

ALS Board of Directors
Executive Director's Report
May 20, 2009

The 2009 ALA Legislative Day was held on May 12th, and despite tighter security than ever, was a very productive but low key event with 49 Illinois delegates (56 last year) traveling to Washington. With ALS financial restraints, Lee Logan was the lone ALS representative, and Lou Ann Jacobs spoke on behalf of school libraries in Illinois. Our legislators included Senators Durbin and Burris, plus congressional representatives Halvorson, Foster, Johnson, Hare and Schock. The primary messages taken to our legislators by Lee and Lou Ann were:

1. **Fund the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA)** at \$300 million, with Illinois receiving \$6 million and \$3.1 million re-granted in state wide competitive LSTA grants. ALS provided each legislator with a detailed list of LSTA and E-rate grants received by each library in each legislator's district.
2. **Fund the Improving Literacy through School Libraries program** at \$100 million. The Secretary of Education awards competitive grants to eligible school districts.
3. **Support broadband deployment.** The library community encouraged legislators to include libraries in the broadband stimulus programs. ALS provided detailed information to each of our representatives on this issue; listing broadband connectivity for each school and public library in each legislator's district. This was huge work, but is well used by our representatives.

Lee and Lou Ann asked legislators specifically for support to preserve the E-rate. It is working to serve library patrons and students of all ages by making telecommunication services affordable to public libraries and K-12 public and private schools. They asked the legislators to support proposed legislation that would exempt USF programs from Anti-Deficiency Act requirements. The exemption would allow for the continuous reimbursement of e rate funds.

The total cost of Legislative Day was as follows:

| | ALS Representatives | Travel/ Acc./stipend | Staff support* | Total Cost | Cost / Rep. |
|----------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 2009 | 1 | \$1,334 | \$220 | \$1,554 | \$1,534 |
| 2008 | 1 | \$1,031 | \$200 | \$1,231 | \$1,231 |
| 2007 | 3 | \$3,405 | \$300 | \$3,705 | \$1,235 |
| 2006 | 3 | \$3,131 | \$300 | \$3,431 | \$1,144 |
| 2005 | 3 | \$2,672 | \$300 | \$2,972 | \$991 |
| Average | 2.2 | \$2,315 | \$264 | \$2,579 | \$1,227 |

As I finish this report, the FY2010 Per Capita Grant Application is almost complete and ready to be sent to the Illinois State Library. This large planning document includes the proposed 2009-2010 budget and the FY2010 plan of service. I will have a copy for members to peruse at the meeting.

The State Library has changed its method of meeting annually with the systems to review our annual budgets and plans of service. Instead of travelling to Springfield in July, we will be talking to them electronically via V tel. We are thrilled with this change in procedures as it will save significant time and expense, and in return we will be able to make a better presentation and include more people in the process. It will also allow us to sit in on other system presentations and learn more about how to cooperate and capitalize on their best practices. We thank Anne Craig and the Illinois State Library staff for adopting this new process and look forward to perfecting our ability to plan for the wise use of the taxpayers \$, share the ALS story electronically plus continue to collaborate effectively with other library systems and the Illinois State Library.



We have a great summer ahead with the following: continued work on the state wide multitype system standards; facilitating the school librarians Summer Camp in July in both Quincy and East Peoria; presentations at both the ALA conference in Chicago and the ILA conference in Peoria on trends in fundraising; more On a + Note Monday morning emails to over 5,000 readers, (but I promise, no more snake pictures!!), finishing the 5th ALS Trends Report for the next board meeting and continued administrative support of MITBC.

Yikes it's a long, but exciting list!

Kitty Pope
Executive Director
kpope@alliancelibrarysystem.com