

Memo

To: ILA Executive Board
From: Erin Hasler and Larry Almeida
Date: October 2, 2006
Re: Legislative Committee Report for October 4th Board Meeting

Recent activities of the Legislative Committee:

- In May 2006, Larry Almeida (Kootenai-Shoshone Area Libraries) agreed to co-chair the Legislative Committee with Erin Hasler for the remainder of the 2006-2007 term. Thank you Larry!
- Upon John Watt's recommendation, Representative Maxine Bell and Representative Scott Bedke (both members of the JFAC committee) were nominated for the "Legislator of the Year" award. A joint award was granted by the Awards Committee. The announcement will be made at ILA's annual conference in Moscow and the awards will be presented to the legislators in January during ILA's Executive Board meeting.
- In preparation for ILA's 2007 legislative breakfast, which has been reserved for **Thursday January 11th 2007**, the committee has proposed the book "P is for Potato" by Joy and Stan Steiner to include in the legislator packets. A children's book corresponds well with this year's "Read-to-Me" funding request.
- Erin Hasler and Ann Joslin attended the National Library Legislative Day 2006 in Washington D.C. (see attached report).
- The Library Law Task Force conducted two conferences calls in the last five months. The call on May 10th 2006 served as "debriefing" for the 2006 legislative session. The committee's call on September 6th 2006 served as a preliminary discussion of "Impact Fees" and Idaho libraries. It was decided that more research needs to be collected on this issue before the committee proposes putting forth legislation to be sponsored by ILA.
- All members of the LLTF (other than Idaho Commission for Library staff) have been asked to sit on ILA's Legislative Committee. This action serves to bridge the communication gap between the two committees as well as encourage participation.
- **Survey Results:** A recent survey of 10 SWILA conference workshop participants showed the following results: 6 out of 10 participants knew who their legislators were (residential), 5 out of 10 participants had contacted their legislators either by mail, email, telephone, or in person, and 4 participants noted that legislators had recently visited their libraries. Issues that participants felt local legislators should be made more aware of included:
 - The impact libraries on people's lives and the necessity of libraries to the vitality of a continuing democratic society.
 - Non-traditional and senior program offerings, databases, and the local benefits of State Library programs funded by the state.
 - Making sure the property tax reform doesn't remove existing funds for schools and libraries
 - That the library is more than GOOGLE!

Next Steps:

- Encouraging ILA members to target the new Governor for "Read-to-Me" funds

- Research on “Impact Fees and Libraries” to be gathered and shared at the Library Law Task Force meeting on January 11th, 2007.
- 2007 Budget for the Legislative Committee
- Preparations for ILA’s Legislative Breakfast 2007