

ILA Public Policy Committee Meeting Minutes (12/6/21 Meeting)

Chair Sam Adams-Lanham called the meeting to order at 1:01 PM

Notetaker Monica Dombrowski conducted the Roll Call

Voting Members Present: Sam Adams-Lanham, Barrington Area Library; Brian Chase, Normal Public Library; Monica Dombrowski, Winnetka Northfield Public Library District; Melissa Gardner, Palatine Public Library District; Ryan Livergood, Warren-Newport Public Library District; Rebecca Malinowski, Cooperative Computer Services; Daniel Matthews, Moraine Valley Community College Library; Dee Anna Phares, Northern Illinois University; Donna Schaal, Argenta-Oreana Public Library District; Kyla Waltermire, Mississippi Valley District Library; Nikeda Webb, Matteson Public Library; Catherine Yanikoski, Engineering Systems, Inc

Ex Oficio Members Present: Betsy Mahoney, Intellectual Freedom Committee; Derek Blaida, ILA Legislative Consultant; Deirdre Brennan, Reaching Across Illinois Library System (RAILS); Elizabeth Clarage, Consortium of Academic & Research Libraries in Illinois (CARLI); Veronica De Fazio, Plainfield Public Library District, ILA Past President; Nanette Donohue, Champaign Public Library, Advocacy Committee ; Diane Foote, ILA Executive Director; Jeanne Hamilton, Bloomington Public Library, ILA President; Heather Jagman, DePaul University, ILA President-Elect; Lou Ann Jacobs, Association of Illinois School Library Educators (AISLE); Greg McCormick, Illinois State Library; Ellen Popit, Illinois Heartland Library System (ILHS); Magan Szwerek, Schaumburg Township District Library, ILA Advocacy Committee

Ex Oficio Members Absent: Patrick Molloy, Chicago Public Library

Guests: Dennis Danowski, Macomb Public Library; Tina Hubert, Six Mile Regional Library; Julie Milavec, Downers Grove Public Library; Troy Brown, IHLS; Jim Kregor, RAILS; Mary Witt, RAILS; Monica Harris, RAILS; Leila Heath, RAILS; Cyndi Robinson, ILA; Aaron Skog, SWAN Library Services

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the November 2021 meeting were approved by unanimous consent.

Report from Advocacy Committee (Magan Szwerek)

- Legislative Meet Ups- All except South Suburban are scheduled and registration will open this Thursday, December 9th. The events will be virtual again this year.
- Ready, Set, Advocate- All Advocacy members attended one of the information sessions during November. The toolkit is up on the website along with the form to submit impact stories. Ready, Set, Advocate will be the cover story for the December ILA Reporter.
- Advocacy assistance for ILA Legislative Priorities- The Advocacy Committee is in the early stages of discussion on ways to help support ILA's legislative priorities.

State Updates (Diane Foote and Derek Blaida)

- Passed legislation
 - OER- The House passed a bill that will create task force to study textbook affordability. There are 4 slots for higher learning members and ILA is advocating that those be filled by librarians. Anne Craig has been nominated for the committee and the issue will be further discussed at the next IACRL Executive Committee meeting on 12/13/21.
 - Minority, Women, and Veteran-Owned Businesses- New law stating that any unit of government that levies more than \$5 million dollars per year needs to report on how many minority, women, or veteran-owned vendors they are using. There are no penalties outlined for non-compliance as the goal is to encourage a good-faith effort to utilize these vendors. ILA has a copy of the template available to members as needed.
- Pending legislation
 - Best value bidder- A proposal is on the table from State Representative Dan Didech (Lake County) that would allow public bodies to accept bids based on factors other than simply being the lowest responsive bidder. ILA supports this legislation.
 - Library Board vacancies- There is evidence that a proposal is in the works to require vacancies on Library Boards to be filled within a specific time frame, such as 30 or 60 days. This would be replace the existing language which specifies that a vacancy needs to be filled “forthwith.” ILA will be monitoring any proposed legislation around this topic.
 - State funding tied to staffing numbers- There is speculation of a proposal that would potentially tie state funding to number of staff relative to residents within a library’s service area. Diane will be reaching out to some folks to see if this is valid and provide more details, in the event something is drafted.

Federal (and Other States) Updates (Diane Foote)

- Iowa Library Association Intellectual Freedom statement- some states have been releasing statements related to censorship following title challenges, occurring primarily in school libraries. Diane feels ALA’s statement is broad enough to cover anything we might need for the time being but will follow up with AISLE to discuss further and see if ILA support is needed.

Report from ILA Exec Board (Jeanne Hamilton)

- ILA Executive Board met on November 18th with the bulk of the meeting being dedicated to the annual audit, which went well and without incident. Their next meeting is in January and will be focused on Board Development and EDI topics.

Report from Broadband and eBook Teams (Troy Brown and Ryan Livergood)

Broadband- There was discussion about the funding source for the existing K-12 broadband offering. ILA plans to reach out to Andy Manar, Deputy Governor for Budget & Economy, to advocate for similar funding for broadband for public libraries. In the meantime, ILA will continue work on a palm card for the ILA Legislative Meetups in 2022.

For clarity's sake, we also discussed why libraries should receive the same Broadband offering as K-12 schools. ILA will continue to advance this issue, with the broadband subcommittee providing and continuing to refine talking points for Derek to use with state legislators.

There was also some brief discussion about Accelerate Illinois, an initiative that provides an opportunity to collaborate across multiple community organizations to expand broadband. This initiative seems narrower in scope and limited in nature, but more review is needed.

- eBooks- The group met to work on their two assigned tasks: 1) draft legislation that could then be pushed to Derek and Diane and 2) draft a 1-page advocacy sheet with talking points for Derek to use with the state legislators. Ryan Livergood and Sam Adams-Lanham then met with Derek and Diane to review the rough drafts and make some changes, namely, the addition of a set number of circulations to define what "reasonable terms" means to libraries.

There was also discussion about how the 1-pager needs to be written in clear, layperson terms and include a few concrete examples to help legislators understand what an individual pays for a title versus the cost to a library or consortium. The goal of this effort is to force a conversation on the issue—through a bill or any other offshoot of this effort—with the intent of spurring change to the pricing model for eResources.

Both documents need to be finalized and provided to Derek this week, so available members of the subcommittee will aim to meet on 12/7 to complete the work.

New Business

ILA Legislative Priorities Update (Diane Foote)

- All this year's federal priorities are carryovers from last year with a few minor updates. They are currently posted on the ILA website's Federal Legislative Issues page (<https://www.ila.org/advocacy/legislative-issues/federal-legislative-issues>).

Next meeting – January 10, 2022 (Melissa Gardner, Notes)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87093884885>; 312.626.6799; MEETING ID: 870 9388 4885

Chair Sam Adams-Lanham Adjourned the meeting at 2:49pm.