

“F” is for “Federal”: How to Talk to Your Lawmakers About the FDLP

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Outline

1. Advocacy best practices
2. Panel discussion
3. Questions

Advocacy Best Practices

Meet with District Staff

- District staff know the district and help constituents resolve issues
- Educate them about the FDLP
- Link the FDLP to your district
 - Tell the story of what you do for their constituents

Become a Resource to Staff

- Staff benefit from your expertise
- Offer to have staff refer government reference questions to your library
- Let them know about major new resources

Invite Member to Your Library

- A perfect photo opportunity
- Tie a visit to a special event: FDLP anniversary, Constitution Day, Law Day, etc.
- Show the member and his/her staff the FDLP collection and any special exhibits
- Post a photo of the visit on social media
- Send a follow-up note

Contact Your Members in Support of the FDLP

- Contact your Senators and Representative in support of FDLP-related legislation
- Contact your member in support of funding for GPO and the FDLP
- Personal relationships with staff are key

Advocacy Activities

- Be visible in your library (physical, web, social media)
- Be visible in your community
 - Write letters to the editor, op-eds

You Are Not Alone!

- Coordinate with your administration & gov't relations staff
- Coordinate with other FDLs in your area
- Participate in national and state library associations
- Identify allies to work together on FDLP issues
 - Trustees and friends, administration, local leaders

Panel Discussion & Questions: What Does Advocacy Look Like?

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