

Accomplishments for FY2009

1. RPLAC resolved and sent to the Board of Regents the Policy "Requirements for Public Library Grant Funds."
2. Refined and sent to BOR construction guidelines for renovation, addition and new facilities.
3. Conducted focus groups around the State to discuss budget issues and goals. Determined where immediate reductions in budget could be taken.
4. Upheld the Maintenance of Effort Policy and approved the Maintenance of Effort Waiver process.
5. Examined ideas for the Federal Economic Recovery and Stimulus Package [Broadband access, expanded Galileo databases, technology upgrades, MRR for infrastructure upgrades and telecom services.]
6. Discussed a pilot project for collaborative library services among systems.
7. Began discussion about Taxing Districts for public libraries in GA.
8. Approved Agreed Upon Procedures to meet audit requirements for state grants based upon Augusta experience.
9. A record number of construction projects were approved for FY 2010! However, materials grants continued to decrease.
10. Conducted a forum for all subregional libraries to review past plans, standards, and studies to chart progress in developing a statewide plan to serve Georgia's blind and disabled individuals in an efficient, effective, and high quality manner.

Mission of RPLAC

The purpose of RPLAC shall be to represent the public library systems of Georgia before the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, developing and recommending to the Board of Regents information, guidance, and plans to ensure:

- Equitable library service for all Georgians.
- Optimal organization and relationships in and among library systems.
- Financial and legislative support for library systems.
- Projections of service needs for the 21st century.
- An optimal role for the Georgia Public Library Service in leading and supporting the activities of public libraries throughout the state.
- Visibility and public awareness of library systems as a source of lifelong learning and enrichment.

RPLAC members represent small and large multicounty systems and small and large single county systems.

RPLAC Members

Kathryn Ames, Chair (large multi)
Carolyn Fuller, Secretary (large single)
Joe Forsee (large multi)
Dusty Gres (small multi)
Donna Howell (small multi)
Alan Kaye (small single)
Jon McDaniel (large single)
Barry Reese (small single)
Richard Sanders (small single)
Gary Swint (large multi)
John Szabo (large single)
Susan Whittle (small multi)
Felton Jenkins, BOR Liaison
Doreen Poitevint, BOR Liaison
Lamar Veatch, State Librarian
Julie Walker, Deputy State Librarian

Regents Public Library Advisory Committee Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2009



Challenges and Goals for the Future

Georgia's public library community will have adequate, stable, and equitable funding.

The Budget decline continues to be a significant factor in addressing the needs of public libraries. Local funding is also decreasing in response to local funding concerns.

RPLAC's role is to develop a statewide strategy for public library services and to address the challenges facing our libraries. This may be an optimal time to develop a statewide service plan so that when the economy improves, we are better situated with specific programs to recommend. To accomplish this, RPLAC will:

1. Conduct focus groups to identify needs and possible revisions involving all segments of the population.
2. Develop a statewide plan of library service incorporating information from focus groups, standards, and collaborative services studies. At present, we have a GPLS agency plan but we do not have a unified statewide service plan for our 61 library systems.
3. Recommend a revised funding formula. [Economic conditions have dictated a significant reduction in funding; however, a revised and simplified funding formula remains an objective that must be studied.]



- a. Submit a recommendation for the FY2011 budget.
 - b. Identify potential state/local matching grant programs.
 - c. Identify strategies to increase funding.
 - d. Evaluate collaborative services.
 - e. Encourage creative new ideas from the field.
4. Establish stronger visibility of public libraries and advocacy efforts:
 - a. Review legislation throughout the session to protect library viability.
 - b. Work with Friends of Georgia Libraries and Georgia Council of Public Libraries to advocate for a stronger legislative presence.
 5. Work with GPLS to conduct an environmental survey to evaluate technology needs and best practices for public libraries.

6. Work toward developing Maintenance, Repair and Renovation [MRR] grants to convert existing facilities to "green" buildings.
7. Work with GLASS and GPLS to develop a statewide long range plan for TBCs that meets the NLS standards for accountability, performance and customer satisfaction.
8. Foster transparent and comprehensive communications and public relations between GPLS and the state's public libraries; place all policies, rules, contracts, formulas, studies, standards, committee reports and other items on the GPLS website.

