



TO: ALS Board of Directors, members, staff, friends and family

FROM: Kitty Pope, ALS Executive Director

DATE: Thursday May 27, 2010

RE: ALS new core services update #3

or

If you believe in miracles...this is your lucky day!!!

Thursday May 13th Anne Craig, Director of the Illinois State Library told a meeting of the Illinois Library System Directors that the financial crisis is upon us and we need to move to survivor mode. She said that the remainder of this year's ALS payment would probably not be received until October/November and the allocation for FY 11 would probably not be received until FY 12. The state of Illinois currently owes ALS \$920,824 (\$668,206 for ALS and \$252,618 for MITBC). Anne Craig went on to say, I am offering you a life boat, you can put delivery and resource sharing in it (RSA). Realizing that ALS did not have the cash for ALS and MITBC to last until October/November the ALS Executive Committee directed the Executive Director to lay off twenty-two employees Friday May 28th.

On Tuesday May 26th the Illinois Legislature passed a new FY11 budget.

On Wednesday May 27th I got an amazing phone call from Anne Craig. She said, with the state budget in place, the Secretary of State had moved LSTA \$ (that is federal \$) to: by July 15th payback ALS the funds they have lent MITBC and completely fund FY11. All three Illinois talking book centers are back in business!!

As Anne finished our conversation I was sending out an all staff meeting email and ten minutes later I shared the news with staff. First there were silent looks of disbelief and then the tear began to roll. Tears of joy that nine jobs have been spared and we can continue to serve the 5,000 visually impaired folks who depend on us. There was also tears of profound sadness as the remaining thirteen IT and Consulting jobs are still gone as of tomorrow.

There are many unanswered questions, but for today we will celebrate this miracle and be grateful to the folks who made it possible. To Jesse White, Secretary of State (phone number is 1-217-782-2201 if you want to thank him!!) to Anne Craig and the ILS staff (phone number 1-217-782-2994 if you want to thank her) and to all our colleagues, customers, friends and families who wrote, phoned and emailed on our behalf, we here on High Point Lane are so very grateful.

This is all the news from this roller coaster of a ride!

It's board meeting day...so I am on the run.....

As Always...but a little more grateful this morning

Kitty