

2003 Annual Report

The Colorado Library Political Action Committee (CLPAC) ended the year with an account balance of \$13,334.21 – the best year-end total CLPAC has experienced since its inception in 1996. We are most grateful to the many contributors who made this balance possible. Although still shy of maintaining an account balance approaching \$20,000 (which is approximately a 3-year operating cushion), CLPAC is much closer to that goal now than it has ever been.

Last year's attempt at establishing an earlier, annual giving campaign by sending out a February mail solicitation for donations was, to be blunt, a bust. Brochures were printed and mailed to members of all the library associations in Colorado, but resulted in very few new contributors and virtually no increase in individual contribution amounts to the CLPAC. The consensus of the CLPAC Planning Committee is that we return to the distribution of donation request fliers at every possible library association meeting, and continue to rely on personal solicitations by committee members and other committed friends of the CLPAC – but to forego the expense of brochures and mailings for the future.

Once again, the Colorado Association for Libraries (CAL) annual conference movie was a significant draw, raising \$2,476.50 (including sales of leftover sodas) for the CLPAC. This seems to be a popular and non-labor intensive way to both keep the CLPAC visible among the CAL membership and to raise funds, and will thus continue to be the major annual fund-raiser for the CLPAC.

CLPAC attempted to raise money through obtaining a raffle license, only to find the political action committees are legally barred from holding raffles. As a result, CAL obtained the raffle license, and set up a special educational fund to inform librarians and library users about library funding issues. Several gift baskets were donated for the CAL annual conference. A net total of \$1,197.50 was raised for this account. Throughout 2004, CAL will sponsor a raffle of two major items, a needlepoint picture of “library cats” and a handmade quilt depicting literary sayings (crafted by Beverly Moore and Arlene Sagee, respectively), to replenish this fund.

The CLPAC website (www.colibpac.org) continued to be expanded this year, with the notable addition of a means to make electronic contributions via PayPal. A monthly automatic bank account deduction was also established this year to cover the costs of maintaining the website.

Quarterly reports reflecting all CLPAC donations and expenses were made to the Colorado Secretary of State on a timely and accurate basis, as required by law.

Again, many thanks to those who contributed to CLPAC last year. Because of them, the CLPAC is able to advocate for libraries and to support the library community's legislative agenda.