

Report to the Kentucky Library Association Board
President
June 4, 2011
Louisville, Kentucky

Meetings

I attended the 2011 KPLA/KLTRT Conference, April 11-13, in Lexington, KY. I also attended the 2011 KLA Academic and Special Library Sections, and Special Libraries Association Kentucky Chapter Conference, April 13-15, in Prestonsburg, KY. Both conferences were informative and motivating. The conference planning chairs and their committees did an excellent job organizing the conferences and bring in great speakers and presentations.

I attended the American Library Association's National Library Legislative Day with a Kentucky contingent May 8-11, 2011 in Washington, D.C. to advocate for our libraries. We met with Senator Rand Paul, Congressman Brett Guthrie, and the staff of our other representatives. Congressman Geoff Davis' congressional aid gave us a tour of the chambers of the House Ways and Means Committee. Debbe Oberhausen, Chair, Library Awareness Committee sent a report out via email to the KLA listserv. Please find a copy attached to this report. I want to thank Debbe, Wayne Onkst, and Lori Harlan for all their hard work to make this trip a success and also my fellow delegates for attending NLLD.

In June I will be attending the Special Library Association 2011 Annual Conference in Philadelphia, PA. I will also be attending, with Terry Buckner, President-Elect, the 2011 American Library Association Annual Conference in New Orleans, LA. We will be attending the Chapter Relations Committee meetings and will be recognized at the ALA Council I meeting. We will also be soliciting prospective vendors for the fall conference in the exhibit hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

Leoma Dunn
President
Kentucky Library Association

Debra Oberhausen, Chair, Library Awareness Report to the KLA listserv May 17, 2011

Those of us that attended ALA National Library Legislative Day 2011 wanted to share our experience with you.

After attending briefings held on May 9 by the ALA Washington Office and receiving packets of information to share with our representatives, we set out on Tuesday May 10 to meet with our Senators and Representatives.

We crafted our message to acknowledge the hard economic times we were experiencing, but how important it is to protect funding for libraries. We gave them specific examples of how the Library Services and Technology Act funds are used in Kentucky. We stressed the work of libraries serving the unemployed and providing children with summer reading programs. We underscored the importance of the Kentucky Virtual Library to all Kentuckians, whether served by a school, public or university library. Congressman Yarmuth signed onto the LSTA funding request letter.

The delegates also emphasized the need to keep school libraries and school librarians included in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and the LEARN Act. They were informed of the positive role school librarians play in collaborating with teachers and providing students with research skills that translate into higher test scores. Congressman Yarmuth signed onto the Literacy through School Libraries request letter.

We communicated how the bureaucracy involved in obtaining E-Rate fund is overwhelming for many of the small libraries in Kentucky. They were asked to look into how the application process could be streamlined so these counties could fully participate. E-Rate funds are typically unknowns to our federal legislators as they are not being allocated from the federal budget. That aspect of e-rate particularly resonated with Senator Paul but it's also important that Rep. Guthrie is on the Telecommunications Committee that oversees the FCC that controls E-Rate.

Finally we spoke about the need to support the reforms to the USA PATRIOT Act, protecting our civil liberties, while also meeting the needs of law enforcement and intelligence agencies. We asked them to assure accountability and transparency, including additional judicial oversight for use of surveillance tools, when they implicate reader privacy. Again this issue particularly resonated with Senator Paul.

All of the delegation was pleased with the attention that each office gave us and were impressed by the congressional aides knowledge of the issues we were bringing to their attention. A highlight of our trip was a tour, given by an aide of Representative Davis, of the chambers of the House Ways and Means Committee.