

NDLA Legislative Annual Report #18

Kelly Steckler, Legislative Chair

- ✚ Held a legislative session at annual conference in Sept.
- ✚ NDLA wrote resolutions addressing legislative needs
- ✚ Organized legislative committee to strategize for session
- ✚ Hosted meetings with Lobbyist Ilene Larson, State Librarian Doris Ott, and NDLA members
- ✚ Received email lists from NDLA members regarding their agreed-upon sponsors
- ✚ Wrote and posted suggested wording for NDLA members to contact legislators
- ✚ Spoke to local issues committee of the Bismarck-Mandan Chamber regarding NDLA legislative needs
- ✚ Compiled list of sponsors for bills
- ✚ Wrote to local legislators, called, and obtained sponsors
- ✚ Worked with NDLA Executive Secretary to coordinate and staff a booth on February 15, 2007, promoting ND libraries
- ✚ Tracked bills via website, lobbyist, and committee
- ✚ Organized NDLA members to testify at hearings
- ✚ Provided necessary testimony for legislative bills
- ✚ Maintained continuous communication with legislators regarding bills – email, postal mail, and phone calls
- ✚ The 2007 Legislative Session completed the business of the State and adjourned on April 25, 2007

✚ Legislative committee:

Kelly Steckler	Mandan-Legislative Chair
Ilene Larson	NDLA lobbyist
Doris Ott	State Librarian
Cindy Larson	NDSL
Agnes Jensen	Stutsman Co.
Amy Bryn	Rugby
Arlene Ott	Hatton
Beth Postema	Fargo
Bonnie Krenz	Cooperstown
Bonnie MacIver	Leach
Charlene Weis	Bismarck
Cheryl Tollefson	Dickinson
Colleen Wiest	Beulah
Daphne Drewello	Jamestown
Donna James	Valley City
Gary Littlefields	Grafton
Iris Swedlund	Velva
Jeanne Narum	Minot
Jerry Kaup	Minot
Jim Chattin	Devils Lake
Kirsten Baesler	Mandan
Loreta Gilbert	Underwood
Mark Holman	Fort Yates
Marlene Anderson	Bismarck
Miriam Arves	West Fargo
Phyllis Bratton	Jamestown
Roberta Steckler	Riverdale
Tom Jones	Bismarck
Val Albrecht	Hazen

There were four pieces of legislation tracked during session:

1. Public libraries obtained sponsors to support a bill, which would change the maintenance of effort part of the State Aid law, making almost all of the public libraries eligible again for State Aid. A resolution drafted at the North Dakota Library Association (NDLA) conference addressed this:

WHEREAS, ND public libraries serve local citizens throughout the state;

WHEREAS, public library State Aid dollars are an essential part of the financial support of local library budgets;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that NDLA strongly support legislation to reinstate an equitable State Aid formula, worded correctly to distribute state dollars in accordance with the original intent of the legislation.

Outcome: HB 1103 State Aid maintenance of effort

Public libraries' maintenance of local effort in order to receive state aid, was passed by the House and the Senate, and signed by Governor Hoeven.

2. Another NDLA resolution addressed the support necessary for an additional \$200,000 in the budget for State Aid. This request was separate from the maintenance of local effort and was an additional request within the State's supplemental budget.

WHEREAS, total ND public library support in all locales is below the national average of more than \$30 per capita;

WHEREAS, ND public libraries serve a greater majority of local citizens than most other publicly funded institutions;

WHEREAS, ND public libraries fill an important role in encouraging and sustaining livable and appealing local communities;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that the legislative Assembly urges the Governor of ND to include the supplemental appropriation of an additional \$200,000 for State Aid to public libraries in the 2007-09 biennial budget.

Outcome: SB 2013 NDSL budget

The State Library presented its 2007-2009 Budget to the Senate Appropriations Committee on Thursday, January 18, 2007. The base budget includes funding for the Online Library Resources that received funding last session, Library Vision 2010 grant funds, training, interlibrary loan and reference services, technical assistance, MINITEX contract, statewide cataloging services, services to persons with disabilities, and State Document Depository Program; the optional budget includes an additional \$200,000 for state aid and an additional FTE to provide training on the Online Library Resources. The BILL was passed by the House and Senate, and will be signed by Governor Hoeven.

3. A third NDLA resolution was drafted relating to retroactive funding of State Aid for those libraries that did not qualify for funds in 2006. Sponsors were obtained for this piece of legislation also.

WHEREAS, public library State Aid support is very important to the operation of local libraries;

WHEREAS, a reinterpretation of the State Statute by the Attorney General has resulted in the loss of State Aid support this past year for many previously qualified public libraries;

WHEREAS, a special legislative bill is being drafted to provide retroactive funding for local libraries which lost State Aid dollars;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that NDLA support this legislative bill to provide retroactive funding and urge passage by the 2007-09 Legislative Assembly.

Outcome: HB 1309 State Aid retroactive funding

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for libraries that did not receive certain state aid payments. The BILL was amended on March 23, 2007, passed both the House and Senate as amended, and signed by Governor Hoeven.

4. Statistics

Outcome: SB 2061 Statistics

Duties of the State Librarian to compile statistics on public libraries, was passed by the Senate and the House, and signed by Governor Hoeven.