



FOLA’s Eastern Regional Report for November 2021 Plenary

The East Region continues to grapple with COVID and its effects on Court operations and operations of the county libraries and associations, but all have been able to maintain their connections and supports for members. CPD programs have continued to be held online rather than in person to facilitate ongoing continuing legal education. AGM’s have been held virtually with some associations seeing changes in their executive or president. Interestingly, there is at least one association holding their holiday party in person, but for the most part there is either no holiday party, or a zoom event being held. We are all hopeful to be able to resume in-person events and programming in 2022.

Court filings and hearings continue to be a challenge for some, with connection issues and filing difficulties continuing to cause problems for the East.

The East Region is very happy with the reinstatement of pre-COVID funding for the LiRN Grant and appreciates the efforts of so many who advocated for this increase. East Region Presidents have canvassed their members on the issue of paralegal access to libraries, with the consensus (although not unanimous) being that, subject to paralegals paying for the privilege, library access by paralegals should be permitted. There are extremes remaining, both ways. We have a few associations that allow for full access to its library by paralegals, and some associations have members who continue to be very much opposed to the idea of library access for paralegals.

The East Region remains strong & vibrant during these difficult times thanks to the tireless efforts of all of the volunteers and staff that work within each association.

As this is my last report as East Region Rep I would like to extend my appreciation and thanks to all the Presidents in the Region, the FOLA Executive and Katie & Kelly for all their support throughout the past year.

Ted Mann, Eastern Region Representative