

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

1. 2007 NYLA LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

- a. Library Budget Votes (S.3542 Farley/A.5107 Eddington) - The legislation would put into statute a 2004 court decision that clarified ability of libraries to ask voters to approve ballot proposal to both "establish and increase" taxes in support of the library. The legislation would also require that any ballot proposals put before the voters be approved by the library board of trustees (like school boards). Status: Passed Senate 5/30 and Passed Assembly 6/13
 - b. Income Tax Check-Off (S.1957 Leibell or S.2066 Farley/A.3949 Perry) - Bill would provide a tax check-off box on personal income tax returns for gift to the "Love Your Library Fund". The fund provides grants to public libraries to implement statewide summer reading program. Status: Passed Assembly 6/5/ In Senate Finance
 - c. Dormitory Authority Bonding (S.1684 Farley/A.6256 Eddington) - Bill would allow NYLA to bundle small bonding projects together for submittal to Dormitory Authority to give libraries greater access to inexpensive financing and reduce their borrowing costs. Only projects below \$5 million would qualify for this program. All other library projects would still need special legislation. Status: Passed Senate 5/9
 - d. Loan Forgiveness Program (S.1687 Farley/A.1357 Aubertine) - Bill would establish program to provide grants to help pay off the student loans of recent library school graduates who work in high need area of the state (i.e. rural and inner city).
 - e. Inflationary Increase for Library Aid (S.2620 Farley/A.7273 Paulin) - Bill would allow for annual cost of living increase in the existing state aid formulas for libraries based on the annual rate of inflation.
 - f. Knowledge Initiative (S.2125 Farley/A. 7272 Paulin) - Bill would amend state aid formulas to libraries to make permanent the \$3 million increase in aid to library systems and \$14 million in construction aid to libraries received in 2006. It would also provide \$10 million annually for NOVEL.
 - g. Association Libraries Opt into State Retirement (S.4781 Farley/A.7841 Paulin) The bill would allow association public libraries to join the NYS retirement system upon approval by their board. Status: In Senate Finance.
2. Remind everyone to keep in contact with his or her local library board members and to remind them that we are available to attend meetings in order to provide information, assistance and support.
 3. Continue to use every opportunity to keep library services in the public eye so that those we serve and the legislators that serve them will continue to recognize how valuable library services are.

Marie F. Smith
President