

Illinois Library Association
Public Policy Committee Meeting Minutes
October 1, 2021

The meeting was called to order by Sam Adams-Lanham at 1:00 p.m.

Attendance

Voting Members

Present: Sam Adams-Lanham, Brian Chase, Melissa Gardner, Ryan Livergood, Rebecca Malinowski, Dee Anna Phares, Donna Schaal, Nikeda Webb, Catherine Yanikoski

Absent: Monica Dombrowski, Daniel Matthews, Kyla Waltermire

Ex Officio Members

Present: Suzanne Arist, Derek Blaida, Deirdre Brennan, Elizabeth Clarage, Veronica De Fazio, Nanette Donohue, Diane Foote, Jeanne Hamilton, Lou Ann Jacobs, Greg McCormick, Ellen Popit, Magan Szwarek

Absent: Heather Jagman, Betsy Mahoney, Patrick Molloy

Guests Present

Dennis Danowski, Monica Harris, Julie Milavec, Mary Witt

Approval of Agenda: “Discussion of director concerns regarding public notice costs” was removed under “New Business” prior to the unanimous approval of the agenda.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the August 30, 2021 meeting were approved unanimously.

Advocacy

- **Legislative Meet-ups:** Magan Szwarek shared that the Advocacy Committee is confirming local coordinators and dates for the 2022 Legislative Meet-ups. Most dates are scheduled, and the events will once again be all virtual this year. ALA has engaged a designer to help us tell engaging library stories at the meet-ups. The meet-ups will be as interactive as possible, with the possible inclusion of polls. ILA and the Illinois State Library are having a discussion about making a new map to overlay boundaries.
- **Ready, Set, Advocate:** Betsy Adamowski and Keith Fiels have redone “Ready, Set, Advocate”, the advocacy toolkit, which will be soft launched at the upcoming 2021 ILA Conference. Further promotion will happen soon after, including an *ILA Noon Network* webinar in January, articles in *ILA Reporter*, and other targeted communications. Diane Foote provided a brief look at the toolkit, which is located at ila.org/advocacy/ready-set-advocate.

Federal Update

Diane Foote reported that ALA does not have a 2022 legislative agenda formalized at this time. The federal budget is still in discussions and there is not an approved budget for the upcoming fiscal year yet. Unfortunately, it appears that the Build America's Libraries Act has not been explicitly included in the federal budget.

State update

Derek Blaida reported that state legislators will return to Springfield on Tuesday, October 19. Their focus will be on adopting a new congressional map and possibly drawing subcircuits to add more judges. Derek emphasized the importance of ILA adopting the legislative agenda as soon as possible. The number of dates on the legislative calendar will be much fewer than in previous years, and the state legislature might adjourn as soon as late April in 2022.

Report on ILA Executive Board review of Legislative Proposals

Diane thanked the PPC Committee for the great discussion during the August 30 meeting and prompt votes regarding priorities for legislative proposals. While the legislative agenda has not needed to be determined so quickly in the past, this year we are trying to get it set as soon as possible.

After calculating the votes of the ILA PPC voting members, the recommendation to the ILA Executive Board was to prioritize the legislative proposals as follows:

- **ISL Databases** 58
- **Broadband** 57
- **E-book pricing** 56
- **Levies & GF** 48
- **OMA training** 44 (tie) x
- **Cards for <18** 44 (tie) x
- **Mergers** 29 x

The ILA Executive Board had a very vigorous discussion at their September 23 meeting. After the meeting, a poll was conducted among the ILA Executive Board members to decide on priorities. Early voting removed two proposals. Derek stated that updating OMA training regulations is considered a cleanup that could be addressed outside of the legislative agenda.

An online board discussion and ranked choice vote on the remaining proposals is currently underway, with final results expected at the end of this week. Jeanne Hamilton emphasized the ILA Executive Board is very respectful of all the hard work the ILA PPC Committee put into this process and the ILA Executive Board is extremely appreciative.

Deirdre Brennan mentioned that their proposals are a high priority for the Universal Services Committee. Senator Murphy is going to pursue legislation regarding databases and cards for <18. Diane commented that we all agree that access should be expanded, but there is some debate on the best way to ensure library coverage for every resident.

Sam will ask members of the ILA PPC Committee what pieces of the legislative agenda they want to work on once the executive board vote is complete. Sam will be e-mailing out the legislative meet-up dates that have been confirmed.

The next PPC meeting will take place on November 1, 2021.

Sam Adams-Lanham adjourned the meeting at 1:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ryan Livergood