Governor's Advisory Council on Library Development
June 29, 2023: 10:00a.m.

Virtual Meeting

Minutes

GAC Members Present: David Belanger, Marsha Everton, Mary Garm, Dale Hamby, Robert Lambert (partial), Rebecca Long, Allison Mackley, Beth Mellor, Sue Werner, Barbara Zaborowski

Office of Commonwealth Libraries (OCL): Susan Banks, Deputy Secretary; Demetrice Barbour, Admin Assistant; Carrie Cleary, Executive Assistant; Sara Deegan, Library Dev. Supervisor; Amy Geisinger, Library Development Advisor; Sarah Greene, Bureau Director State Library; Corri Hines, Library Development Advisor; Julie Moore, Library Development Advisor; Stacey Mulligan, Library Development Advisor; Heather Sharpe, Bureau Director for Library Development; Heather Warren-Smith, Library Development Advisor

Guest presenters: Dr. Khalid, Mumin, Secretary of Education, Pennsylvania Department of Education

Virtual Attendees: Holly Ambrose, Melissa Adams, Cheryl Ande, Ann Andrews, Kathleen Arthur, Alexandra Barbush, Brenda Beikert, Carolyn Blatchley, Christi Buker, Jessica Buker, Brady Clemens, Brianna Crum, Maria Cuccaro, Elizabeth Davis, Andrea Dow, Brandt Ensor, Sue Erdman, Kristin Fernitz, Cathi Fuhrman, Katie Greenleaf Martin, Kate Geiger, Marissa Guidara, Erin Halovanic, Elizabeth Henry, Kimberley Hrivnak, Erin Joyce, Laura Keller, Kelli Knapp, Allison Latagliata, Michele Legate, Rob Lesher, Abbey Lukiewski, Charlyn Lyons, Tara Major, Danielle Martin, Ryan McCrory, Glenn Miller, Hannah Miller, Jessica Miller, John Miller, Richard Miller, Heather Myers, Cheryl Napsha, Jodi Oliver, Amber Osborne, Maryam Phillips, Amy Riegner, Kathee Rhode, Wendy Rote, Joseph Sherwood, Jennifer Stock, Susan Sternberg, Melinda Tanner, Karla Trout, Becky Wanamaker, Stephanie Williams, Kari Worley

1. **Welcome & Introductions**
   Call to Order & Introductions – Mary Garm, Chair. Meeting opened at 10:01a.m.
   a. GAC members in attendance were introduced.
2. **Special Guest: Dr. Khalid Mumin, Secretary of Education**
   Secretary Mumin spoke for about forty-five minutes in a talk that included personal stories alongside a vision for the education ecosystem and the library role in it. He touched on the need for increased funds for library facilities to be fully accessible, re-imagining education, collaboration with workforce development initiatives, broadband internet and digital literacy, STEM, the importance of librarians and the library role in schools. He stressed the importance of literacy and library services to all ages. Dr. Mumin answered questions from GAC members.
3. Approval of Minutes of the March meeting.
4. Chair's Report – Mary Garm
   a. Garm shared highlights from written report attached.
5. Deputy Secretary's Report – Susan Banks

a. Banks shared highlights from <mark>written report attached</mark>.
6. Bureau Reports from the Office of Commonwealth Libraries
    a. Bureau of Library Development – Heather Sharpe, Director, shared highlights from <mark>written report attached</mark>
    b. Bureau of State Library – Sarah Greene, Director shared highlights from <mark>written report attached</mark>
7. Public Comment on Agenda Items Only
    a. Kate Geiger from Indiana Free Library commented about the draft guidelines for changing a library service area. She asked for clarity of the definition of Municipality under the new guidelines that defines school districts as a municipality only for 2nd, 3rd, and 4th class counties.
    b. Susan Sternberg from Rachel Kohl Community Library asked in the chat if the draft guidelines for expanding or reducing a library service area would be discussed. Garm responded yes and said this will be addressed as part of the agenda item.
8. Committee Reports
    a. **Bylaws:** Report from Bylaws Committee – Allison Mackley, Chair <mark>(See revised bylaws attached)</mark>
    Mackley and Zaborowski had worked on bylaws which hadn't been revised since 2020. Council had a 30-day review and provided feedback. Mackley shared her screen to show a walk through of the changes which included clear definitions of types of members, terms of office, and attendance for virtual and in-person meetings. Bylaws are reviewed annually for changes every two years.
    Motion to approve Bylaws as amended with suggested changes made by D. Belanger, seconded by S. Werner passed unanimously.
    b. **Communications:** No report
    c. **Education and Advocacy - Beth Mellor**
    Mellor reported that they are working on a project for Sharpe to come up with an easily understood document/chart of what OCL does and what it doesn't do. They also produce the GAC highlights report after the meetings.
    d. **Guidelines and Policies: Library Service Areas**: - David Belanger, Chair – Please see <mark>Guidelines for Expanding or Reducing Library Service Areas attached</mark>
    David thanked all the GAC members, OCL staff who helped with all the draft and the field librarians who were part of the focus group who helped fine tune the guidelines. Belanger shared his screen and walked through the flow chart of the process. The definitions for municipality come directly from the regulations so this guideline can't impact that. Banks shared in meeting chat: Description of the different classes of School Districts:
    https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/LI/uconsCheck.cfm?txtType=HTM&yr= 1949&sessInd=0&smthLwInd=0&act=014&chpt=2
    Motion to recommend the guidelines be sent to PDE for review and approval made by R. Long seconded by D. Hamby – None opposed. Lambert was not present for the vote. Motion passed.
    e. **Planning**: No report
    f. **Ad Hoc Committee / Statute and Regulations – Mary Garm** <mark>written report attached</mark>
    The working group, composed of representation from OCL, GAC, and the library field has been moving quickly to keep this on task. PALA's Buker has hosted some community forums for library staff. Progress reports will continue to be delivered at GAC meetings. Draft writing is likely to begin in August. After writing, then there is a process of approval by PDE and the IRRC process can

begin, but there are still a lot of pieces to work on. The overall sentiment of new regulations is that they should provide clarity, but tools like guidelines and OCL policies and procedures will give the details.

9. **Community Conversation – Beth Mellor**
Mellor facilitated a brief discussion about GAC Communication methods based on a community question asked in the GAC meeting registration: "What is the best way to communicate GAC updates to you?" The largest response was e-mail followed by report out of GAC business meetings, GAC website, and GAC highlights LibGuide.

10. **Public Comment**
    a. Maria Cuccaro from Johnstown District Libraries asked many questions about the guidelines voted on earlier in the meeting. Garm suggested that the questions be put in written format and emailed to ra-stateaid@pa.gov for GAC committee review to address the stated questions and concerns as they are implemented.
    b. Maryam Phillips, Executive Director of HSLC – Please see written report attached. The five-year contract for Gale databases expires on July 31, 2023. HSLC is in the process of conducting a procurement to cover the next five years of online resources for POWER Library. HSLC has scheduled fall library trainings in October. The new e-content platform and e-resource selections will be heavily featured in the new training series.
    c. Katie Greenleaf Martin - Pennsylvania Integrated Library System (PaILS) –Please see written report attached. PaILS completed a procurement process for Evergreen hosting. PaILS hosted the user group meetings in May where libraries come together. Presentations included highlighting collections, Literacy Nation teaching the value of metadata and cataloging that reflects the diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts in libraries. PaILS has a full migration schedule for new libraries joining the consortium in 2024 and are scheduling libraries for 2025.
    d. Public Comment from Chat read aloud by Garm from Kelli Knapp: "Thank you for allowing Dr. Mumin to speak for so long. It was good to meet him!"

11. **Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 12:17pm.

Upcoming Meetings
- Sunday, October 1: PA Library Association Conference, Kalahari Resort, Poconos
- Thursday, December 7 (virtual)

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted,

Demetrice Barbour, Administrative Assistant and Carrie Cleary, Executive Assistant, Office of Commonwealth Libraries.

Governor's Advisory Council on Library Development
Chair's Report
June 29, 2023

Materials Challenges

It will not be news to anyone in this meeting that challenges to library materials continue to ramp up here in Pennsylvania. What started in school libraries has moved into public libraries, as well. While challenges to materials are nothing new, what is different today is that the challenge is not limited to the book but extends to the librarian. We used to hear: "That book does not belong in the library." Now, we hear: "You (the librarian) are grooming our children / are peddling pornography." These ad hominem confrontations are, to me, a new form of attack; it's not just about the books, it's about the library staff, our people, that are the problem. In public libraries, we're also hearing incidences of individuals pulling their financial support if the library doesn't remove the books they dislike. And, of course, in most cases, the strings are being pulled by people and organizations far from our own communities.

If you are currently facing a challenge, remember that you are not alone and that you have resources to help you – your professional organizations, your district consultants and system administrators, and your colleagues. If you haven't yet faced a challenge, now is the time to review your policies and procedures and be prepared. There is an excellent resource guide on the front page of the PSLA website or at https://www.psla.org/materials-challenge-resources. It lays out the beliefs of PaLA and PSLA regarding opposition to widespread censorship, enumerates the steps you should take if challenged, and provides additional resources from ALA and elsewhere.

GAC Business

- I plan to schedule an All-Chairs Meeting in July or August. Committee chairs will have an opportunity to discuss their work in relation to other committees and to assess how our year is going at the halfway mark.
- Our next meeting will be held in person at the PA Library Association Conference at the Kalahari Resort in the Poconos. We will convene for a planning session on Saturday, September 30 (location TBA) and will begin official business on Sunday, October 1 with a business meeting in the morning and an Open Forum in the afternoon. Meetings at the PA library conferences provide us with an opportunity to speak to and learn directly from the field. Please make every effort to attend.
- In May, the GAC Executive Committee and Sue Banks met with Acting Secretary Mumin for an introductory meeting. He spoke about the priorities of Governor Shapiro as they relate to education and about what he has learned and continues to learn about libraries.

Governor's Advisory Council Meeting
Thursday, June 29, 2023

Deputy Secretary's Report:

- **PDE** – Appointment of Secretary Mumin on 6/26. Retirement for Dr. David Volkman and Jeff Fuller. Carrie Rowe assumes Deputy Secretary for OESE, Kate Shaw in OPHE, Shante' Brown in OCDEL and Marcus Delgado in Office of Administration. Susan Banks is now the Deputy Secretary with the longest tenure in PDE 😊. Budget news for 2023-24 – no news as of 6/30.

- **COSLA Update:** 50th anniversary year for the agency – October meeting in Newport, RI will bring past Chiefs together – including (we hope) Glenn Miller and Clare Zales. Also, PA and NJ Library Development folks are hosting a shared meeting and training this fall in the Philadelphia area for the State Libraries in the Northeast (COSLINE). OCL participation in COSLA interest groups and communities of practice have contributed to improvements in Continuing Education, Futures work, EIB efforts, support in Youth Services, Data Coordination and more.

- **Broadband: Digital Literacy and Digital Equity** – Carrie Cleary is serving on the Unified Core Planning Team to assist the Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority (PBDA) to assist with review of the BEAD and DEI plans that are in development with PBDA and consultant Michael Baker International. Libraries have seen many opportunities to engage, including those mentioned in recent Compendium posts. Libraries can participate by attending or hosting community conversations, responding and sharing forward the public survey and stakeholder organization survey, and attending events such as the Internet for All: Connecting the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania workshop. Cleary continues to share information about what libraries offer and what libraries need. Libraries are one of many community anchor institutions that have a role in working towards digital equity. If your library has ideas, comments, or wants to talk about broadband projects in your community—reach out to ccleary@pa.gov.

- **Workforce Development** – Carrie Cleary and Stacey Mulligan attend the Workforce Development Interagency Meetings regularly. Libraries are encouraged to promote the statewide resources available via SkillUp™ PA. OCL Staff have volunteered to serve on various goal development workgroups for the next WIOA Combined State Plan**.** The Link career support vehicle serves Centre, Clinton, Columbia, Lycoming, Mifflin, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder and Union Counties and schedules some stops at public libraries.

- **Compendium update** - The Compendium, OCL's blog and primary communication channel to the field has undergone a redesign and is on its way to new audiences. We have been transitioning our communications from the mailing lists as the primary delivery mechanism for all news and information to promoting the Compendium as the source of searchable, topical content for libraries of all kinds.

- **Forum schedule update** – BSL has a schedule for moving with an eye to reopening the space for the public in October/November. **The Grand Reopening – State Library of Pennsylvania Homecoming on Friday and Saturday, April 26 and 27, 2024.** We will be looking for help with a planning committee for the event.

- Our **Futures Community of Practice**, is moving forward with the leadership of David Runyon from Harrisburg University Library and Carolyn Blatchley, Executive Director of the Cumberland County Library System. "Friday Futures" on the second Friday of the month from Noon-1 p.m. - a lunchtime chat for all PA Librarians who have taken the training from the Kedge Futures School – and more. We've talked about content challenges, streaming, and the future of film in libraries and begun conversation on Artificial Intelligence, Virtual and Augmented Reality.

- Work continues on the process to produce **new Regulations in Pa Code Title 22, Part IX.** The OCL team is making good progress based on the work done by previous attempts to clarify our current Statutes –

attempting to start fresh with new language, rather than trying to revise the existing regulations. Additional information on that process, which will involve discussions and feedback from the field, to come. The writing of the regulations is the responsibility of the Office of Commonwealth Libraries.

- We have welcomed **several new OCL staff members** and staff changes since the last GAC meeting:
    - In BLD: GJ Hinkley as Management Tech, Julie Moore as Continuing Education and Professional Development Coordinator, Abbey Lukiewski (Loo-KESS-key) as Statewide Services Coordinator, and Hadiyah Cleveland promoted to the position of Supervisor for the Administration and Data Team.
    - In BSL: We will be hiring a new Library Assistant for the Rare Books Library

Bureau of Library Development Report
Governor's Advisory Council Meeting
June 29, 2023

FEDERAL FUNDING/PROGRAMS

LSTA

- FY 2023-24 [Statewide Library Service](#) applications closed May 2023. Applications are currently under review. Awards are expected to be announced in July with grant activities beginning October 1, 2023. A "Manage a Grant" webinar will be recorded and available in October.
- FY 2022-23 LSTA program highlights include:

School Age Services

- ["Community Asset Mapping for the Curious"](#) presented by Leah Larson is now available on the [Pennsylvania Library Staff Academy](#). This training, originally presented in a live workshop on April 24, covers the concepts behind asset mapping and leads viewers through a planning process to create a conceptual or physical map of community strengths. Asset mapping will help prepare libraries for applying for future LSTA-funded opportunities, especially for youth services programs.
- A preview copy of the Summer 2023 Impact Report questions and the Summer 2023 Participant Survey is available for libraries to use for Summer library programs. The content of the 2023 Impact Report will be available for live submission via Microsoft Forms starting Tuesday, August 21, 2023. The purpose of the Summer 2023 Impact Report is to:
  - Document and communicate the difference libraries make in their communities during the Summer,
  - Select interview candidates for the Pennsylvania Summer Library Program 2024 Showcase on the Pennsylvania Library Staff Academy, and
  - Recommend Summer Library Program visits from the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Early Childhood Services

- Please help us measure the extent of the reach of this year's PA One Book program with this year's selection of *Mel Fell* by Corey R. Tabor by completing the survey: [PA One Book Survey Link – Libraries](#)

Professional Development

- [Readers Advisory series with Becky Spratford](#), author of the RA For All blog. There will be four sessions on different topics that kick off July 20th.
- A variety of Trauma Informed Library Service sessions are scheduled over the course of the summer, both virtual and in-person. Please visit the [Compendium article for details](#).

STATE FUNDING/PROGRAMS

State Aid

- Regulations, guidelines, and policy:
  - Internal work group continues review and recommendations for new regulations.
  - Committee work concluded on service area guidelines.

- The 2022 Annual Reports have been submitted to the IMLS as part of the national Public Library Survey.
- State Aid Library Subsidy Application will open mid-July with a due date of October 1, 2023.
  - Training videos and a LibGuide will be made available.
- The [Public Library Directory](#) through Counting Opinions is live.
  - A link can also be found on LibPAS ([Welcome (countingopinions.com)](#))
  - Updates/Changes to the public library information in the directory should be submitted [via this form](#).

Keystone Grants for Public Library Facilities

- The 2024 application is scheduled to open July 17.
  - An application review [workshop](#) is available for prospective applicants.
  - Municipal applicants should review Keystone's [Register Your Municipality](#) page.
  - Due date for applications – October 13, 2023 at noon.

OPERATIONS/PERSONNEL

Rebuilding of the BLD team continues. Recently filed positions include:

- Library Development Advisor - Statewide Services – Abbey Lukiewski
- Education Administration Supervisor - Administration & Data – Hadiyah Cleveland

Other positions expected to be posted soon include:

- LSTA Coordinator
- Fiscal Technician
- Assistant Director
- Library Development Advisor – Operations & Relationships

GAC, Bureau of State Library Report
March 31, 2023 Meeting

RARE COLLECTIONS LIBRARY

Activities

Rare Collections staff participated in hosting a visit to the State Library of information literacy librarians attending the LOEX conference in Harrisburg, where we spoke about artifactual literacy and the book arts. In addition, Rare Collections staff participated in professional development activities such as attending a week-long Rare Book School course on *Paper as Bibliographical Evidence* and attended several online talks on rare book topics hosted by other libraries.

Purchases

Based on Rare Collections collection development policy, strategic purchases were made to both enhance strengths and address weaknesses in rare collection holdings. Purchases include:

- *Comic Books by Pennsylvania artist Jim Steranko*

  Nick Fury Agent of S.H.I.E.L.D. #1
  Strange Tales #78
  Strange Tales #121
  Strange Tales #151
  Strange Tales #152
  Strange Tales #154
  Strange Tales #160

- *Kangaroo Court Martial: George Daniels and William Harvey, Two Black Marines who got 6 and 10 years for opposing the Vietnam war / by Committee for GI Rights, 1969.*

PUBLIC SERVICES

The Bureau of State Library anticipates moving back to the Forum Building in September of 2023. Once the dates have been confirmed with DGS, the Library will publicize when they will close to the public in order to prepare and move the staff and collections back to the Forum.

The State Library has had many inquiries from individuals looking for assistance finding when their ancestors immigrated to America so they can apply for dual citizenship in Italy. An Indianapolis librarian asked for assistance in finding an article about Italian immigrants in early 20th century Pennsylvania killing songbirds to use for food. State Library staff found an article from a 1929 McKean County newspaper in one of our electronic newspaper resources

referencing this practice. The State Library Book Club met on June 8. The next book club meeting will be in September. Lori Rodgers, our Library Assistant 2 will be retiring at the end of June. A new job description and other requirements for HR have been developed to fill this position as soon as possible. The staff will miss Lori Rodgers after her years of service. Lori was instrumental in volunteering to come to Harrisburg during the height of the COVID-19 crisis to sort mail and organize newspapers. Our newest staff member, Katy Vance, has made it through her probationary period and is a full Commonwealth employee. She is doing a great job and is willing to be involved with other organizations like PaLA AND ACLCP.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The State Library provided 26 programs between April 2023 and June 2023. Programs included:

- History of Paper Marbling, presented by Jesse Noonan, State Library Rare Collections Technician
- Mt. Washington Transit Tunnel Disaster, presented by Mary Jane Kuffner Hirt
- STEM for Adults Series, presented by Bill Fee, State Library STEMLab Instructor
- Every Blot a Slavery's Shame – Stories from the Civil War Museum, presented by Jeffery Nichols, CEO of the National Civil War Museum

For a list of upcoming programs, please visit the State Library Events page on the website found here https://www.statelibrary.pa.gov/About/Pages/Events.aspx .

On Wednesday nights, the State Library is hosting the State Library Fiber Arts Club for State Workers after their normal work hours, and we have started an evening Dungeons and Dragons virtual Club and hope to have more in person back in the Forum.

DIGITAL COLLECTIONS

The Digital Collections staff have been working with PDE procurement on an RFP for a digital asset management system, a digital preservation system, and a web archiving system. In March 2023, Quartex by Adam Mathew was awarded the contract for providing the State Library's digital asset management system. Digital Collections Staff are eager to begin work on setting up the system so that our digital collections are accessible to the public.

Staff are acquiring more digital state publications directly from state agencies in preparation for posting to our public access content management system.

The State Library of Pennsylvania is participating in the Community Web program through Archive-It. This program collects the web presence of local community groups and organizations and preserves these websites for the future.

Pennsylvania includes a wealth of diversity, and the State Library of Pennsylvania would like to capture as much of that diversity as we can. To that end, we are asking for your help.

The public libraries across the Commonwealth know their users and communities well. Help us find the local history organizations, minority communities, religious organizations, ethnic subcultures, LGBTQ+ information, environmental groups, hobby clubs, and others in your area.

Please nominate a site for inclusion here.

If you would like to more know about the State Library's Community Web archiving program, please contact Alison Oskam at aloskam@pa.gov for more information.

Submitted by Sarah Greene, Director, Bureau of State Library
6/21/2023

BYLAWS
PENNSYLVANIA GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL
ON LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT

ARTICLE I -NAME

The Pennsylvania Governor's Advisory Council on Library Development is the name of this organization, hereinafter referred to as the Council.

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

Section 1: Statute.
The purpose of the Council is to carry out the duties under statutory authority assigned to the Advisory Council on Library Development; in compliance with The Public Library Code, the Act of June 14, 1961, P.L. 324, as amended, and P.L. 210 section 9312 November 2012.

- Advise the Governor and the Secretary of Education with regard to the appointment of the Deputy Secretary of Education, Commissioner for Libraries, State Librarian; hereinafter referred to as State Librarian.
- Advise and make recommendations to the Governor, the Secretary of Education, and the State Librarian regarding the general policies and operations of the State Library and the State system of aid to libraries.
- Constitute a board of appeal regarding disputes arising from decisions of the State Librarian which affect the amount of a library's State aid or a library's eligibility for State aid. In any such appeal, the ex-officio members of the council shall not have voting rights, and a majority of the members of the Council shall determine the outcome of the appeal.
- Assist in increasing public understanding of and formulating plans for furthering the purposes of Education Code (24 PA. C.S.) Chapter 93 of The Public Library Code.
- Promulgate rules and regulations for the approval of plans for the use of State funds and for the process and procedure to appeal funding and eligibility decisions.
- Approve or disapprove the library district service areas which are recommended by the State Librarian.

Section 2: Advocacy.

The Council encourages the strengthening of libraries through legislative and community advocacy efforts that:

- inspire increased library usage for literacy and lifelong learning.
- ensure the recruitment of professional librarians and support equitable salaries and benefits for library staff.
- acknowledge the need for adequate local and state funding.
- support a public policy environment that values libraries as key community partners and recognizes libraries as pillars of democracy, equity, diversity, and inclusion.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP AND TERM OF OFFICE

Section 1: Members.
The Council is inclusive in its makeup and provides a broad representation of the statewide library community.
1. The GAC shall consist of twelve (12) members appointed by the Governor to the Advisory Council on Library Development. In accordance with The Public Library Code, Council includes
   a. six (6) professional librarians;
   b. three (3) trustees of local libraries; and
   c. three (3) laypersons.
2. Ex-officio Members
   The Secretary of Education and the State Librarian shall be ex officio members of the Advisory Council. Ex-officio members shall serve without a vote.
3. Definitions
   a. Professional librarian: one who has a college degree in addition to one or more academic years of professional library education (*24 Pa.C.S. Chapter 93 - relating to Public Library Code*). A

professional librarian shall be employed in the following library fields: academic, public, school, and special.
   b. Trustee of local library or library system: one who sits on the governing board of a public library or library system which has legal fiduciary responsibility and makes library policy
   c. Layperson: one who is not employed in the library profession and has a meaningful connection to library services

Section 2: Term of Office.
1. Each member of the advisory council shall serve a term of four years, from the third Tuesday of January of the year in which the member takes office.
2. The Council Chair has the authority to recommend appointments.
3. A member is eligible for reappointment and shall serve until a successor has been appointed and is qualified. ~~The Council Chair has the authority to recommend reappointment.~~
4. If a trustee member no longer meets the member category definition under which they were appointed, they may complete their term. However, they are no longer eligible for reappointment under that member type.

Section 3: Vacancies.
Should a member vacancy occur, the Office of Commonwealth Libraries notifies the appropriate agency within the Governor's Office within 60 days; then submits Letters of Request for appointment and resumes from candidates to the Secretary of Education. The Secretary recommends the appointment package to the Governor's Office. The Governor makes the appointment.

Section 4: Attendance.
1. Regular Meetings - Members are expected to attend scheduled Council meetings.
   a. The Chair may excuse any member who requests an absence. ~~Members of the Council shall have no more than two (2) unexcused absences per year.~~
      i. Members of the Council shall have no more than one (1) excused absence per year.
      ii. Excused absences include but are not limited to the following: a family emergency, illness of a member/family, or safety concerns.
      iii. The Chair may exercise judgment in accepting absences or partial absences to cover unanticipated scenarios.
   b. The Chair may deem a request for an absence as unexcused.
      i. Members of the Council shall have no more than ~~two (2)~~ one (1) unexcused absence per year.
      ii. Unexcused absences include those in which the member fails to notify the Chair in a timely manner.
      iii. Partial attendance (e.g. arriving late or leaving early) is a partial unexcused absence. Two (2) such instances result in a full absence.
2. Committee Meetings - Members are expected to attend scheduled Committee meetings.
   a. The Committee Chair may excuse any member who requires an absence.
   b. Excessive absences will be reported to the Council Chair.
3. Library Community Activities - Members are expected to take an interest and participate in local and state library activities.

Section 5: Removal.
If ~~attendance, participation, or representation~~ a member does not ~~fulfill~~ act in accordance with the ~~mission~~ Bylaws of the Council and professional standards, the member will be asked ~~offered the opportunity~~ to resign ~~from Council~~.

ARTICLE IV - MEETINGS

Section 1. Regular Meetings.
The Council shall meet at least four times a year at such times and places as it shall determine. Meeting announcements will follow the provisions of Act 84 of 1986 also known as the "Sunshine Law."

Section 2. Special Meetings.
Special meetings may be called by the Chair, five or more Council members, or the State Librarian for specific business. Notice for the special meeting shall be distributed in writing at least two weeks prior to the date of the meeting. Action taken at a special meeting where a quorum does not exist must be confirmed at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Section 3. Open Meetings.

All meetings of the Council at which formal actions are taken shall be open to 'the public except as provided by law. At the discretion of the chair, members of the public who attend as observers may be invited to comment on matters before the Council.

Section 4: Virtual Meetings.   Virtual Attendance Comment
Any Council meeting may be conducted solely by one or more means of remote communication through which all of the Council members may participate with each other during the meeting, if the number of Council members participating in the meeting would be sufficient to constitute a quorum.

Members are required to attend regular business meetings in person unless the scheduled meeting is only being held virtually or the request to attend virtually has been deemed a reasonable exception and approved in advance by the Chair.

Virtual participation in a meeting constitutes presence in person at the meeting.

Section 5: Committee Meetings.
The report of a committee's proceedings given to Council at its meetings shall be sufficient record of that committee's meeting.

Section 6: Quorum.
A simple majority of the members of Council shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE V - OFFICERS

Section 1. Chair.
The Governor shall designate one member of the Council as chairperson.

Section 2. Vice-Chair.
The Chair of the Council shall nominate a vice-chair to be confirmed by the Council to serve in the absence of the Chair or in the event of a vacancy in that office.

The appointment is for one year and is submitted to the Council for confirmation at the first meeting held during each calendar year.

ARTICLE VI - COMMITTEES

There shall be five standing committees of the Council.

Section 1. Executive Committee
The Executive Committee is composed of the Chair, the Vice-chair, one (1) Member-at-large, elected by the Council, and the State Librarian.

The committee shall have such powers as may be given it from time to time by the Council. It may act for the Council in certain matters when given that assignment. It shall meet periodically to plan and discuss strategy for Council activities, agendas, and to recommend appointees.

Section 2. Standing Committees
These committees are appointed annually by the Chair. Each committee shall be composed of three (3) members of Council and a member of the Office of Commonwealth Libraries staff. The State Librarian and the Chair of the GAC shall be ex-officio members of all committees.

1. **Bylaws** - The Committee researches past practices, proposes changes and updates to the bylaws in order to reflect Council's mission. Bylaws should be reviewed at least every two years or more frequently, if requested.
2. **Guidelines and Policies** – The Committee reviews existing guidelines and policies to determine continued relevance and accuracy. The Committee proposes new guidelines and policies in concert with the Office of Commonwealth Libraries.

3. **Education and Advocacy** – The Committee educates the Council on library issues that may require action. The Committee follows up on legislation and regulatory actions that affect libraries and keeps Council informed of same. The Committee recommends advocacy for libraries with policy makers in the Department of Education, in the Governor's Office, and the General Assembly.
4. **Communications** – The Committee promotes awareness of Council business and actions. The Committee communicates regularly with the library community, government officials, and the media.
5. **Planning** – The Committee develops and proposes ideas for implementation of the strategic mission of Council through goals and objectives. The Committee reviews existing plans annually and makes recommendations for updates and revisions.

Section 3: Ad Hoc Committee

The Chair may create Ad hoc committees, as necessary. Council members may serve on an Ad hoc committee when appointed by the Chair.

ARTICLE VII - FINANCIAL

Section 1: Expenses

Except for reimbursement for travel and other actual expenses incurred in the performance of duties, each member of the Council shall serve without compensation.

ARTICLE VIII - AMENDMENTS AND OPERATION OF COUNCIL

The Bylaws Committee will review these bylaws ~~periodically~~ at least every two years and propose to Council such revisions as experience and changes in law indicate are appropriate. A two-thirds vote of the entire Council shall be required to amend these bylaws. Notice of the proposed amendment shall be given 30 days prior to the meeting at which such amendment is to be considered.

In situations not provided for in these bylaws or in statute, the latest edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* shall govern the actions of the GAC.

ARTICLE IX - CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

A conflict of interest may exist when the interests or activities of any Council member may be seen as competing with the interests or activities of Council or if the member derives financial or other material gain as a result of direct or indirect relationship involving Council activities. Members shall disclose any possible conflict of interest. No member shall vote at any Council or committee meeting on any matter in which he/she has a conflict of interest.

Guidelines for Libraries Seeking to Expand or Reduce Service Areas – DRAFT 8.4

A. Purpose

With changes in local support, technology, transportation, population, and user expectations, adjustments to a library's service area may be needed. As authorized by the Public Library Statute libraries are responsible for determining their own service areas, and the Office of Commonwealth Libraries is responsible for administering the distribution of State Aid based on those service areas that libraries are eligible to claim. Because these changes may impact the service areas of other libraries or library systems in relation to State Aid, there is a need for clarification on the process to consider such changes. In all cases the goal must be to provide quality, equitable service for the community.

These guidelines apply to existing libraries and library systems that receive State Aid and any library that intends to apply for State Aid. For these guidelines, service area is defined as the municipality or municipalities that a library or library system claims for State Aid. This definition is not meant to define or limit the extent to which a library or library system may provide services to the public.

Regardless of any changes to a library's service area, State-Aided libraries shall continue to serve all residents who qualify under the [Guidelines for the Statewide Library Card System](#).

B. Authorization

As outlined in 24 PA. C.S.A. § 9334 (a), "to qualify for quality libraries aid, a local library or library system shall make a minimum financial effort of $5 per capita for each person residing in the municipalities that will be part of the direct service area in which the library is applying for aid."

As outlined in 22 Pa. Code §131.31:

"Application for State aid shall be made in accordance with instructions provided by the State Library and shall be submitted to the State Library by October 1."

"A local library initially may apply for State Aid for the municipality in which it is located and for as many of the other municipalities in its direct service area on behalf of which it can qualify for State Aid with the required local financial effort."

As outlined in 24 PA. C.S.A. § 9311 (b) (15) "The State Librarian shall have the power and duty to "Whenever necessary, for the purpose of administering the library laws of this Commonwealth, act as arbiter in defining the direct service area of any library."

As outlined in 22 Pa. Code §131.34 (a) "State aid for a municipality shall be paid only to the library board of directors responsible for service to the municipality, and may be granted only once in any year on the basis of the population of the municipality; provided that, in the case of a municipality served by a library governed, under a home rule charter adopted under the Home Rule Charter and Optional Plans Law (53 P.S. § § 1-101—1-1309), by an agency other than a library board of directors, the aid may be paid to the municipal government. Except as provided in this subsection, State aid for district library service shall be paid only to the board of directors of the library agency designated as a district library center by the State Librarian."

As outlined in 22 Pa. Code §131.46 - Controversies over service areas. "The State Librarian is authorized to act as arbiter in defining the direct service area of a library in the event a municipality is claimed by more than one library as part of any library service area. In such arbitration, opportunity shall be afforded the municipal authorities of the municipality affected to express their wishes with respect to library service."

Also, in 22 Pa. Code §141.21, "A municipality is judged to contribute to the support or to aid in the maintenance of a local library when it appropriates to the library annually an amount of money which is equivalent to 15% or more of the yearly income of the library from all local municipal sources." Note: for purposes of local municipal sources only, a municipality is defined as a county, city, borough, town, township or a school district of the second, third or fourth class, which establishes or maintains a local library.

Expansion of service area is outlined in 22 Pa. Code §131.42: "A local library may expand its direct service area to receive State Aid at any time it is able to meet the local financial effort required of $.00025 times market value of taxable property [*superseded by the Statute: "minimum financial effort of $5 per capita for each person residing in the municipalities that will be part of the direct service area in which the library is applying for aid*] of the municipality or municipalities added, if it complies with the following conditions: "

- The municipality or municipalities for which State Aid is sought are contiguous to the existing service area for which State Aid is received.
- No other library has a prior claim to the municipality or municipalities in its own direct service area.
- All the municipal authorities affected agree to the inclusion of the municipality in the direct service area of the library.
- [*only the LFE requirement is superseded by the statute, the conditions remain*]

Additionally, the requirements for expansion and reduction of service area are outlined in 22 Pa. Code §141.21 (6) and (7):

(6) Expansion of service area. Whether the library should expand the service area to which it gives all its services free of charge. For any plan to be approved which includes projected expansion of direct service area, the plan of the library shall be accompanied by a copy of the agreement with the municipal authorities that the municipality or municipalities be included in the direct service area of such library. Any municipality which is added to a direct service area of a library shall be considered part of that area for a period of not less than 10 years, except when any of the following apply:

(i)   Special approval is granted by the State Librarian for excluding such municipality or municipalities from such direct service area.

(ii)   The municipal authorities of such municipality or municipalities resolve to withdraw from such direct service area.

(iii)   The municipality or municipalities are included in another library service area through merger of two or more libraries or by contractual agreement.

(7) Reduction of service area. Whether the library should reduce the direct service area to which it gives all its services free of charge. For any plan to be approved which includes reduction of service area, the library's plan shall be accompanied by a copy of the library's notification to the municipal officers of the municipality or municipalities affected and to the county library board of directors if one exists within the same county. Plans for the use of State funds which include reduction of service area shall not be approved unless the library also plans to cease to give free library service to the residents of the municipality or municipalities affected. [**Note: this only applies to communities which would become unserved and thus, not part of the Statewide Library Card Program**.]

C. Definitions

Statute:
Direct service area—The municipality to which the governing body of a library is responsible for extending all its library services without charge.

Regulations:
Direct service area—The municipality to which the governing body of a library is responsible for extending its services without charge. The governing body of a library will be judged to have

assumed responsibility for a municipality when it grants free services to the residents of that municipality.

Municipality—A county, city, borough, town, township or a school district of the second, third or fourth class, which establishes or maintains a local library.

Supplemental:
Claimed municipality – Any borough, township, city or county included in the service area of a library or library system for the allocation of state aid.

D. Program Description – General

1. The process for requesting a change to a library's service area is dependent upon the structure of the existing library organizations. There are different steps to follow if the library is a member of a federated library system; if it is located in a county with a county library; or if the library is an independent organization.
2. These processes apply to existing State-Aided libraries and those libraries wishing to enter the State Aid program.
3. These procedures do not apply to District service areas.
4. As a first step and in all cases the following must occur:
   a. Any library seeking to change its service area shall engage the District Consultant(s) to discuss and determine impacts on all affected parties: communities, libraries, systems, districts.
   b. The library board resolves to explore changing its service area through conversations with all affected parties.
5. The request for a change shall be negotiated between the library boards of the impacted libraries, with guidance from the library directors.
6. There shall be a formal board resolution from the library requesting the change.
7. Any request for change shall include an analysis of the impact on the affected users and their communities.
8. Requests for service area changes may only be submitted to OCL once a year through the state aid application process. Requests for service area changes within a federated system may take place anytime as long as the changes are within the current system-wide service area. If a library's service area is expanded, it must agree to serve that area for a minimum of 10 years, per the Regulations, 22 Pa. Code §141.21 #6
9. Reduction of service area. For any plan to be approved which includes reduction of service area, the library's plan shall be accompanied by a copy of the library's notification to the officers of the municipality or municipalities affected and to the county library board of directors, if one exists within the same county. Plans for State Aid which include a reduction of service area shall not be approved unless the library also plans to cease to give free library service to the residents of the municipality or municipalities

affected. (22 PA Code §141.21) [**Note: this only applies to communities which would become unserved and thus, not part of the Statewide Library Card Program**.]

E. Program Description – When the Library Is in a County with a County Library and No System

1. Expansion of Service Area
   a. The process shall begin with conversations among the library director, county library director (if impacted by the change) and the District Consultant on implications of service area changes. Any change request shall include an analysis of the impact on the affected users and their communities.
   b. If the service area is to be expanded or a library wishes to enter the State Aid program, the library must first confirm that it can meet the standards for an increased population. This shall include, but is not limited to:
      1) Certification of the library director
      2) Appropriate staffing levels
      3) Required local financial effort (LFE)
      4) Hours open
      5) Municipal authorities affected by the change shall be informed
      6) The expansion is contiguous to the current service area
   c. If the library cannot meet the standards, it cannot apply for the change until it is able to fulfil the requirements.
   d. If the proposed municipality's service area is claimed by the county library, and the library can meet library the standards for the revised service area, the library board shall submit a formal written request to the board of county library requesting the change. The request shall include justification for the change, along with supporting data as appropriate to the situation. The request shall also include a description of how the library will meet the appropriate standards.
   e. The board of the county library shall respond to the library's request within 90 days.
   f. If the requested service area is claimed by another local library in the county, and the requesting library can meet standards for the revised service area, the library board shall submit a formal written change request to the board of the library that currently serves the area. The request shall include justification for the change, along with supporting data. The request shall also include a description of how the library will meet the appropriate standards.
   g. The board of the local library shall respond to the library's request within 90 days.
   h. If the requesting library board wishes to appeal the decision of the county library or local library board, they may submit a concise request in writing to the State Aid Office of the Office of Commonwealth Libraries within 60 days.
   i. The Office of Commonwealth Libraries shall respond to all libraries involved. Per the Library Code, the decision of the State Librarian shall be final based on this appeal.
2. Reduction of Service Area

a. The process shall begin with conversations among the library director, county library director and the district consultant on implications of service area changes.

b. The library board shall submit a formal, written request to the board of the county library requesting the change. The request shall include justification for the change, with supporting data.

c. The library board shall notify the impacted municipality or municipalities, the county library, and the district consultant of their decision to remove the municipality or municipalities from its service area.

d. The county library then becomes responsible for providing service to the impacted municipality or municipalities. It may choose to negotiate reassignment of the service area to another library in the county.

e. For any Plan for State Aid to be approved which includes a reduction of service area, the library's plan shall be accompanied by a copy of the library's notification to the officers of the municipality or municipalities affected and to the county library board, if one exists within the same county.

F. Program Description – When No County Library or System Exists:

1. Expansion of Service Area
   a. The process shall begin with conversations among the library director and the District Consultant on implications of service area changes.
   b. If the service area is to be expanded or a library wishes to enter the state aid program, the library must first confirm that it can meet the higher standards for an increased population. This shall include, but is not limited to:
      1) Certification of the Library Director
      2) Appropriate staffing levels
      3) Required Local Financial Effort (LFE)
      4) Hours open
      5) Agreement from all the municipal authorities affected by the change
      6) The expansion is contiguous to the current service area
   c. If the library cannot meet the standards, it cannot apply for the change until it is able to fulfil the requirements If the expanded service area is not currently claimed by another library, the Library Board of the requesting library shall submit a formal, written request to the Office of Commonwealth Libraries.
   d. If the expanded service area is currently claimed by a local library and/or a library system and the library can meet the standards for the revised service area, the Library Board of the library requesting the change shall submit a formal, written request to the board of the library or library system which currently serves that municipality. The request shall include justification for the change, with supporting data as appropriate to the situation. The request shall also include a description of how the library will meet the appropriate standards.

e. The board of the local library and/or library system shall respond to the library's request within 90 days.
f. If the requesting library board wishes to appeal the decision of the local library or library system board, they may submit a concise request in writing to the State Aid Office, Office of Commonwealth Libraries, within 60 days.
g. The Office of Commonwealth Libraries shall respond to all libraries involved. Per the Library Code, the decision of the State Librarian shall be final based on this appeal.

2. Reduction of Service Area
   a. The process shall begin with conversations among the library director, and the District Consultant on implications of service area changes.
   b. The library board shall notify the impacted municipality(ies), and the District Consultant of their decision to remove the municipality(ies) from their service area.

3. For any Plan for State Aid to be approved which includes a reduction of service area, the library's plan shall be accompanied by a copy of the library's notification to the municipal officers of the municipality or municipalities affected and to the county library board of directors if one exists within the same county. Plans for the Use of State funds which include reduction of service area shall not be approved unless the library also plans to cease to give free library service to the residents of the municipality or municipalities affected. [**Note: this only applies to communities which would become unserved and thus, not part of the Statewide Library Card Program**.]

G. Program Description – When a Library Is Part of a Federated System

1. The system board shall develop a process for the reconsideration of service areas, based on the recommendations below. The change may be initiated by the system or by request of a member library.

2. Library regulations (§ 141.24 (b)(4)) state that within a System, the local library's "Effective service area shall be construed to be the geographic area from which come 60% of the unit's registered borrowers and usage."   Note: in this case, unit refers to the library.

3. Expansion of Service Area
   a. The process shall begin with conversations among the library director(s), system administrator and the district consultant on implications of service area changes.
   b. If the service area is to be expanded or the library wishes to enter the State Aid program, the library must first confirm that it can meet the standards for an increased population. This shall include, but is not limited to:
      1) Certification of the library director
      2) Staffing levels
      3) Local financial effort (LFE)
      4) Hours open

       5) Municipal authorities affected by the change shall be informed

       6) Any system-level standards

  c. If the system board initiates the change, all affected libraries shall be notified.

  d. If the library cannot meet the standards, it cannot apply for the change until it is able to fulfill the requirements.

  e. If the library is able to meet standards for the revised service area, the library board shall submit a formal written request to the board of the federated system. The request shall include justification for the change, with supporting data appropriate to the situation. The request shall also include a description of how the library meets the standards. The board of the federated system shall respond to the library's request within 90 days.

  f. If the proposed municipality's service area is claimed by another system member library, and the library can meet the standards for the revised service area, the library board shall submit a formal written change request to the board of the library currently serving the area, as well as to the board of the federated system. The request shall include justification for the change, along with supporting data as appropriate to the situation. The request shall also include a description of how the library will meet the appropriate standards. The board of the federated system shall respond to the library's request within 90 days.

  g. If the requesting library board wishes to dispute the decision of the federated system board, it may submit a concise request in writing for advisory assistance to the State Aid Office of the Office of Commonwealth Libraries within 60 days.

  h. The Office of Commonwealth Libraries shall respond with advice to all libraries involved.

4. Reduction of Service Area

  a. The process shall begin with conversations among the library director, the system administrator and the district consultant on implications of service area changes.

  b. If the change is initiated by a member library, the member library board shall submit a formal written request to the board of the federated system requesting the change. The request shall include justification for the change, along with supporting data.

  c. The board of the federated system shall respond to the library's request within 90 days.

  d. If the requesting library board wishes to dispute the decision of the federated system board, it may submit a concise request in writing for advisory assistance to the State Aid Office of the Office of Commonwealth Libraries within 60 days.

  e. The Office of Commonwealth Libraries shall respond with advice to all libraries involved.

Expected Outcomes

1. Equitable and Sustainable Library Service

    a. Supportable access to resources and services
    b. Expanded awareness of community needs
    c. Targeted or improved resources in the form of materials and staff

2. Efficient Library Service

    a. Enhanced and clarified relationships with supporting municipalities
    b. Information customized to meet local needs
    c. Timely delivery of library materials
    d. Accessibility of materials

Statute and Regulations Working Group
Report to Governor's Advisory Council on Library Development
June 29, 2023

The Working Group, comprised of representatives from the Office of Commonwealth Libraries, the PA Library Association, and the Governor's Advisory Council on Library Development, continues to meet regularly. The Small Group, designed to move quickly and keep the project on task, meets mid-month, and then reports out to the full group at the end of the month.

Heather Sharpe, along with her team members Amy Geisinger and Mike Reilly, have taken on the assignment of reviewing the Statute and proposing regulatory recommendations. They were tasked with writing regulations that look to the future of PA libraries, rather than with correcting the ills of the past.

They are now meeting twice a week and have nearly completed their review. They anticipate finishing by the end of July. Heather and her team deserve a great deal of respect and admiration for approaching a complex task that has frustrated previous teams and for adhering closely to a rigid timetable established at the beginning of the process.

Throughout the process, the Working Group has been committed to communicating with the field about both progress and content. Christi Buker, Executive Director of PaLA, has conducted open forums with the field to survey reactions and responses to some of the ideas that the Group is testing. In addition to my report at each GAC meeting, GAC member Beth Mellor has begun adding "community conversations" to our agenda to discuss thoughts that come out of discussions at the forums and Working Group meetings.

The next step in the process will be to begin the actual writing of the regulations. This task will fall to Deputy Secretary and State Librarian Sue Banks or her designee. We anticipate that this process will start in August. Communication with the field will continue throughout this time, so the Group can collect feedback on proposed regulations.

The final draft of regulations will then need to be approved by PDE's Policy and Legal Departments, before beginning the formal process of review and approval by the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC).

As we have indicated from the start, updating the regulations will not be a quick process. However, I'm pleased to report that we are making steady progress on our plan to have regulations ready for IRRC by the end of the year.

POWER Library Report to the Governor's Advisory Council

June 29, 2023

Presented by Hosting Solutions and Library Consulting, Philadelphia, PA.

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HSLC's Mission is to contribute to the success of libraries by delivering technical solutions and consulting services.

Chat with a Librarian

The application to participate in Chat with a Librarian has been revised to make participation requirements clearer for systems, districts, and consortia. In the past year it has become easier for groups of libraries to share responsibility for staffing chat, so the application has been adjusted to accommodate this additional model of participation. If your library belongs to a system, district, or consortium that is interested in joining as a group, please reach out to Ed Wolf. He can be reached at ewolf@hslc.org.

E-content Platform

To improve access to e-resources within POWER Library HSLC released an RFP in late 2022 for an e-content platform. The goals of this platform were to retrieve search results across the various vendor products, including for e-books, to provide users with reading recommendations, and to allow search results to be tailored by audience.

Two vendors responded to the RFP: EBSCO and Odilo. EBSCO was selected, and implementation meetings have begun. Novelist Select will be available for POWER Library users. We are implementing this platform along with our simultaneous refresh of the For Librarians portal, and preliminary redesign of the original POWER Library portal.

E-resource Procurement

The five-year contract for Gale e-resources expires on July 31, and HSLC was asked to conduct the procurement covering the next five years. On May 1st, HSLC issued an RFP for e-resource subscriptions. Proposals were due on May 31st.

The RFP sought proposals for products that matched particular subject needs within the following target audiences: elementary school-age users; middle/high school users, and the general public. We also included a request for pricing to include publicly-funded academic institutions.

The subject focus for elementary students included Ready to Research and STEAM; the subject focus for middle to high schoolers included Research and STEAM; and the subject focus for the general public included Genealogy and Language learning. These subjects were based on surveys issued to librarians in 2021 and 2023.

An Evaluation Team of HSLC staff, an OCL representative, and librarians from school and public libraries was assembled. This team is responsible for viewing the vendor demos, testing the products out in trial accounts, and then scoring how well the products meet the needs expressed in the RFP.

Twenty-nine (29) vendors were notified of the RFP, which was also posted on the HSLC website (https://www.hslc.org/2023_e-resources_RFP/). HSLC received ten (10) proposals offering pricing on products as follows:

- 21 elementary school products were proposed
- 45 middle/high school products were proposed
- 37 general public products were proposed

Fifteen (15) demos were scheduled and trial accounts were required for all new subscription products. The total cost of the products proposed exceeded $2,000,000, and individual product costs ranged between $75,000 - $500,000.

We have not publicly disclosed the budget amount for this procurement as price negotiations are about to begin.

Over the summer, HSLC will update POWER Library with any new and/or retained e-resources, so everything is ready to go in late August.

We appreciate OCL entrusting this procurement to HSLC. Transparency is a key component of the process, and once the procurement has concluded, we will announce the results in the Access PA and POWER Library News, so please sign up for these newsletters if you have not already. (https://powerlibrary.org/librarians/library-news/)

The e-content platform and the new e-resource selections will be heavily featured during fall training in October. To find a session near you please visit: https://powerlibrary.org/librarians/fall-training-2023/

PaILS update to the GAC 6/28/23

- We have completed review of our RFPs for Evergreen hosting, with results to be voted on at July PaILS board meeting.
- The SPARK Users Grup Meeting was held in May with presentations on increasing the visibility of your collections & a guest presentation from Literacy Nation.
- We are working with some new libraries and have filled out our 2024 migration schedule.
- PaILS staff & SPARK Users Group members Attended the 2023 Evergreen International Conference with user group members.
- We just entered into agreements to sponsor development to prioritize movement of materials based on cost to transit, supporting new and existing resource sharing arrangements.
- And finally, we are hoping to roll out more AccessPA integrations late this summer and into the fall!