

SUMMARY OF MAJOR ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

ACLA Board of Directors Meeting

March 19, 2007

- The Board reviewed financial statements that now include reports on monthly cash position. Some further revisions were suggested that will be incorporated beginning in April. The Board commended staff for the significant improvement in reporting and accountability with the transition to QuickBooks for Nonprofits and the revisions to the Chart of Accounts.
- The President sent a letter to the eiNetwork Board recommending that the 2008 funding request to ARAD for eiNetwork operating support be handled as it has been historically, with ACLA requesting full funding as a pass-through to eiNetwork. Last year this is what the member libraries approved and what was submitted. Subsequently the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh in its ARAD submission requested that half the eiNetwork funding flow through CLP to eiNetwork. The ARAD resolved that funding for 2007 would continue to flow through ACLA, but advised that the matter should be resolved between the two corporate members going forward. Since that time eiNetwork has initiated a strategic planning process that will incorporate review of governance structure. Ms. Smith's letter to the eiNetwork Board reflected the desire to honor that process and await recommendations (due in August) prior to making any significant funding changes. Dr. Mistick sent correspondence responding to Ms. Smith's letter indicating that the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh would again submit a request for half of the eiNetwork operating support. The eiNetwork Board was unable to reach consensus on a response to Ms. Smith's letter. The matter of the 2008 ACLA request to ARAD on behalf of eiNetwork will be discussed with the member libraries at the General Membership meeting on April 30.
- Ms. Smith also updated the Board on correspondence to the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh regarding State Aid funding for populations served by ACLA. The letter indicated that, in accordance with the State directive, ACLA had distributed to CLP exactly the amount of funding it had received in 2002-03. This included \$52,966 related to the population of Robinson Township. The letter requested that CLP restore that amount to ACLA in consideration of changes that have occurred and been acknowledged by CLP since 2002-03 and in recognition of the fact that ACLA is providing the direct service. The letter further indicated that ACLA believes that, where it provides direct services to various municipalities, it should retain the state aid pertaining to those populations.
- The Board discussed the consultants' study on the formula. Sanjay Saha and Bob Kollar presented a summary of the review process on the five proposals received and explained the overall rankings, noting that the recommended firm, Olszak Management Consulting, provided the strongest emphasis on member library input while scoring well on the other criteria also. The Board reviewed and discussed feedback from four member libraries:
 - Carnegie Library of McKeesport –recommending Olszak Management
 - Mt. Lebanon Public Library – recommending MarketSphere

- Northern Tier Regional Library – recommending MarketSphere or Olszak
- Shaler North Hills Library – recommending MarketSphere or Olszak

Those libraries recommending MarketSphere acknowledged the significant cost differential but did not feel that should be prohibitive.

In further deliberation the Board unanimously supported the recommendation from the review team of Olszak Management Consulting. This recommendation will be forwarded to the ARAD Board, and ACLA will await its decision on this recommendation.

- The Board discussed funding for 2008. Consensus among the Board members indicated that it was extremely optimistic to assume a new formula would be in place for 2008. However, Board members also acknowledged the desire of the ARAD Board to move the consultant process forward as expeditiously as possible, noting that recommendations regarding the formula could be “on the table” by late summer. Those recommendations would be shared both with the member libraries as well as the ARAD. Depending on the recommendations the member libraries may need considerable time to respond. However, members should be cognizant of the fact that the ARAD Board reserves the right to respond as well.
- Ms. Smith inquired as to progress concerning the Strategic Plan initiative to establish a development position on ACLA staff. Jenkins reported that a Development Plan was being drafted that would provide a comprehensive view of how the position would benefit ACLA as well as the member libraries. Sara Jane Lowry noted that nonprofit organizations throughout the region are ahead of ACLA in establishing a development plan. Bob Kollar noted that it is wise to prepare for the possibility of reduced and/or stagnant funding by having alternative sources of revenue. Coordinating this at the ACLA level could provide assistance to local libraries that do not have significant resources to put into development work: workshops and training, consulting advice, assistance in identifying grant sources, etc.