

# Help our Library Community: Get Involved in Advocacy!

***A special METRO program can show you how.***

Planned cuts in the New York State budget could have a significant impact on libraries next year and for years to come. Along with many METRO friends and supporters in state government, YOU CAN HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE THROUGH GOVERNMENT ADVOCACY! Join us for a special METRO advocacy training program.

METRO and other organizations regularly reach out to leaders in Albany. But as a *constituent* you have a unique and direct opportunity to educate and influence elected officials on issues that affect the library community. They want to hear from you! You can reach out to legislators and their staffs to support funding and other opportunities to keep the library community here vital and competitive.

Be a part of it! Join us for:

## **Library Advocacy During Critical Times**

***A Special METRO Advocacy Training Program***

**Date:** Tuesday, February 17th

**Time:** 10:00am – 12:00noon

**Location:** METRO

**Fee:** No Charge but registration is requested

- Refreshments will be served -

This special program is open to all members of METRO. Representatives from all libraries, and especially HLSP, Academic, Public and School libraries that depend on grant funding and that use any METRO services, are encouraged to attend. Whether you are a veteran advocate or just getting involved, this program will show you how to reach out to legislators, develop and present information and opinions effectively, and join a growing coalition of library professionals who care about our future. The program includes tips on writing letters, hosting or participating in meetings with legislators and their staffs, and building coalitions with other advocates to make sure you are heard.

All attendees will receive a kit of advocacy materials and references and contacts for additional advocacy resources. The program will include a discussion of Web 2.0 capabilities for productive advocacy.

**To Register:** To register for *Library Advocacy During Critical Times*, sign in to METRO's secure online registration system here: <http://tinyurl.com/9pkbkr>. You may create an account if you do not already have one (If you have not recently attended a METRO program you may have to create a new account). If you forgot your username or password or need help with registration, please call 212-228-2320 x19 or write to [amerilainen@metro.org](mailto:amerilainen@metro.org).

**Presenter:** Robert Schmidt is Special Projects Manager for METRO and a leading expert on issues associated with advocacy and state government. He has more than 15 years of hands-on experience working with local, state and federal elected officials from both major political parties. At METRO he has taken a leader role in representing the library community and building support for a wide range of issues in funding and access to information. He has developed advocacy campaigns targeting officials and committees in both state and federal government.