

Library Board of Rhode Island Annual Report 2018

July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018

Members and Representations

Thomas Viall (Chair, General Library Users); Cristina M. Amedeo (General Library Users); John N. Bucci (Medium or Large Public Libraries); Melody Drnach, (General Library Users); Annette Feldman (Small Public Libraries); Kenneth Findlay (Library Serving Institutionalized Persons); Edward Garcia (Economically Disadvantaged); Louise Herrington-Bright (General Library Users); Rosita E. Hopper (Academic Libraries); Phyllis A. Humphrey (School Libraries); Vacant (Corporate or Special Libraries); Monica Nazareth-Dzialo (Users of Talking Books Plus); Doug Norris (Statewide Library Advocacy Group); Rose Ellen Reynolds (General Library Users); Robert H. Sloan, Jr. (Public Library Trustees); Joan Ress Reeves (Member Emeritus); Phyllis Lynch, Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education (Ex Officio); Commissioner of Higher Education (Ex Officio).

Board Meetings

The Board convened 10 meetings in state fiscal year 2018, with minutes attached as an appendix to this report:

- September 18, 2017
- October 16, 2017
- November 20, 2017
- December 18, 2017
- January 8, 2018
- February 5, 2018
- March 19, 2018
- April 16, 2018
- May 21, 2018
- June 18, 2018

Board Actions

The Board provides guidance to the Office of Library and Information Services, setting policy for the development of library services, interlibrary cooperation and resource sharing as relates to current and future library and information service needs in the state. The Board, upon seeking the advice of the stakeholders they represent and the Chief of Library Services, also determines priorities for the expenditure of state and federal funds in the development of library services, interlibrary cooperation and resource sharing.

In state fiscal year 2018, the Board and its committees took action on the following matters:

- Reviewed, rewrote and approved new “Minimum Standards for Institutional Libraries,” [220-RICR-60-15-4](#)
- Reviewed and approved new Regulations for Public Library Construction Reimbursement, [220-RICR-60-15-1](#)

- Submitted letter of support for Net Neutrality bills at the RI General Assembly: H7422 (Net Neutrality Protection Act of 2018), H7076 and S 2008 (Net Neutrality).
- Submitted a letter to the South Kingstown School Committee in support of maintaining a school library and a certified librarian, rather than a media center without a certified librarian, at South Kingstown High School.
- Discussed courses of action to support school libraries.
- Reported on issues of importance and/or concern for the constituents they represent throughout the year, especially interlibrary delivery services for school libraries, reduction of funding for statewide databases, and services to Rhode Islanders who are blind or visually impaired.
- Brought forth issues and observations from Board members' areas of expertise within the library community and at external organizations whose objectives intersect with libraries, such as literacy, technology and social services. These reports helped guide the Office of Library and Information Services in the development and/or clarification of procedures and provision of services and programs for the libraries in the state.

Financial Statement

- No funds were received or expended by the Board.
- Clerical, administrative and technical support for the Board were provided by the Office of Library and Information Services.

Board Performance

- An ad hoc subcommittee was created to review the Minimum Standards for Institutional Libraries. The committee reviewed the standards and developed new Minimum Standards for Institutional Libraries, which will govern the eligibility of state institutions for library aid. Standards were developed and promulgated in accordance with state regulatory process ([220-RICR-60-15-4](#)).
- Reviewed final amendments to the Regulations for Public Library Construction Reimbursement, specifically maximum reimbursement amounts, and approved the Regulations for promulgation in accordance with the state regulatory process. ([220-RICR-60-15-1](#))
- Monitored and analyzed state and federal legislation affecting libraries to determine action items, including state legislation on Net Neutrality and federal legislation authorizing the federal Institute for Museum and Library Services and its funding.
- Attended National Library Legislative Day in Washington DC in May 2018 to advocate for federal legislation impacting libraries.
- Actively engaged with members of Rhode Island's federal delegation to encourage support of the federal Museum and Library Services Act, which authorizes funding for the Library Services and Technology Act, the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and associated grant programs; the IMLS Grants to States program provides nearly half of the Office of Library and Information Services' annual budget. RI Senator Jack Reed is the lead sponsor for this legislation.

- Provided critical feedback on activities of the Office of Library and Information Services, including interlibrary delivery, statewide resources available on AskRI, continuing education programming for librarians, and the Talking Books Library.

Hearings and Complaints

- No hearings were conducted by the Board.
- No complaints were brought before the Board.

Board Trainings

- No new Board members were appointed to the Board in 2018; no Board trainings were held.

Anticipated Activities 2019

- Review and revise standards for membership in the Library of Rhode Island and regulations for participation in the Library of Rhode Island network; complete the regulatory process to promulgate revised/new regulations.
- Convene an ad hoc committee to study the staffing and needs of school libraries in RI schools, and issue a report, including recommendations for Board actions in support of school libraries.
- Examine current issues, challenges and successes at the state's public libraries to determine how the Office of Library and Information Services may better support libraries in the upcoming years.

Findings and Recommendations

- The Board continues to seek ways in which to support and further the development of library services in Rhode Island's cities and towns, schools, colleges and universities, and other non-profit organizations. Additionally, the Board seeks to expand partnerships with similar organizations to support and strengthen library and information resources and programs in traditional and innovative ways for all Rhode Islanders.
- Through June 2018, the Board had 11 members whose terms had expired: 4 expired in 2016, 7 previously. The Board consists of 15 members. All members with expired terms, with two exceptions, continued to serve until a successor was appointed, per RIGL 29.3.1-3.1. New appointments and reappointments were made by the Governor in June 2018 with the advice and consent of the Senate.

Appendix I: Library Board of Rhode Island Minutes

Final approved minutes as filed with the Secretary of State are compiled and available on the Office of Library and Information Services website and appended to this document. Minutes are available online at <http://www.olis.ri.gov/about/lbri/minutes/fy2018lbrimm.pdf>

Minutes of meetings held:

- September 18, 2017
- October 16, 2017
- November 20, 2017
- December 18, 2017
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