

Governor's Advisory Council on Library Development  
March 31, 2023: 10:00a.m.  
Venue: Hilton Harrisburg

***Minutes***

GAC Members Present (in person): David Belanger, Marsha Everton, Mary Garm, Dale Hamby, Rebecca Long, Allison Mackley, Beth Mellor, Barbara Zaborowski

GAC Members Excused: Sue Werner

GAC Members Absent: Robert Lambert

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

Guest presenters (in person): Cathi Fuhrman, Ed.D., State College Area High School; Aimee Emerson, President Pennsylvania School Librarians Association (PSLA)

Attendees (in person and online): Holly Ambrose, Bucks County Free Library; Melissa Adams, Reading Public Library; Ann Andrews, Westmoreland County Federated Library System; Brenda Beikert, Knox Public Library; Holly Bennett, Memorial Library of Nazareth and Vicinity; Denice Bigham, Franklin County Library System; Carolyn Blatchley, Cumberland County Library System; Caitlyn Boland, Mars Area Public Library; Lisa Collens, Schlow Centre Region Library; Brianna Crum, Dauphin County Library System; Maria Cuccaro, Johnstown District Libraries; Katherine Dannehl Pennsylvania Integrated Library System (PaILS); Johnathan Emmell Leister, Indian Valley Public Library; Brandt Ensor, Adams County Library System; Sue Erdman, Adams County Library; Rebecca Feightner, Bradford Area Public Library, Katie Greenleaf Martin, SPARK/PaILS; Marissa Guidara, Reading Library District; Kimberley Hrivnak, Allegheny County Library Association; Erin Joyce, Oil Creek Library District; Laura Keller, Plymouth Public Library; Kelli Knapp, Warren Library Association; Allison Latagliata, Marian Sutherland Kirby Library; Michele Legate, Northeast Library District; Rob Leshner, Pennsylvania Library Association; Heather Li, PennWest University; Heather Lindskold, Altoona District Libraries; Abbey Lukiewski, York County Libraries; Ryan McCrory, Lititz Public Library; Sharon McRae, Shaler North Hills Library; Edwin Miller, Library System of Lancaster County; Hannah Miller, Bucks County Free Library; Cheryl Morgan, Somerset County Library; Jill Morris, PALCI; Cheryl Napsha, Aliquippa District Libraries; Maryam Phillips, Hosting Solutions & Library Consulting; Karen Pierce, Erie County Public Library; Christine Porter, Sheffield Library; Amy Resh, Berks County Public Libraries; Kathee Rhode, Lower Macungie Library; Lauren Sands, J. Lewis Crozer Library; Joseph Sherwood, Chester County Library System; Jeffrey Swope, Bosler Memorial Library; Melinda Tanner, Westmoreland Library Network; Stephanie Thompson, Millersville University;

Robyn Vittek, Mt. Lebanon Public Library; Becky Wanamaker, Reading Library District;

1. Call to Order & Introductions – Mary Garm, Chair. Meeting opened at 10:05a.m.
  - a. GAC members in attendance were introduced. In person meeting attendees were also introduced.
2. Approval of Minutes of the February meeting – Motion to accept the minutes by Marsha Everton, seconded by Allison Mackley. Motion passed.
3. Chair’s Report – Mary Garm
  - a. Garm shared highlights from **written report attached**.
  - b. David Belanger shared an update from Pennsylvania Library Association (PaLA) about the proposed state budget.
4. Deputy Secretary’s Report – Susan Banks
  - a. Banks shared highlights from **written report attached**.
5. Spotlight: Schlow-to-School / Cathi Fuhrman, Ed.D., Librarian at State College Area High School
  - a. Fuhrman shared a certificate of commendation for the program Schlow-to-School and described the program and its impact.
  - b. The Schlow-to-School program started in 2016 and has expanded to all K-12 students since 2020. It is a collaboration between the public library and State College Area School District that allows students to obtain library cards to borrow both print and digital materials with no late fees and empowers students to be able to pick up and return public library items to the school.

The program is a collaboration that emphasizes the importance of school and public library staff as an integral part of library material access. It is a supplement, not a replacement for strong school library service.
6. State of PA School Libraries / Aimee Emerson, President, PSLA. **See written report attached**.
  - a. Emerson introduced president elect, Leah Lindemann.
  - b. Emerson described events at the 2023 PSLA Conference. There have been inspiring moments of relating with authors and illustrators and remembering why we became librarians. Emerson highlighted the One Book One Association Event with keynote author Alex Gino. The preconference workshop was Beyond Banned Books: Intellectual Freedom in School Libraries.
  - c. PSLA is planning summer workshops and intends to host four 90-minute sessions about reconnection, recognition, resilience, and action.
  - d. PSLA is working with PALA to improve intellectual freedom and protection of staff aiming to have a shared message. PSLA has a website and a rapid response team. Despite the challenging times, school librarians are resourceful.
  - e. PSLA shared about two pieces of legislation that could impact libraries:
    - i. HB2815 refers to removing obscene material.
    - ii. HB640 is proactive legislation to require one certified school librarian per school building.
7. Bureau Reports from the Office of Commonwealth Libraries
  - a. Bureau of State Library – Sarah Greene, Director shared highlights from **written report attached**. Greene shared the amount in the Mansfield fund \$153,833.73
  - b. Garm entertained a motion to contact Mansfield to inquire about moving funds due to the consolidation of PASSHE schools and lack of regular affiliation with Mansfield which ended when Larry Nesbit finished his GAC term. Moved by Barb Zaborowski, seconded by Belanger. Motion passed. Discussion noted that

the GAC needed to be the organization to request the action because the money was from capital funds given to the GAC, not the Pennsylvania Department of Education. It is therefore the GAC's decision to move the money.

- c. Bureau of Library Development – Heather Sharpe, Director – Banks shared highlights in Sharpe's absence. **Written report attached.**
8. Follow-up on February's Community Conversation – Beth Mellor – Mellor shared summaries of the questions asked at the prior meeting.
  - a. What are the issues that trouble you? Two areas of concern were funding and regulations. See **attached handout** that addresses the regulations process.
  - b. What are the services you need help with? Banks provided information on State Library of Pennsylvania services. Attendees also wanted help for advocacy for public libraries and information about digitizing and creating metadata.
9. Committee Reports
  - a. **Bylaws:** Allison Mackley reported the need to ensure bylaws represent library statute and to define items that lack clarity.
  - b. **Communications:** No report
  - c. **Education and Advocacy:** Had a meeting, but no report.
  - d. **Guidelines and Policies:** Belanger thanked committee members and staff for their continuing work on a draft of Library Service Area guidelines. The group has worked to ensure that Statute guides the process, regulations clarify, and the guidelines represent further instruction and a "how to" process. The committee is currently working on guidelines for increasing or decreasing service areas and they are close to having a draft to share with a focus group for initial feedback. The next topic the committee approaches will likely be hours open and holidays for libraries.
  - e. **Planning:** The committee had a Jan 19 meeting to look at the strategic plan to ensure they were addressing the three committee priorities: Communication, Collaboration, and Clarification.
  - f. **Ad Hoc Committee / Statute and Regulations:** Garm shared highlights from **written report attached.**
10. Public Comment
  - a. **PaLLS/SPARK:** Katherine Dannehl, Membership Engagement Specialist, shared news about two district resource sharing projects coming online in the spring. Northeast and Easton Districts will have increased resource sharing through patron-initiated loans of items across their districts. As one example, patrons of Bangor Public Library will have access to seventeen times as many books and one hundred times as many audiobooks. The organization will attend the Evergreen International Conference in April and host the Users Group meeting in May that offers educational sessions to the 160+ locations.
  - b. **Maryam Phillips, Executive Director of HSLC - See attachment** HSLC is making an E-content platform recommendation. It is hoped that POWER Library will behave more like a public library and better meet expectations of the users for downloadable content.

**11. Adjourn:** Belanger made motion to adjourn. Mellor seconded. Adjourned at 12:10pm.

Next Business Meeting: Thursday, June 29

#### Upcoming Meetings

- Thursday, June 29 (location TBD)
- Sunday, October 1: PA Library Association Conference, Kalahari Resort, Poconos
- Thursday, December 7

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**  
**March 31, 2023**

Challenging Times

Thank you to the Pennsylvania School Librarians Association for inviting us, once again, to spend time with you and to hold our business meeting here. We are always inspired by your dedication to the children of our Commonwealth, and never more so than in these challenging times. It is shocking and appalling that people are deliberately spreading misconceptions about the work you do. Your work is being impacted not just by cutbacks in librarian jobs, but by challenges to materials and by the outright sully of your reputation and integrity. Still, what we have seen and heard from your professional community focuses on communal strength and mutual support for those who are experiencing direct attacks. We look forward to hearing from you today about your trials and about your thoughts on how we, as advisors to the Secretary of Education and the Governor, can be of assistance. We hope that this conference will buoy your spirits and provide important context and contacts to assist you when you return to your schools. We are honored to be here with you today.

Reappointments

Marsha Everton has been reappointed to a four-year term as a lay member of the Governor's Advisory Council on Library Development, and Allison Mackley has been reappointed to a four-year term as a professional librarian member of Council. Both terms will run through January of 2027. Marsha currently serves as Chair of the Communications Committee. Allison serves on the Executive Committee and chairs the Bylaws Committee.

LibGuides

Repetition is the key to successful communication, so I would like to remind Council members that we now have a LibGuide that serves as a repository of Council and committee documents. If you have any questions or would like to add working documents from your committees, contact Carrie Cleary.

And for members of our audience: There is also a LibGuide that contains issues of Highlights, our summary of GAC business meetings, along with documents and other materials referenced during those meetings. The Highlights document is not intended to replace our meeting minutes, but it allows Council to more quickly distribute information prior to the formal acceptance of minutes at a subsequent meeting. <https://pa-gov.libguides.com/GACHighlights>

## Governor's Advisory Council Meeting

Friday, March 31, 2023

### Deputy Secretary's Report:

- **PDE** – Governor's Budget and Appropriations Testimony – 3/7, 3/20, 3/29. Governor Shapiro recommended a new priority for libraries with the addition of a new line of a \$4.2M fund for small rural public libraries to improve facilities and infrastructure. Specifics on that program are forthcoming. Libraries received a gratifying focus in the House, with members from both sides of the aisle sharing their respect and appreciation for the work of our libraries and their own experiences. Any updates from the Senate Testimony will be shared at the meeting.
- **COSLA Update:** 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year for the agency – October meeting that 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).
- **Broadband: Digital Literacy and Digital Equity** – Carrie Cleary continues to meet with an interagency team to work towards broadband equity for Pennsylvanians. Libraries are encouraged to use the [Digital Skills map](#) to continue to connect people in need with classes and complete [the form](#) to share their own classes. Carrie is sending reminders to district consultants and libraries to encourage their participation in the Broadband Survey so that summary results can be available to help inform future planning. Recently, Carrie [shared](#) and attended the PA Broadband Development Authority feedback sessions on their Stakeholder Engagement Plan. It is important for libraries to continue to be prepared for upcoming opportunities as a part of the [Broadband Equity Access and Deployment program](#), the [Digital Equity Act](#), and the [Capital Projects Funds](#). Reach out to Carrie with questions and ideas.
- **Workforce Development** – OCL is at the table with an effort to coordinate workforce development activities with Pittsburgh-area PBS affiliate WQED (Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood!). Led by Robyn Vittek, Director of the Mt. Lebanon Public Library, the group includes a range of folks from WQED as well as OCL's Stacey Mulligan and PaLA's PA Forward Coordinator Rob Leshner. More to come on that enterprise.
- **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. Over the next months, we will be 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** Progress continues but is now running behind the schedule we'd hoped for – we're prepared to move our planned return to both the State Library and the offices back, based on how quickly the Dept. of General Services can get occupancy clearance. We will likely propose a Grand Re-Opening Celebration for the spring of 2024 to avoid winter weather concerns and to give us adequate time to get everything in place.
- **IMLS posts all 5-Year Plans** – The IMLS has updated the Grants to States directory for 2023 with the posting of updates and all the new LSTA plans from every state and territory in the program. You can see information about LSTA work and read about model project and programs that states have developed and are pursuing.
- 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. The maiden voyage of "Friday Futures" will be on April 14 from noon-1 p.m. - a lunchtime chat for all PA Librarians who have taken the training from the Kedge Futures School – and

more. First topics to get participants warmed up will focus on book bans and the freedom of reading and DVDs, streaming, and the future of film in libraries. Look for regular updates on this work.

- 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, many of which date to the 1960s. 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.
- The administrative office welcomed Ross Bowman as Administrative Officer 2 in March.



# Pennsylvania School Librarians Association

## 49<sup>th</sup> Annual PSLA Conference

### Harrisburg, PA

## Report for Governor's Advisory Council

Submitted by Aimee Emerson, PSLA President

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### **PSLA Work with the LSTA Grant**

PSLA's "One Book, One Association" event will continue at conference. During the Unconference session, Alex Gino whose teenage writing sample is featured, will join us for a free-flowing discussion. Membership attendance has been consistent, and feedback has been positive. Members want more book studies to feel connected to each other and enjoy the time to talk in small groups.

Yesterday's Pre-Conference was well attended. PSLA's IFTG Task Group Coordinator, Beth Shenefiel, presented with ALA's OIF Joyce McIntosh. The session was titled, "Beyond Banned Books: Intellectual Freedom in School Libraries". Every attendee will receive a one-year membership to the Freedom to Read Foundation.

Online Summer Workshop will be "Exploring Work that Matters" with Zindzi Cresswell and Matt Finch for four ninety-minute sessions.

- Workshop 1: Reconnection: The Mission of the Librarian
- Workshop 2: Recognition: The Reach of the Librarian
- Workshop 3: Resilience: Strength in numbers
- Workshop 4: Action

### **PSLA Seeks Stakeholder Support**

PSLA has reached out to Pennsylvania School Education Association, American Federation of Teachers PA, and Pennsylvania Librarians Association for support and a show of solidarity against the harassment that is infringing on our students' intellectual freedom as well as our colleagues' personal and professional lives.

### **Targeted Legislation**

“Parental Control of Student Exposure to Sexually Explicit Content in Schools”- Sen. Aument

- An “Opt-In” policy which restrict access to lists of materials regardless of their relevance to our students and removes local control

“Removing Obscene Material from Our School Libraries” (prior HB 2815)—Representative Gleim

- This directly targets our school library profession and attempts to criminalize our colleagues.

### **Pro-Active Legislation**

HB 640 “One Certified Librarian per Public School Building” - Representatives Ciresi and Mackenzie

PSLA is also working with the Education Law Center and its partners on our own bill language as a proactive approach that focuses on the accurate work that school librarians do and proper reconsideration processes.

### **PSLA Advocacy Efforts**

Our IFTG website and Rapid Response Team confidential Reporting Form are being used by our members and non-members. Our RRT has been busy helping our colleagues in the state with censorship and harassment issues.

### **PSLA Work**

Despite these challenging times, PA school librarians are committed to their students and their school communities. As the conference concurrent sessions show, we have a strong, dedicated membership with many talents and ideas worth sharing.

PSLA would like to thank the Governor’s Advisory Council and the Office of Commonwealth Libraries for the continued support and guidance.

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

**Rare Collections Library (RCL) Report to GAC- February 1 to March 31, 2023**

As part of the Forum Building project, contractors installed wireless Internet access points throughout the Rare Collections vaults and the Reading Room. This will provide staff the ability to conduct mobile inventories and catalog searches while working in the vaults, without having to go to a stationary computer plugged in to the Ethernet. Met with HVAC preservation monitoring software vendor concerning next year's contract.

Rare Collections activities have included presenting staff professional development opportunities relating to Rare Collections and the book, such as book repair, rare book purchasing, paper marbling, and making your own book. Other outreach included presenting a program on the 18<sup>th</sup> century book to the DAR/SAR. Participated in planning for returning to the Forum Building, specifically how to reintegrate microfilm and newspaper collections. Reviewed open and closed stacks for materials that might be added to Rare Collections.

***Gifts***

- *Books from the Governor's residence and office gifted to the Governor on behalf of the Commonwealth.* Significant inscribed and/or autographed titles will be added to Rare Collections.
- *Deutsches Gesangbuch. Eine Auswahl Geistlicher Kieder...* Philadelphia: Lindsay und Blakiston; Schaefer und Koradi, 1860.
- *Fox-Hunting, as Recorded by Raed. By C.A. Stephens.* Philadelphia: The John C. Winston Co., c1872.

***Purchases***

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

- *Captain Macklin by Richard Harding Davis*
- *Just So Stories by Rudyard Kipling*
- *Heroes and Hunters of the West, 1857*
- *Old Rose and Silver by Myrtle Reed*
- *One Hoss Shay by Oliver Wendell Holmes*

## **PUBLIC SERVICES**

In 2023, the State Library celebrates its 165th year as a Federal Depository Library. Due to construction, a celebration will be planned in 2024. The staff of the State Library participated in the program sponsored by the PA House Democratic Caucus to teach Caucus Fellows about the State Library and the services it offers. Kathy Hale and Katy Vance attended the presentation ceremony at the capital. The State Library has received many interesting questions such as looking for words to be included in the Oxford English Dictionary, looking for a bootlegger who lived in the Williamsport area, helping a patron looking for a post office in Lycoming County that only existed from 1901-1905, voter registration statistics from Montgomery County for 1940, and information about a cemetery in Butler County that was flooded out in 1985. Genealogy Librarian, Amy Woytovich, participated in the PALA poster session. New collection additions include over 300 new books with an emphasis on authors and subjects of people of color and mental health issues and subscriptions to Newspapers.com and American Chemical Society online database.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

The State Library provided 2 programs between February 2023 and March 2023. Programs included:

- The Underground Railroad in Central Pennsylvania, presented by Scott Mingus
- August Wilson and the African American Cultural Center, presented by Cathryn Calhoun, Director of Education at the August Wilson African American Cultural Center
- STEM for Adults Series, presented by Bill Fee, STEMLab Instructor

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> .

The STEMLab engaged with educators from across the State at the Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Educators annual conference. We plan on connecting them with libraries for STEM programming opportunities.

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 [aoskam@pa.gov](mailto:aoskam@pa.gov) for more information.

Submitted by Sarah Greene, Director, Bureau of State Library  
3/27/2023

# Bureau of Library Development Report

## Governor's Advisory Council Meeting

March 31, 2023

### FEDERAL FUNDING/PROGRAMS

#### LSTA

- 2023-24 Statewide Library Service [eGrants](#) applications will open in May 2023. A 'Get Ready to Apply' webinar for the 2023-24 program year is planned for April 2023. It will be recorded and made available on the [PA Library Staff Academy](#) for those who are unable to attend.
- Current LSTA program highlights include:

#### School Age Services

- The [Pennsylvania Summer Library Program 2023 Summer Showcase](#) is now available on the [PA Library Staff Academy](#). The purpose of this showcase is to highlight Pennsylvania library staff who made an impact on their communities with exemplary and innovative programming during Summer 2022. Through this Pennsylvania Library Staff Academy course, viewers have access to information through a number of Summer library programs developed by Pennsylvania library staff from across the Commonwealth. The Youth Services Advisory Team also has prepared a special presentation of the 2022 Summer Impact Report and information of outcomes, and equity, belonging, and inclusion.
- [Wednesday, April 12, 1-2:30PM.: Decorating Together](#) At this session, we will discuss a highlight of Summer library programs: Decorating! Bring your ideas for how you plan to decorate for your library's 2023 program to share with colleagues in breakout discussion to generate energy and excitement around the great work your library does for your unique community. ([Link to the CSLP "Decorating Together" recording](#))
- [Wednesday, April 26, 1-2:30PM.: Outcomes and Impacts](#) At this session, we will discuss the 'why' behind Summer programs through discussion on the impact libraries make on youth in their communities. Join in conversation about how to set goals and measure anticipated outcomes with colleagues in group and breakout discussion. ([Summer Showcase 2023 recording on Outcomes and Equity, Belonging, and Inclusion](#))
- Previous roundtable sessions included a discussion of the "All Together Now" 2023 Summer Theme and Programming. Discussion and colleague communication in these two sessions has been key in building a community of practice and collaboration for library staff, and the Youth Services Advisory Team is thrilled with the deep focus on excellent and equitable library services to youth.

#### Early Childhood Services

- Forty-three Pennsylvania libraries were awarded funds to create a StoryWalk® exhibition in their community. Twelve libraries received funds to create a permanent StoryWalk® and 31 libraries received a StoryWalk® Mini-Grant.
- In addition to the funding for libraries to create an exhibit in the community, OCL is offering a 90-minute webinar on designing and implementing a StoryWalk®. This webinar is open to all Pennsylvania Library staff and volunteers and will be presented by Elaine Czarnecki on March 29 at 2:00PM. [Register for the StoryWalk® Webinar here.](#)
- 'Choosing and Using Picture Books to Engage in Developmentally Appropriate Race Talk' webinar will explore a framework for choosing and using picture books as a tool to promote developmentally appropriate race talk. In this 2-hour interactive session, we will introduce the idea of race talk in early childhood and discuss the ways picture books can be used as a tool to support both adult and child learning. Date: Tuesday, April 25, 2023 Time: Noon - 2:00PM.

## Adult and Special Populations

- INCLUDING YOU is a six-week workshop series designed for library staff that focuses on communication strategies to establish inclusive work and community environments. Workshop opportunities are announced via the [Compendium](#) and the mailing lists. The next workshop is scheduled for April – May and will be open to library staff at all levels and all types of libraries. Workshops for library trustees will be offered this year. [Read more and register for INCLUDING YOU here.](#)

## STATE FUNDING/PROGRAMS

### State Aid

- The 2022 Annual Reports are being reviewed by district consultants and the state aid team in preparation for submission to the national Public Library Survey.
- District Library Centers are working on their District Negotiated Agreements with their member libraries to identify the services and resources that will be offered to libraries and communities within the district geographic area. Finalization of the agreements will take place from now and June 15, 2023.
- Regulations, guidelines, and policy:
  - Internal work group continues review and recommendations for new regulations.
  - Committee work continues on service area guidelines.
- Public Library Directory – a few remaining interface updates are in progress.
- Public library data has been uploaded to the [PA Citizen's Experience Map](#).

### Keystone Grants for Public Library Facilities

- PDE announced over \$4 million in awards to 21 libraries in 15 counties. [Shapiro Administration Awards More Than \\$4 Million in Keystone Grants to 21 Public Libraries \(pa.gov\)](#)
- Keystone program overview training sessions will be held on April 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. The half-hour presentation will focus specifically on what prospective applicants should know before planning an application, followed by a Q&A period. Eligible applicants and projects, how reimbursement works, and what can be done now to prepare are some of session topics. Anyone from a library or municipality who will be involved in planning the application or administering the project is welcome to attend. [Register here.](#)

## OPERATIONS/PERSONNEL

Rebuilding of the BLD team continues.

In progress:

- Library Development Advisor - Statewide Services
- Education Administration Supervisor - Administration & Data

Other positions expected to be posted in the near future include:

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

# PA LIBRARY REGULATIONS PROCESS



COMMUNICATE PROGRESS  
REGULARLY

PaLA= Pennsylvania Library Association  
OCL = Office of Commonwealth Libraries  
GAC = Governor's Advisory Council

## **Statute and Regulations Working Group**

### **Report to GAC**

**March 31, 2023**

Work continues in three priority areas:

Internal process: Sue Banks has been leading the charge within PDE to define and refine what we need in a project manager. Because the group is developing the content for the regulations, what we will need is a writer familiar with regulatory documents to translate our content into appropriate language.

Our group has been joined by Camille Traczek from PDE's Policy Office. She is helping to keep our work visible to the right people in the department and to guide us through the process of preparing regulations.

Communications: Christi Buker, ED of PaLA, has been hosting forums with public librarians and surveying them about issues of interest and importance to them relating to current and future regulations. Beth Mellor from GAC has been using her skills in PR and marketing to help consolidate the large amounts of information being generated and in keeping our audiences informed.

Statute Review: We are beginning to see outcomes from the work of PDE Bureau Director Heather Sharpe and her team of Amy Geisinger and Mike Reilly. They have set a goal of completing their review of the statute by mid-year and are on track to do so. As they work through sections of the statute, they have established some guidelines:

- Avoid overregulation
  - Use alternative clarifying documents (e.g., GAC guidelines or OCL policies)
- Allow for adaptability
- Keep regulations future-focused; don't correct all the ills of the past

Suggestions for new regulations will be "workshopped" first by the Working Group and then by focus groups (or other structures) with the field.

The Working Group continues to meet monthly.



## **POWER Library Report to the Governor's Advisory Council March 31, 2023**

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

Primary Contact: Maryam Phillips, Executive Director  
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Email: [phillips@hslc.org](mailto:phillips@hslc.org)  
Websites: [www.powerlibrary.org](http://www.powerlibrary.org) [kids.powerlibrary.org](http://kids.powerlibrary.org) [teens.powerlibrary.org](http://teens.powerlibrary.org)

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

HSLC is nearing the end of a procurement to add an e-content platform to POWER Library, with a final recommendation due in April.

The goals of this platform are:

#### HSLC Goals:

- Modernize authentication system(s)
- Expand access while still retaining POWER Library branding
- Create a one-stop-shop for access to e-books, databases and more
- Maintain ability to serve as Tier One support for users

#### OCL Goals:

- Remove barriers to access for users
- Offer e-content options, searching and navigation of collections with audience levels in mind
- Centralize e-content interface so it is not vendor-specific
- Expand user-engagement including recommendations, courses, learning tools, reading challenges
- Create a platform that can be expanded to include e-book collections owned locally by PA libraries

#### End-user Goals:

- One-stop shop for accessing all electronic content
- Age-appropriate display of content for users
- Offer e-content reader for consistency of user interface
- Improved accessibility tools

#### Evaluation Team

The evaluation team for viewing the demos included HSLC Staff (librarian and technical), OCL staff, K12 librarians, and members of the public.