

August 7, 2017

Legislative Committee Report to the WLA Executive Board

This has been a year of changes for the Legislative Committee. Lori Phillips stepped down as the Chair of the committee in early January. Cameron Duff was appointed to the committee and took over the responsibilities as the Chair. An RFP was issued in 2016 seeking a new Lobbyist to take over the position held by Marian Orr. The WLA Executive Board hired Susan Stubson and Mary Lynne Shickich to take over that roll. They quickly were brought up to speed on their responsibilities heading into the January Legislative session.

On January 19, 2017, the committee assisted with the Legislative Reception held at the Wyoming State Library, which went well considering how many new elected officials were in Cheyenne. The next day, the committee met to discuss the current Legislative Session and Federal funding for Libraries. A recommendation was put forth to the Executive Board to send someone from the Legislative Committee to the National Library Legislative Day activities in Washington DC held in early May 2017.

Regular updates from the Legislative Session were emailed to the WLA membership with questions and comments sent back from the members. One major concern from the membership was IMLS and LSTA funding for the current and future years. Librarians from across the state wrote personal letters to our Federal elected officials, which were hand delivered to our elected delegation during face-to-face meetings in DC. Those letters helped secure support for continued funding of IMLS for the current year with 2018 funding debate still in process.

Moving forward, the Legislative Committee will be meeting on August 10 with two main areas of focus: Plan of action for the library lobbyists for the upcoming 2018 legislative session; and how to approach the decline in support/funding for school libraries in Wyoming.

Respectfully submitted

Cameron K. Duff
Chair – Legislative Committee