OCPL GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

March 18, 2020

Operations:

● The committee cancelled its scheduled March 17 meeting due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Legislative:

● On February 25th librarians from the Onondaga County Public Library system joined forces at the Albany State Capitol to advocate on behalf of libraries in Onondaga County and throughout the state. Advocates visited 15 legislative offices to speak with legislators and their aids. CLRC once again sponsored a bus to Albany on behalf of their members.

● Committee members met with State Senator Rachel May at her Syracuse Office on March 5.

● Committee members held a conference call with State Assemblywoman Pamela Hunter on March 13. Discussion included the effects of the pandemic on the state budget process; libraries’ funding needs; the tech pack program; libraries’ work in support of the 2020 census; and other library activities.
**Sustainability**

- The Sustainability group will hold a forum with an exhibit hall for vendors and environmental information at the Dewitt library on April 14 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm.
- Scott Kushner from Lafayette will present a workshop on sustainability in May at CLRC. He will discuss the concepts of sustainability and the human connection to them.

**Other**

- The committee has changed its meeting schedule, beginning immediately. Meetings will occur on the day before the full board meetings in January; February; March; April; August; October; and December.
- The Liverpool Public Library held its grand re-opening on January 24. County Executive McMahon and several lawmakers attended or sent staff.
- The so-called “First Amendment Auditors” visited the Manlius Library. Overwhelmed by the drama at the reference desk, they fled after 20 minutes.
- The Post-Standard caught Executive Director Christian Zabriskie reading to kids at storytime.
Upcoming Activities
● The American Heart Association will present a program during the February school break on “Healthy Hearts”. The program will demonstrate how to make vegetarian chili at three schools. OCPL will have tables at these events.
● Story Walk at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo on February 5.
● Early literacy billboard campaign in April.

Other:
● The committee continues to consider alternative meeting schedules.