

## Library Issues Committee

### Membership:

A committee of six members representing different types of libraries and three ex officio members including the ALA Counselor, Federal Relations Coordinator, and a representative from the State Library who will coordinate the Library Legislative Day activities in Pierre. Members should come from academic, school, and public libraries as well as rural and urban areas. Note that employees of the State Library, other than ex officio members should not participate on this committee due to conflict of interest issues. The terms of the committee members are staggered. The purpose of the LI committee is to inform the membership of issues that affect the status of libraries and librarians and to lead effort at advocacy for libraries and librarians. This includes keeping current on legislative matters.

### Function:

- Determine objectives for the upcoming Legislative Session and expand upon those ideas to establish bills for proposal by SDLA.
- Continue to maintain SDLA's presence & visibility with Legislators
- Plan for Library Legislative Day (usually in mid-February)

### Duties:

1. Has primary responsibility for examining pending state and national legislation, studying concerns or new issues that could result in the formulation of new legislation for library betterment, and informing SDLA members of these concerns and legislation and of recommended action.
2. Assists the Executive Board in formulating positions that are not legislative, but which express the ideals and concerns of the Association.
3. Advocates for South Dakota libraries and librarians and works with the association's lobbyists to promote proposed legislation.
4. Develops the association's annual legislative agenda with input from the general membership and presents it to the Executive Board for approval.
5. Organizes the South Dakota Library Legislative Day.
6. Develops a network of legislative contacts among the membership in order to promote library issues.
7. The Federal Relations Coordinator is held by the State Librarian who will monitor federal library and related legislation. The Coordinator exchanges information with the ALA Councilor. Together with the committee, they will inform the membership of federal issues.
8. Assists in the development and presentation to the Executive Board of proposed changes in the *Bylaws* and *Procedural Manual*.

### Procedures:

1. The Committee shall use any appropriate means to keep the membership informed of the Association's concerns affecting the status of libraries and librarians. These means may include research, meetings, preparation of recommendations to the Executive Board, articles in *Book Marks*, e-mails to the SDLA list, or direct mailings approved by the President, or activation of the phone tree if approved by the President.
2. The Committee shall gather input from the membership for items of concern on items that could be given Committee attention.

3. The Committee analyzes issues and the Chair presents to the Executive Board official position statements or appeals for legislative action. The Executive Board shall decide whether the membership as a whole should be notified prior to acting.
4. If new legislation is recommended and approved by the Executive Board, the Committee shall be responsible for bill preparation, sponsor selection, promotion and related matters, at all times coordinating efforts with the association lobbyists, appropriate Association officers and the State Librarian, if appropriate.
5. The Committee Chair and the President shall have authority to develop legislative strategy decisions in those instances when time does not allow for the delays that would result from consultation with the Executive Board as long as such decisions are consistent with positions taken by the Association or with the primary objectives of the Association.
6. Coordinate communication with all South Dakota legislators for invitations to Library Legislative Day and for any positions the association takes regarding upcoming legislation.
  - a. Committee members should make sure each legislator is communicated with. Members should also be encouraged to communicate with their legislators.
  - b. The ex officio members of the committee should not be included in those contacting legislators.
7. Present reports at Executive Board meetings when requested to do so by the President.
8. The committee's annual report may include recommendations for constitutional revision.

(June 2006)

(Revised December, 2011)

(Revised July, 2020)