

## **ILA Public Policy Committee Meeting Minutes (2/7/2022 Meeting)**

**Chair Sam Adams-Lanham called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM**

**Notetaker Donna Schaal 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; Donna Schaal, Argenta-Oreana Public Library District; Kyla Waltermire, Mississippi Valley District Library; Nikeda Webb, Matteson Public Library; Catherine Yanikoski, Engineering Systems, Inc.

Member Absent: Dee Anna Phares, Northern Illinois University Libraries

Ex officio Members Present: 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; 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 Szwarek, Schaumburg Township District Library-Advocacy Committee

Members Absent: Suzanne Arist/Betsy Mahoney, Intellectual Freedom Committee; Nanette Donohue, Champaign Public Library-Advocacy Committee; Patrick Molloy, Chicago Public Library

Guests: Dennis Danowski, Macomb Public Library; Tina Hubert, Six Mile Regional Library; Mary Witt, RAILS; Leila Heath, RAILS; Cyndi Robinson, ILA; Aaron Skog, SWAN Library System, Troy Brown, IHLS; Julie Milavec, Downers Grove Public Library; Thomas Stagg, Alpha Park Public Library District.

Diane Foote added to the agenda – an update for the system per capita grant.

### **Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of the December January 2022 meeting were approved by unanimous consent.

### **Report from ILA Executive Board (Jeanne Hamilton)**

There were no board updates. The ILA Board Retreat is being planned.

### **Report from Advocacy Committee (Magan Szwarek)**

- Legislative Meet Ups – Halfway through legislative meet ups. Membership attendance has been good as well as legislator attendance.
- Bigger than a Building – Work on the ILA campaign is continuing. They are focusing on taking out language that refers to Covid information.

### **Systems Public Per Capita (Greg McCormick)**

Greg reported that an increase for system funding was being sought this year. An increase hasn't happened for many years. This would affect funding for RAILS, IHLS and Chicago Public Library.

### **Federal Update (Diane Foote)**

Currently, the federal government is on a continuing resolution for funding. A continuing resolution means that all funding levels remain at the same levels from the year before. They are working to finalize the FY2022 funding year. This needs to happen before work can begin on FY2023. ALA will once again have a virtual fly in day which Diane will be attending.

### **State Update (Diane Foote and Derek Blaida)**

Diane demonstrated to the committee a website where you can view what's happening to specific legislation. <https://ilga.gov/>

Derek gave a general overview on the Bill Synopsis that he provided to the committee. Many of the proposed bills would fail to move forward. ILA's overall position is to oppose anything that changes our revenue streams and to support any bill that prohibits unfunded mandates.

A few bills addressed a Public Health Package. At this time, we will only monitor if it develops. There will be larger entities that would oppose for us; however, if it continues through March, we might adjust our position.

Since there is such a short time on this year's calendar, ILA needs to be clear on what it opposes and supports. Anything that says PTELL we will oppose. A lot of our time will be spent on broadband and e-resources. Diane will update the ILA website on the different bills and our position.

A discussion on specific bills was held:

HB3254 – Diversity in Literature – Pierce Twins Law provides that schools include diverse authors into curriculum, reading lists, etc. There is a provision that school boards will have the power of veto. This may have the opposite affect for inclusion. This bill has continued to advance.

HB3125 – Electric Vehicles – This will only be of a concern for new and renovated buildings in the future. This bill hasn't moved forward.

HB5 – Unfunded Mandates Prohibited – This bill states that there will no longer be unfunded mandates to local governments. The mandate must include funding before it is valid. This bill will not advance.

HB4005 – FOIA – This bill will not advance.

HB4092 – State Library-Policy & Purpose – This bill amends the State Library's policy to include support for electronic and digital resources. Adds to the purpose of the State Library to support local libraries with lower per capita budgets than the State average in regards to electronic and digital resources. ILA supports subject to funding appropriation.

HB4124 – Open Meetings—Childcare – This bill adds to the Open Meetings Act a provision that as long as a physical quorum exists, a member may attend by other means in a situation where childcare cannot be found. This brings up a legal question as to what other types of care should be included.

HB4215 – Child Extended Bereavement – Zachary’s Parent Protection Act extends the bereavement length to 26 weeks of unpaid leave for entities with 250 or more full-time employees, if a parent of a child, 26 years of age or younger, dies from suicide. ILA is monitoring this bill.

HB4393 – Local Govt Best Value Bidding – This bill allows more flexibility for awarding bids to the best value bidder rather than just the lowest responsible bidder.

HB4463 – Open Meetings-Township Training – This bill is limited to just townships that they may fulfill their Open Meetings Act requirements by an organization that represents townships. ILA is seeking to add libraries to it.

HB5237 – School-Textbook Review – This bill seeks to provide a way for the public to review textbooks rather than allowing schools to set their own curriculum. ILA will oppose.

HB5283 – Library Districts-Treasurer – This bill seeks to allow a board to hire a treasurer with compensation rather than appoint a trustee on the library board.

SB3744 – Library Districts-Staffing Levels – This bill requires Library Districts to have staffing levels in compliance with the Serving Our Public standards. As written, ILA opposes.

SB3497 – Libraries-Fees/Reciprocity – This bill seeks to waive non-resident fees for all persons under the age of 18. ILA is monitoring this bill.

#### **Broadband Update (Troy Brown/Diane Foote/Greg McCormick)**

HB4758 – Broadband Access Act – This bill does not include libraries as a potential recipient of the grant. However, the Governor’s request under the DO IT portion of his proposed budget includes the renewal of funding for K-12. There will be infrastructure money from the federal government. The final plans are due in September but the funding that is being discussed is not until FY2024. There would then be review at the federal level; however there would be a substantial amount of dollars.

#### **Ebook Legislation (Diane Foote)**

There has been progress made regarding our initiative. The bill has been heard in committee. At that meeting, the Association of American Publishers did speak and our side was ready with speakers but it didn’t appear to be necessary. The committee was unanimously in favor of the bill. It will now go to the House. This has now become a national issue with recent movement in Illinois, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Missouri and Tennessee. New York passed legislation but the Governor vetoed the bill.

#### **New Business**

The committee was asked to consider nominations for the Robert R. McClarren Legislative Development Award. The deadline is May 15, 2022.

Next meeting – March 7, 2022 (Dee Anna Phares, notes)

**Chair Sam Adams-Lanham adjourned the meeting at 2:54 PM.**

