2017 ANNUAL REPORT
The Schools, Health & Libraries Broadband (SHLB) Coalition is a 501(c)(3) advocacy organization that supports research and public policies that promote open, affordable, high-capacity broadband connectivity for anchor institutions and their communities. Founded in 2009 in Washington, DC, the SHLB Coalition receives financial support from its non-profit and corporate members and from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. For more information, visit www.shlb.org/.
Dear SHLB Friends,

Thank you for making 2017 an exceptional year for the Schools, Health & Libraries Broadband (SHLB) Coalition. We swept the table last year, achieving across-the-board success on many fronts.

Most notably, SHLB blew past its 100th Member Milestone over the summer. SHLB accepted 60 new members this past year alone, almost doubling our membership! Attendance at our Annual Conference increased by 33%, and our November Universal Service Symposium also exceeded expectations. SHLB remains one of the fastest-growing broadband membership organizations in the country.

SHLB’s strength comes from its forward-looking perspective, its coalition-building activity, and its work with policymakers on both sides of the aisle. We celebrated that the FCC effectively granted SHLB’s 2015 Petition for Rulemaking by opening up the Rural Health Care Program proceeding in December 2017. SHLB also submitted FCC comments to support E-rate funding for Category 2 and for rural telehealth. In addition, SHLB actively supported the use of TVWS for rural libraries through the “Beyond the Walls” initiative.

We are already ramping up for 2018. We plan to work with the Trump Administration on Broadband infrastructure ideas, and we look forward to working with the FCC to complete the Rural Health Care proceeding. We will continue fighting for open, affordable, high-capacity broadband to schools, libraries, health clinics, and all anchor institutions, and we can't do it without you. Let's celebrate our collective successes and hit the ground running for this new year!

Sincerely,

[Signature]

John Windhausen, Jr.
SHLB Executive Director

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Dear SHLB Community,

As the Executive Director of the Kansas City Public Library, I see the digital divide’s impact on a daily basis. Thousands of Kansas City residents use our public access computers, many of them unable to get Internet at home. I also see the transformative power of broadband. Kansas City is becoming a technology hub, capable of leading America’s heartland toward its digital destiny. That is why I’ve asked the SHLB Coalition to work on a digital inclusion plan with local stakeholders in Kansas City. Hopefully, we will be able to develop a plan that will not only benefit Kansas City but also serve as a model for communities across America.

SHLB brings that forward-looking, inclusive, and transformative perspective to federal broadband policy, and it has been my privilege to oversee the organization’s growth as Board of Directors’ Chairman this year. I am pleased that we recruited six new Board members in 2018, which positions us well for the future. We also took enormous strides to transition from our Gates Foundation support to becoming fully self-sustaining, a goal we expect to reach in 2018. I also had the great pleasure of dining with FCC Chairman Pai (a Kansas native) at our 2017 SHLB Annual Conference.

This new year will bring an opportunity for SHLB to shape its future and vision with a new Strategic Plan. SHLB has already developed a reputation as a policy leader and will continue to expand its reach. I welcome you all to join SHLB’s work to solve the digital divide through community anchor institutions.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

R. Crosby Kemper III
SHLB Board Chair
ACCOMPLISHMENTS

UNITED STATES OF ANCHORS:
SEVENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

SHLB’s Seventh Annual Conference, May 31 - June 2, was the most successful one to date. This conference focused on E-rate, Digital Inclusion, Telehealth, Financing, and the Trump Administration. Among the many highlights, we heard inspirational and informative addresses from Gov. Bob Wise (President of Alliance for Excellent Education), Greg Green (CEO of Fatbeam), and Skyler Ditchfield (CEO of GeoLinks). We also saw a 33% increase in attendance!

PICTURE: Former Gov. Bob Wise, Alliance for Excellent Education (Photo by Amy Robinson)

BROADBAND4ALL: UNIVERSAL SERVICE SYMPOSIUM

SHLB hosted the Fall Symposium: Broadband4All on November 2nd to discuss the future of anchor institutions and the four Universal Service Fund (USF) programs. The Symposium helped applicants, state and local government officials, and broadband service providers understand and anticipate upcoming changes in the E-rate, Rural Health Care, Lifeline, and Connect America Fund programs. It also featured an engaging keynote discussion with Mark Jamison (University of Florida Professor and Trump Transition Team Member) and Harold Feld (Vice President, Public Knowledge) over lunch.

DINNER WITH FCC CHAIRMAN PAI

SHLB Executives had the honor of dining with FCC Chairman Ajit Pai at the Seventh Annual Conference. Chairman Pai discussed the importance of connecting anchor institutions and listened to SHLB members’ stories and concerns.

PICTURE: SHLB Chairman Crosby Kemper with FCC Chairman Pai (Photo by Amy Robinson)

100TH MEMBER CELEBRATION

SHLB saw its largest membership growth ever in 2017! Over the summer, SHLB reached its 100th Member Milestone and hosted the SHLB Community for drinks. SHLB then accelerated its recruitment efforts to end the year at 125 members!
RURAL HEALTH CARE PROGRAM REFORM

SHLB has been advocating for reform of the Rural Health Care program for the past two years and was pleased to see the FCC vote to begin the reform process in December 2017. The vote sought comment on increasing the cap for the RHC Program and other reforms to improve the operations and efficiency of the program. The FCC Order and NPRM frequently cites the SHLB Coalition's Petition and ex parte submissions.

RURAL ABC PLAN

SHLB released its Rural American Broadband Connectivity (ABC) Program proposal early in 2017. The Rural ABC proposal emphasizes the importance of an open application process for federal funding to spur competition, network sharing to promote public-private partnerships, and coordinated and streamlined deployment, such as “dig once” and “make ready” policies. SHLB put forward these recommendations in a February letter to President Trump.

BEYOND THE WALLS INITIATIVE

SHLB worked with Gigabit Libraries Network (GLN), San Jose State University’s School of Information, National Digital Inclusion Alliance (NDIA), and Information Technology Disaster Resource Center (ITDRC) to launch the “Beyond the Walls” Initiative. The Beyond The Walls Initiative provided five $15,000 grants to libraries for the most innovative proposals to use TV WhiteSpace (TVWS) technologies to enable new library hotspots in service of their communities.

FINANCES

SHLB made great strides in the past year toward becoming a self-sustaining organization. In the past, a generous three year grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has funded SHLB’s general operations and enabled us to grow at an expedited rate. 2018 will be the last year of this funding, marking a critical turning point for SHLB.

We are happy to report that we are well on our way to becoming fully member-supported by 2018. We have surpassed our member targets and are on track to achieve over 150 members by the end of 2018. This continued membership growth demonstrates the demand for SHLB’s advocacy and information services.

In addition, SHLB’s Seventh Annual Conference generated increased revenue and attendance. 2017 was the first year SHLB offered exhibit space, and we have plans to build our tradeshow even further in upcoming annual conferences.

While SHLB’s future is bright, we cannot rest on our laurels. In order to strengthen our advocacy efforts even further, SHLB is in the process of securing additional contributions to support our Rural Health Care advocacy as well as to hire an additional policy advocate.

GROW2GIG+ WEBINAR SERIES

SHLB re-launched its successful Grow2Gig+ webinar series in September. The Grow2Gig+ webinar series features industry and thought leaders to guide discussions on hot policy topics. The most recent webinar on E-rate Fiber had the highest registration to date with over 200 people.

E-RATE FUNDING FOR CATEGORY 2

SHLB submitted comments to the FCC to support E-rate Funding for Category 2. SHLB also signed onto a letter with 53 other organizations supporting Category 2 services. SHLB continues to strongly advocate to maintain and improve the E-rate program.

VISION: A CONNECTED WORLD WITH EDUCATION & HEALTH AT ITS HEART

NEW MEMBER BENEFITS

SHLB continuously works to provide the best resources to its members. This month SHLB was proud to launch its new and improved Member Portal that provides access to archived webinars, resource libraries, recordings of our calls with policymakers, and inside policy information. SHLB also launched its Calls with Policymakers series. So far SHLB Members have had the opportunity to directly ask FCC Commissioners Clyburn and O’Rielly questions.
With 60 new members, SHLB saw its largest membership growth ever in 2017! These members represent a diverse group of anchors, broadband providers, consulting firms, non-profit organizations, and public interest advocates.

SHLB Members become a part of a greater community. Members participate in bi-weekly policy calls, receive visibility on SHLB’s website and at its conferences, qualify for discounts for events, and have the opportunity to learn from other members.
2017 MEMBERSHIP SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

Testimonials

“SHLB provides an excellent forum for broadband advocacy, networking, sharing best practices, and staying knowledgeable about emerging technology, trends, and regulatory and legislative activity.”

“SHLB Coalition connects the dots across community anchor institutions and makes the case for a holistic approach to universal broadband access - empowering the local information ecosystem!”

“The only comprehensive voice for all anchor institutions, powerfully aggregating and aligning their many and varied interests.”

SHLB would not be able to accomplish all that it does without the financial support of our donors. Our donors contribute to special initiatives as well as make our Annual Conference possible. Thank you for joining in the fight for digital equity!

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Information Sharing & Advocacy

essentially tied for most valuable member benefit

Infrastructure
rated most important policy issue

E-rate
rated second most important

Rural Health Care
rated third most important

60% said SHLB was either the most valuable organization or more valuable than other organizations.

35% said SHLB was as valuable as other organizations.

THANK YOU TO OUR FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS!

Consider Donating to the SHLB Coalition

Navigate to www.shlb.org and click “Honors Club” to donate. These funds will strengthen SHLB’s advocacy in support of anchor institution broadband.
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Jennie Stapp, Montana State Librarian
John Windhausen, Jr., Executive Director, SHLB Coalition

NEWLY ELECTED & APPOINTED DIRECTORS FOR 2018:
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Rebecca Manna, Chief Policy Advisor for Government Relations, Kalispell Regional Healthcare
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Tracy Weeks, Executive Director, State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA)