

NEW CASTLE COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
LIBRARY ADVISORY AND REVIEW BOARD (LARB)
ANNUAL REPORT 2009

A. Members

The LARB consists of a chairperson and 12 members of which 6 members are representatives from various Friends groups. The Chair serves at the pleasure of the County Executive. The Chair and Members are appointed by the County Executive with the advice and consent of County Council. A list of members is attached.

B. Functions

The LARB shall advise the Department of Community Services by reviewing and making policy recommendations on such matters as local library needs; implementation of an effective library system; new and modified administrative policies; and other strategic planning and operational issues pertinent to the operation of the County's libraries.

C. Accomplishments

The Board met monthly and has actively engaged in their advisory role.

The Board established subcommittees to work with Department staff on the following initiatives:

- Set up of the Contractual Libraries Subcommittee
- Supported the Love Your Library Campaign
- Review of the DVD Policy
- Review of the Acceptable Use Policy for Internet.
- Review of the Volunteer Handbook

The Board exercised due diligence in reviewing Library Budget benchmarks based on designation of the library as a Community, Area, or Regional Library.

The Board reviewed plans for county-wide library fund raising initiatives for Annual Love Your Library Campaign.

The Board reviewed plans for Amnesty Week.

The Board discussed the plans for the initiation of library services for Homebound Seniors.

The Board advocated with Council for equity in library services to all county residents, and participated in a comprehensive county-wide effort to support library services.

The Board participated in meetings for the Capital Projects for Bear Library and Claymont Library and the Technical Services move to the Gilliam Building.

The Board discussed programming in the libraries and county-wide programs.

Recommendations to fill two existing Board vacancies were forwarded for consideration.

Board members attended the Delaware Library Association Annual Conference and the Delaware Library Legislative day.

D. Challenges

The LARB would like to ensure the County's commitment to libraries given current financial challenges.

E. BY-LAW REVIEW

The LARB will review the by-laws as part of the agenda for 2010.