

FoKAL 2012 Summit
General Butler State Park, KY
June 14-15, 2012

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

The mission of the Advocacy Committee is to advocate for academic libraries in Kentucky by:

- Providing leadership and structure to a statewide advocacy plan that identifies key messages, such as:
 - Libraries are cultural and economic assets to our state.
 - All Kentucky citizens deserve equal access to information.
 - Academic, School and Public Libraries are complementary and essential if Kentucky is to retain and attract college educated citizens and provide a higher quality of life.
- Promoting the value of libraries to local, state and federal agencies and legislators.
- Collaborating with other Kentucky library organizations in promoting Kentucky's libraries and their resources.
- Facilitating the delivery of appropriate information to our institutional administrations.

Committee Members:

Maureen Cropper, Bluegrass Community and Technical College, chair
Terry Birdwhistell, University of Kentucky
Lesley Engelson, Murray State University
Margaret Hecker, Kentucky State University
Raphael Jackson, Kentucky State University
John Lutzel, Owensboro Community and Technical College
Kevin Peers, Bellarmine University
Sandy Sumner, Morehead State University

Committee Report:

The FoKAL Advocacy Committee continued to develop its unified message this year, and began the process of communicating it to a wider audience. Information from the committee's advocacy document, *Kentucky Academic Libraries - Working For You*, accompanied by a committee letter, was used to contact Kentucky state legislators individually during this year's legislative session. Among replies received was a reply from Rep. Quarles who wrote: "Thank you for taking [time] to write me about Academic Libraries in Higher Education. Your message is important to me and I appreciate you educating me on this issue. I will keep your thoughts in mind as we finish up this session in Frankfort."

The chair of the committee represented the FOKAL Advocacy Committee by participating in Library Legislative Day in Frankfort. Several state representatives and senators came to speak to the assembled librarians that day. The legislators spoke about their personal library experiences, their desire to support libraries, and how they were pleased to see the many librarians from across the state come out to advocate.

Possible future goals: facilitate the communication of committee's message to leadership at academic institutions; develop additional advocacy resources.

Reported by: Maureen Cropper