The Affairs that Properly Concern Us: Towards a Framework for Statewide Advocacy

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LUC 2010
“Politics is the art of preventing people from taking part in affairs which properly concern them.”

Paul Valery (Tel Quel, 1943)
Why Advocacy?
Why Collaborate?

- Divergence and overlap of interests
- Networking, social and otherwise
- Professional and public constituencies
- Reactive and proactive advocacy
- Continuity versus change
- Frameworks already in place
Incorporates existing advocacy framework and committee structures
Includes three members from each participating organization, chosen by that organization
Joint committee elects its own chair
Terms of service to last no longer than three years
Committee follows legislation and prioritizes advocacy initiatives
Joint Committee Structure: Functions

- Enlist professional support
- Protect interests
- Coordinate legislative interactions
- Educate membership
- Solicit ideas and advocacy goals
- Advise stakeholders and public
- Prompt action
A Model for Action

1. Issue: (ex.) Governor’s records disposition

2. Goal: Pass beneficial legislation

3. Objectives: How do you do this?

4. Activities: What specific steps do you take?

5. Assessment: Were you successful?
Discussion

- What are the issues that are important to librarians?
- What can realistically be done about them?
- What efforts are currently underway to address the issues?
- What resources or relationships have already been established?
- What are the major obstacles that must be overcome?
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