NYS Budget and Library Funding

The fantastic news is that we finally have a State Budget as of April 20, 2024 and we finally have an increase in library funding! Governor Hochul first proposed a higher budget amount for library aid and both the Senate and Assembly also recommended a higher amount for both library aid and construction aid.

Here's a breakdown:

- Library Operating Aid: $103.852 million
- Library Construction Aid: $44 million
- Library Materials Aid: $6.25/pupil (for schools)
- NOVELny: $3 million

We encourage you to take a moment to let your state legislators know you appreciate their support. Follow these links for your Assemblymember or State Senator contact info.

Use Your Library

MANGO × A·S·L·INSIDE

New! Learn American Sign Language through our Mango Languages app.
https://www.flls.org/aslmango/

WILD NEW WORLD
DAN FLORES

Libby.
The library reading app

OverDrive's Big Library Read starts May 9th
https://www.flls.org/libby-may-2024-big-library-read/

Sustainable Funding: Referendums

May means it time for the School Budget Vote. NYS uses the school budget vote as a mechanism for libraries to ask their communities for funding through a referendum. Many of our members have their proposition on the ballot this Spring.

Over the next few weeks libraries will be stepping up efforts to communicate their value to the community. While you are allowed to share information on the date, time and location of the vote as well as what the library intends to do with funds if the vote passes (more hours, programming, books, etc.), any messaging that could be viewed as asking for a "yes" vote is strictly prohibited.

That said, trustees often ask if it's okay for them encourage people to vote "yes". You can do so ***only*** if it is absolutely clear that you are not speaking from the position of a trustee but as a community member. Establishing that boundary is critical.

If you have questions or would like us to review your messaging, reach out to Sarah or Heidi.

2024 FLX Library Road Trip

This summer FLLS is sponsoring the FLX Library Road Trip, a promotional event that encourages people to visit our member libraries and learn about all the good you do. We'll be highlighting Summer Reading programs and other services and resources your library provides year-round for the community. We hope to encourage more library users and advocates. (And maybe future trustees or Friends members?)

Starting July 1 and running through August 31, 2024, the Road Trip is open to everyone of all ages. Participants can pick up a special 2024 FLX Library Road Trip Map (provided by FLLS) at their library and choose their own adventure. Participants can get their maps stamped and collect souvenirs after visiting a certain number of libraries.

Watch for more details in the upcoming weeks. We hope you can participate and help promote all the good libraries do!

Upcoming Workshops

Tuesday, May 7, 2024   10 am
Connecting Communities: The Role of Libraries in Public WiFi Access: Learn about the essential role of public libraries in providing public WiFi to enhance community connectivity.
REGISTER for the webinar.

Thursday, May 23, 2024   3:00 to 5:00 pm
Board Bootcamp with Cindy Wilcox
The Human Services Coalition of Tompkins County sponsors a workshop series. Learn more at **https://hsctc.org/workshops/**

Tuesday, June 18, 2024   5:00-6:30 pm
Libraries for the Future: An Introduction to Sustainability as the Newest Core Value
REGISTER for the webinar.

Difficult Conversations Workshop

We had an overwhelming turnout for this session in March. Thank you for taking the time to participate. (You can still watch the recording and get credit for your Trustee Education Requirement.)

This workshop was inspired by a situation that occurred at one of our member libraries last fall. The director suggested training on how to approach difficult conversations would be useful.

Do you have an idea or a topic request for future workshops or trainings? Please reach out to us and let us know.