

Chair's Report

Governor's Advisory Council on Library Development
July 23, 2019

Meeting with Secretary Rivera

On June 7, 2019, Vice Chair David Belanger, Deputy Secretary & Commissioner for Libraries Glenn Miller, and I met with PA Secretary of Education Pedro Rivera. Most of the meeting focused on Workforce Development. We informed the Secretary that:

- Libraries already provide workforce development services and partner with other community organizations that provide such services.
- Libraries particularly serve the unemployed, the underemployed, and those looking for a career change.
- Libraries need training and funding to act as referral agents and to develop classes and programs.
- Funding for POWER Library materials affects a patron's ability to forge her/his own future.

We noted that the goals of the GAC in its role as a Pennsylvania workforce development partner are to:

- Develop the capacity of libraries to serve as connectors to programs, not as service providers
- Train librarians to understand their local workforce ecosystems
- Encourage collaborative sessions with workforce development agencies on both the local and statewide levels
- Create educational modules for staff and public using online learning management systems
- Research the workforce development agencies and resources to compile a credible map to the workforce development ecosystem

We also discussed the new Guidelines for PA School Library Programs and the State Budget. We asked that Governor Wolf look at the increase in state funding and use it as a starting point for next year's budget. We also suggested that the Department of Education include libraries in grant-funded projects, especially those focused on workforce development.

Increase in Public Library Subsidy

On behalf of the GAC, I would like to express appreciation to the Pennsylvania Library Association for its work in influencing the state legislature to increase funding for public libraries. PaLA's leadership and members focused their efforts successfully this year to produce a 9.2% increase in the Public Library Subsidy – the first increase in many years.

The Compendium

The online publication of the Office of Commonwealth Libraries continues to print monthly profiles of GAC members. The most recent is of Council Member Barbara Zaborowski. Thanks

to Council Member Marsha Everton for organizing this effort and to OCL Advisor Diana Megdad for the original concept and its promotion.

October in Erie

Our next business meeting will take place in conjunction with the PaLA Conference in Erie on Sunday, October 13 at 9 AM. Council members will be recognized at the opening lunch. Watch for an email from Cindy Heasley asking about your intention to attend.