**MINUTES**

**Illinois Library Association Advocacy Committee  
Wednesday, July 20, 2022  
This meeting was held as part of the ILA Orientation workshop.  
Zoom for future meetings:**[**https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82414705162**](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82414705162) **Meeting ID: 824 1470 5162  
 +1 312 626 6799**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Committee members in attendance: Nanette Donohue, Gail Graziani, Victoria Blackmer, Dennis Danowski, Chris Houchens, Qiana Johnson, Laura Kirk, Amanda McKay.

Ex Officio members in attendance: Diane Foote, Cyndi Robinson, Heather Jagman, Alex Todd

1. Introductions

Committee members introduced themselves and described what brought them to the Advocacy Committee.

1. Approval of Agenda: July 20, 2022

The agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

1. Approval of Minutes: June 6, 2022

Minutes for the June 6, 2022 meeting are not yet available. Nanette will reach out to the person who took the minutes for that meeting.

1. Advocacy Committee Overview – Charge, [Advocacy Calendar](https://www.ila.org/content/documents/ilaadvocacycalendar.pdf)

We reviewed the advocacy committee’s charge, as well as the annual advocacy calendar. Gail and Nanette will work with Diane and Cyndi to confirm that the deadlines are still appropriate, especially tasks related to the legislative meetups.

1. 2022-23 – Ongoing Projects
   1. Bigger than a Building (Gail)

Gail provided an overview of the Bigger than a Building project, which was developed during the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic. One of the committee’s projects for the 2022-2023 year will be to revamp the Bigger than a Building project, which is very COVID-specific and could be broadened into a general advocacy tool.

* 1. Legislative Meet-ups (Diane/Cyndi)

Cyndi provided an overview of the format for the legislative meet-ups and discussed the future of the legislative meetups for 2023. There will be some possible changes to the format and the program that will be shared with the committee at our next meeting.

Dennis suggested that we return to in-person meetings with legislators for the 2023 meetups, and mentioned that redistricting might affect legislator turnout at the meetups.

* 1. Conference Programs and Ongoing Advocacy Training (Nanette)

Nanette provided an overview of current conference programs, including the legislative panel at the ILA Annual Conference, which will be coordinated by former Advocacy Committee member Matt Fruth. The Advocacy Committee traditionally submits conference proposals for both Reaching Forward and Reaching Forward South, as well as smaller/regional conferences. Committee members are encouraged to share conference presentation opportunities–we would like to reach as many people around the state as possible.

The Ready, Set, Advocate modules were completed last year, they should be reviewed annually as there may be changes or adjustments we’d like to make or pieces of the module we’d like to break out into larger trainings. Diane shared the Ready, Set, Advocate page on the ILA web site, which includes recordings of the modules as well as the PDFs of the content.

Diane discussed how the Advocacy Committee could develop content for the ILA Reporter, as well as other ILA communications (such as the weekly newsletter).

1. 2022-23 – New ideas and Ways to Build on Ongoing Projects

* What is a library story? - possible program
* Responding to book challenges, both formal and informal – resources (or a clearinghouse of resources) – partner with Intellectual Freedom Committee – possible Noon Network program?
* Handling First Amendment Audits – another possible program for Noon Network?
* Libraries and unionization – might not be within this committee’s purview, but could be a good conference or Noon Network program as there is interest in this topic

1. Adjournment

**Committee Charge**

* Supports the targeted advocacy efforts set forth by the American Library Association and the Illinois Library Association
* Strives to unite ILA members behind advocacy efforts set forth by the ILA Executive Board;
* Works in tandem with the Public Policy Committee (PPC) to implement an annual legislative agenda;
* Provides ILA members with the tools to make local, statewide, and national advocacy an integral part of their professional life;
* Develops a long-range advocacy plan in conjunction with PPC and the Executive Board; and
* Within this broad framework collaborates with the ILA President and ILA Executive Director to set an annual calendar of advocacy activities and to create communications, materials, and training in support of these activities.

**Voting Members:**Nanette Donohue\* - Champaign Public Library  
Gail Graziani\* - Lisle Library District  
Sam Adams-Lanham - Barrington Area Library  
Victoria Blackmer - Robert R. Jones Public Library  
Dennis Danowski - Macomb Public Library  
Chris Houchens - Charleston Carnegie Public Library  
Qiana Johnson - Northwestern University Libraries  
Laura Kirk - Green Hills Public Library District  
Amanda McKay - Effingham Public Library  
Sara Murray - Algonquin Area Public Library District

**Ex officio Members:**  
Ryan Livergood - ILA PPC Chair, Warren-Newport Public Library District  
Diane Foote/Cyndi Robinson - ILA  
Heather Jagman - ILA President, DePaul University Library  
Ryan Johnson - ILA VP/President-Elect, O’Fallon Public Library   
Greg McCormick - Illinois State Library  
Alex Todd - ILA Board Liaison

**Guests:  
  
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**Upcoming meeting dates and assigned minutes takers:**

August 29, 2022 - Chris Houchens  
October 3, 2022 - Qiana Johnson  
November 7, 2022 - Amanda McKay  
December 5, 2022 - Sam Adams-Lanham  
January 9, 2023 - Victoria Blackmer  
February 6, 2023 - Laura Kirk  
March 6, 2023 - Sara Murray  
April 3, 2023 - Dennis Danowski  
May 1, 2023 - TBA  
June 5, 2023 - TBA

All meetings are at 10 AM. In-person meeting locations will rotate; all meetings will also be accessible through Zoom. If you cannot take minutes on your assigned date, please trade with another Advocacy Committee voting member.