Library Advocacy

Attend 2021 Meetings
Write letters to your representatives
"Travel" to Albany, NY (virtually) for Library Advocacy Day

School Library Advocacy

BE A LIBRARY ADVOCATE in 2021!!!

There are three ways you can be a part of advocacy efforts aimed at increasing legislative support for all our libraries and library systems:

First, Attend Local Meetings with Your State Representatives

Yes, that's right, only the visits are going virtual this year!!

If you are unable to join us for New York Library Advocacy Day (February 26, 2021), you also have a chance to meet (virtually this year!) with local representatives when WNYLRC schedules "district" visits.

Most will take place January through March. Updates will be posted here for specific dates and times of these visits - and Zoom invites will be sent shortly before each meeting. You are welcome and encouraged to attend and bring your own special concerns to be addressed.

PLEASE register below if you will be attending any of the visits so we can add your name to the list and send you the Zoom login!

2021 Local Meeting Schedule with WNY State
Representatives *Posted in District order, so not chronological!!

Click here to sign up for meetings you would like to attend

Assemblyman Stephen Hawley (139) - Thursday, February 4, 2021 at 2:00pm
Assemblyman William Conrad III (140) - Tuesday, January 26, 2021 at 3:30pm
Assembly Majority Leader Crystal Peoples-Stokes (141) - Friday, January 29, 2021 at 1:30 pm
Assemblyman Patrick Burke (142) - Wednesday, February 10, 2021 at 11:30am
Assemblymember Monica Wallace (143) - Friday, January 29, 2021 at 10am
Assemblyman Michael J. Norris (144) - Friday, January 29, 2021 at 3:00pm
Assemblyman Angelo J. Morinello (145) - Friday, February 5, 2021 at 10am
Assemblymember Karen McMahon (146) - Friday, January 15, 2021 at 3:00pm
Assemblyman David DiPietro (147) - Thursday, February 11, 2021 at 10:00am
Assemblyman Joseph M. Giglio (148) - Friday, January 22, 2021 at 3:00pm
Assemblyman Jonathan Rivera (149) - Friday, February 5, 2021 at 1:00pm
Assemblyman Andy Goodell (150) - Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 3:00pm
Senator George Borrello (57) - Friday, January 22, 2021 at 3:00pm
Senator Patrick Gallivan (59) - Thursday, February 11, 2021 at 10:00am
Senator Sean Ryan (60) - Friday, January 15, 2021 at 12:00pm
Senator Edward Rath III (61) - Friday, February 5, 2021 at 3:00pm
Senator Robert Ortt (62) - Thursday, January 21, 2021 at 1:00pm
Senator Timothy Kennedy (63) - Monday, February 1, 2021 at 8:30am

*Dates and times subject to change!

Can't make any of the meetings? No problem! You can still share your stories! We will make sure these get to your representatives. Fill out the form here.

CLICK HERE TO SEE WHO WE VISITED IN 2020!
Second, Write A Letter! Post a Message!

Communicate by letter or social media!

Setting up a space in an area of the library with a box of writing materials (pens, pencils, paper, envelopes, etc.) and instructions for your visitors encouraging them to write letters to their representatives supporting State Library Aid in the 2021 budget may not be a good alternative this year.

However, legislators have informed us that handwritten letters -- *not* phone calls or emails -- are often the most effective way for constituents to communicate their needs. Personal stories or anecdotes from visitors in support of your library help legislators understand the effect libraries have on their communities.

Use your social media spaces to communicate with patrons, asking for their help in contacting government representatives to urge them to support funding libraries in 2021! Ask your followers to write letters - or even use their own social media to get the message out there! WNYLRC will be sure to retweet, repost any messaging we see (or you can let us know if we miss it) to help get the word out.
Third, "Travel" to Albany, NY for Library Advocacy Day

Join colleagues from across the state who are "going" to Albany, NY on Friday, February 26, 2021, for the annual LIBRARY ADVOCACY DAY!

Visit the NYLA Advocacy page for details on this event. If you would like to be part of the "Western New York library constituency," here are the meetings scheduled (please contact hzieme@wnylrc.org to find out how you can join any of these:

Assemblyman Andy Goodell, Friday, February 26, 2021 at 10:00am

ENROLL TODAY! Sign-up as a Library Advocate

Use the link above and complete an online form to enroll as a Library Advocate, and you will receive e-mail alerts when your action is needed to act on behalf of libraries. Now advocating for your library services can be quick, simple and timely, plus there is no cost to you. Thank you for your support!
Library Advocacy in Western New York

DID YOU KNOW? The School Library Association of Western New York (SLAWNY) has a LibGuide devoted to school library advocacy? Check it out!

THANK YOU TO ALL OF YOU FOR THE HARD WORK YOU DO!!!

Official Website for New York State Government:

Under the “Government” tab, you can find out how to contact the Governor’s office; find and contact your state representatives; get updates on bills and legislation relating to libraries and more.

New York State Law and Libraries:

Searching NYS Law and Regulations Relating to libraries just got easier! Anyone searching for current New York State law and regulations pertaining to libraries, library systems, trustees, and librarians in New York State can now access this information quickly on the New York State Library's website. This interactive web resource makes components of the State Library publication Excerpts from New York State Education Law, Regulations of the Commissioner of Education Pertaining to Libraries, Library Systems, Trustees and Librarians available in a user-friendly and easy to navigate web tool for users. This interactive site supersedes the 1995 print version and the FTP files of the Excerpts document that has been on the State Library website since 1995.

New York Library Association:

Use the link above to go for the most recent information on statewide advocacy efforts for libraries including Library Advocacy Day in Albany, legislative priorities for libraries and; access to advocacy tools you can use in your local advocacy efforts.

The American Library Association’s Office for Library Advocacy provides information on ALA’s Advocacy Institute, federal legislative issues, library funding, and grassroots resources. ALA also reports on federal legislation that impact intellectual freedom and privacy.

OCLC’s WebJunction Advocacy Courses are FREE!