

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S  
SUMMARY OF MAJOR ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**ACLA General Membership Meeting**

**January 27, 2009**

- Executive Director Jenkins reviewed a number of funding matters:
  - She reported on her meeting with RAD Executive Director regarding the process for reviewing RAD concerns with the formula: there are three primary concerns pending (how distress is factored, why there are two methods for recognizing local support, and consideration of additional performance factors). The review process is likely to entail a central committee (RAD and ACLA Executive Directors, Debes and Flaherty from the ACLA Board, McIntosh as Chair of LAC, and members from the RAD Library Committee). This group would review the RAD concerns and make recommendations that would be discussed by the ACLA Board and regionally. Timeline is to have concerns addressed in advance of the July submission of ACLA's 2011 request.
  - Legislation has been approved authorizing table gaming in the Commonwealth. Included in that legislation is funding for Allegheny County libraries. Jenkins worked with Senator Costa and Representative Gergely on language that would reserve .85% of Allegheny County receipts for ACLA libraries exclusive of CLP (CLP would receive separate funding). The funds would be divided as follows: 80% based on service district population (currently 2000 census), 15-20% for distress (as factored by Commonwealth Libraries currently), and no more than 5% for administration of the funds. Revenue would be received and administered to ACLA through Commonwealth Libraries. It is not anticipated that any revenue would be realized prior to 2011.
  - ACLA is launching a "Cuts Hurt" campaign to educate state legislators and the public on the impact of the cuts in State funding. Libraries will receive information to use locally. Teams of trustees/friends/library staff will be identified for direct meetings with legislators.
  
- Jenkins reported that an administrative services agreement is being negotiated between Focus on Renewal (owner and operator of the FOR Sto-Rox Library) and the Sewickley Public Library. As the Sto-Rox Library is challenged by its distressed economic situation meeting state standards has become increasingly difficult. In order to ensure continuation of local service, Focus on Renewal is looking at an option of contracting for services to provide greater efficiency and higher quality service. This could prove to be a viable model for other libraries in similar circumstances.

- The ACLA Board is instituting a set of dashboard measures for headquarter operations. In addition, it is considering establishing dashboard measures for member libraries. To that end it has begun to assemble data on a variety of performance factors similar to those utilized by the “Star” program designed by Library Journal. Jenkins distributed spreadsheets with preliminary data that will be discussed by the Board and LAC.
- RAD requires ACLA to provide Five-Year plans. A new plan will need to be drafted and approved by the Members during 2010. Jenkins will be meeting with regions to discuss preliminary thinking on priorities for the next five years. She also asked for volunteers, both trustees and directors, to serve on a Five-Year Plan Task Force.
- Jenkins indicated that the Five-Year Plan should be responsive to the Critical Issues process that has been on hold pending the finalization of the 2010 formula. While there are two sets of Task Force recommendations before the Members for consideration, Jenkins urged the Members at the request of the Board to step back and jointly re-group. The CILOC process has been underway for nearly two years and much has changed during that timeframe. The ACLA Board now holds a complete complement of members, all of who are committed to working with the Member Libraries to build a stronger organization. It could be that recommendations regarding the governance structure are not as pressing as they were when the CILOC Structures Task Force first met. The financial situation has changed considerably given the precipitous drop in State funding and changes in the RAD formula. This may require some further consideration in conjunction with the CILOC Standards Task Force recommendations. The ACLA Board is requesting that there be time dedicated to full discussion and reconsideration of the entire CILOC process to determine what issues are currently critical and what issues will be critical five years out. This should form the foundation for the Five-Year Plan. To that end, the Board will be discussing the pending recommendations in full and is asking that Member Libraries do the same over the next two months. The goal would be to bring any revised recommendations to the Members at the April General Membership meeting. The Five-Year Plan should also reflect further work that may need to be done around critical issues in the organization. There was extensive dialogue between Members and the ACLA Board regarding all of this that will be reflected in the official minutes of the meeting. (Note: there is background and status information relative to the CILOC process on the ACLA wiki at: <http://acla.pbworks.com/Critical-Issues-Process> ).