

NDLA Legislative Committee Report-18
Charles Pace
September 7, 2005

The legislative committee met via conference call on Tuesday, July 19. Members in attendance were Lillian Crook, Pamela Drayson, Doris Ott, and Charles Pace. The committee discussed various needs and objectives for libraries and library workers in the state and how those needs might be addressed in the 2007 State Legislature. The committee divided the general list of issues discussed into those that we felt could be best addressed by NDLA and those which would require a legislative solution. Issues identified as being primarily the responsibility of NDLA included the following:

1. Recruiting/training people for the profession (perhaps funded by the legislature as part of an optional budget appropriation).
2. Promotion of libraries and librarians
3. Using libraries as a tool for economic development
4. Increasing staff development opportunities
5. Developing a consensus among librarians and library workers regarding the need for specific legislation
6. NDLA's legislative platform-based on resolutions voted on at the 2006 NDLA conference
7. Creation of a statewide "training team" for online catalog and online resources (again funded by a supplemental budget appropriation)
8. Provide a list of issues that should be on the agenda for the Coordinating Council's focus groups (January 2006)
9. ALA's involvement in state issues

Issues primarily to be addressed legislatively:

1. Increased budgetary support for libraries in the state, targeted supplemental budget in cooperation with the State Library Coordinating Council
2. Information from the library community on issues that are to be included in the State Library's budget-State Aid, Online Resources, Library Vision 2010, etc. Include reasons in support of budget requests.
3. Preservation of digital state documents.

In addition to these topics we also discussed a variety of methods for promoting libraries and looked at some other state library association websites to see what sort of programs they offer. A meeting scheduled for August 29 was cancelled due to scheduling conflicts. The committee plans on meeting again during the NDLA conference to further discuss and refine objectives for the upcoming year.