

The Legislative Committee met on May 10, 2011. John and Carolyn gave a detailed account of the successes and failures of General Assembly 2011. Happily, there were many more successes than failures. SB 292 notwithstanding, we were able to meet almost all of the goals listed on our action agenda. There is a concern that the issue regarding binding county council review of our budgets will continue to be raised. We feel the key with this will be in good communication between library boards, directors and other local officials. There were many questions regarding SB 292 (the allowance of firearms in public libraries) and its implementation. The only clear cut answer is that public libraries will not be able to ban individuals with a permit to carry a concealed weapon from bringing the weapon, ammunition, or accessories into the library. We will also be unable to ask if the individual has a permit. There is a sense that organizations will be reviewing library's policies to make sure they are not prohibiting the right to bear arms within the public library. As of today, the governor has not signed the bill but it is felt that will become law. Please refer to last week's legislative update for further information regarding final actions on bills pertinent to libraries.

The State Library will be hosting a broadband summit this spring. Laurel will speak about the important role advocacy plays in encouraging officials to dedicate more funds to this.

Laurel and Nick will work on some helpful hints for communicating with local officials. This will be disseminated via the network and members can use it at their discretion.

The committee decided to not designate a legislator of the year. However, all members are encouraged to write Senator Beverly Gard a note of thanks for the important role she played in getting SB 485 and SB 201 through both houses.

The next meeting will be on August 2, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. at the large ILF conference room. There will be NO meetings in June or July.