of the finished report to the lobbyists who can get the document into the legislators' mailboxes.

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

The Legislative Committee was challenged to make the committee's work and our lobbyists more visible to the library community. The goal is to heighten how Membership dollars help support hiring our lobbyists and the results of our work. Ideas considered include:

- A formal introduction to volunteers before the start of the Lobby Day;
- Our Lobbyists creating a video update about the legislative session;
- Holding a session on top issues impacting libraries at CALCON;
  - Diane Lapierre is willing to move this forward.
- Holding a session about how to host successful Town Hall Meetings at CALCON;
  - Start with a survey to ask libraries about their participation and success.

Elena Rosenfeld will post this question to the Legislative Committee email list to gather more ideas.

### **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. Those who will help include: Elizabeth Kelsen Huber who will provide a consulting level of support for the lead person, Joanna Powell, Brittany Raines, Andrea Reveley, and Aspen Walker.

- Elena Rosenfeld and Dave Sanger are continuing to look for a new lead person.
- Diane Lapierre contacted David Bondarchuck. He confirmed that he will continue the tradition of having Scratch Catering participate in the event.
- The State Library will provide:
  - A map showing the distribution of grant dollars that also contains highlights of what libraries are doing to connect with their communities.
- Jacqueline Murphy will talk with Trustees about being involved.
- Elena Rosenfeld will send the lobbyists wording for the 2018 proclamation.
- Aspen Walker shared that Douglas County Libraries is in the process of training volunteers to serve as advocates. Lobby Day 2019 would be a good opportunity for these volunteers to take action.

**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 confirm that ALA shares information about the legal use of marijuana – which includes the fact that it is not legal to smoke it in public spaces, nor hotel rooms, nor that it is legal to transport marijuana across state lines.
- John Wilkinson is starting the conversations about top issues to cover at National Library Legislative Day in May. He shared ALA’s list of top issues on the Legislative Committee email list.
- 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 through asking our legislators to sign *Dear Appropriator* letters.

**PAC FUNDRAISING** – no report

Dave Sanger will send the PAC’s PO Box information to the email list.  
 Colorado Library Political Committee  
 P.O. Box 48032  
 Denver, Colorado 80204

**Assignments follow-up and next steps**

<b>Who</b>	<b>Action</b>
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

**NEXT MEETING Feb. 2, 2018**

For Remote Access use the following link:  
 Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: <https://zoom.us/j/986432704>