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May 19, 2011

President's Report,

Dear Colleagues,

I've been busy during my first two months in office. Here are the list of more notable activities:

- Testified to the senate finance committee and sent letters to key legislators in support of Public Library Construction and Major Expansion Matching Grant Program for projects in Soldotna, Ketchikan, Kodiak, and Skagway that will build new libraries or significantly expand existing ones. Funding for these four projects will total \$16.65M and are currently in the capital budget, which passed during the special session and hopefully will survive the governor's veto.
- Also testified for in support of more funding for SLAM, the State Library Archives and Museum Project. \$5M in additional funds are in this year's capital budget. That is a fraction of what is needed overall, but its progress and hopefully will survive the governor's veto.
- Worked with David Ongley, Mary Jo Joiner, Patty Linville, and others in the Division of Community and Regional Affairs to refine the regulations needed to establish the Library Construction and Major Expansion Matching Grant Program as a regularly funded part of the budget. When this happens, libraries will be able to apply to the grant program and not have to lobby the legislature and hope their project gets funded.
- Worked with June Pinell-Stephens, Sue Sherif, and the ALA Office of Intellectual Freedom to lobby Senator Lisa Murkowski to take a leadership role in supporting reforms to the USA Patriot Act. Three provisions of the Patriot Act are up for reauthorization by the end of May.
- Worked with Social Media Team to set up Library Snapshot Day, which has been moderately successful. Over a dozen libraries participated, which is not bad for the first year.
- Participated in two day-long sessions of the governor's broadband task force. The mission of the taskforce is to encourage adoption of broadband throughout the state. The main deliverables of the taskforce will be a state broadband plan and a summit, probably in the first quarter of 2012. There is a good mix of representatives on the taskforce from the telecommunications industry as well as business and community organizations.
- Attended to administrative duties, including signing ILC grant forms, writing the President's column for Newspoke, setting up the schedule of teleconferences for the rest of the year as well as the date of the face-to-face meeting in September.

Thank you,
-Mike