

Illinois Library Association Advocacy Committee

Monday, June 1, 2020, at 1:00pm

AGENDA

This meeting was held via Zoom due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call—The meeting was called to order by co-chair Alex Todd at 1:02pm. Attendance is included at the end of these minutes.

2. Introduction of Guests—Dee Brennan, Monica Harris, and Mary Witt from RAILS. Cyndi Robinson and Derek Blaida (legislative consultant) from ILA.

3. Approval of Agenda: June 1, 2020—With Diane Foote's requested addition of supporting the Black Caucus of ALA's statement condemning violence and racism against people of color and Keith Michael Fiel's ask for a conversation on advocacy training, the agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

4. Approval of Minutes: May 11, 2020—Approved by unanimous consent.

5. Reports

a. ILA Executive Director, Diane Foote—Diane commented on the rough times in America with the death of George Floyd, the pandemic, and financial uncertainty. She asked the Committee to endorse the BCALA statement opposing racism and violence in the wake of George Floyd's murder. The Committee was in full-agreement. She shared that the July ILA' Orientation and the annual Conference will be virtual this year. The Conference committee is looking to restructure pricing in the new environment. Also, Directors University in Springfield would have started this day.

b. ILA President, Molly Beestrup—Molly explained that academic librarians (many on this Committee) are working with Alex and Jim to upgrade the Bigger than a Building initiative to include higher learning language. She thanked Cyndi Robinson for already making those changes. Keith inquired about pushing-out the BTAB message and Diane described all of the ways it has been delivered.

c. ILA Legislative Consultant, Derek Blaida—Derek explained that overall it was a good year for libraries in Springfield. Our request to increase the Per Capita Grant request was heard, and hopefully will be included in the approved budget. He shared the Public Policy annual calendar-of-events. Diane shared some thoughts on the coming year and the known busy months. Derek explained that with the understood, current confusion at the State, that it is important we have our message ready for delivery. He explained the Cards for Kids proposal for children of poverty and option that libraries have to participate. Keith asked about formally recognizing the efforts of legislators and the Secretary of State on behalf of libraries. Dee shared wording for our communications.

d. ILA Public Policy Chair, Dennis Danowski—Dennis was not in on the session. Jim shared the certificate that Dennis had prepared for all of those that attended PPC meetings the past year.

e. Around the Table & Across the State—None.

6. How does your library advocate? Alex described the library/park district combined efforts on Prospect Heights and he asked others to share.

7. Bigger than a Building—Diane recommended that Committee Members report back to her if and when libraries use the templates created by the BTAB team. Also, as mentioned, the academic librarians and the chairs of the Advocacy Committee are working together to expand the work of ILA and consultant Marci Merola. With just a few short meetings, ILA was able to improve wording on their online presence to include academic settings.

8. Advocacy Annual Calendar—Jeffrey Wheeler was kind enough to create an annual calendar for the Committee. The schedule will allow smooth transition from year-to-year and keep “regular” events on the radar. Alex reminded everybody that this was a living document and their input is appreciated.

9. Committee Composition Statement—Nanette Donahue and Jeffrey made initial revisions to the statement with the goal of improved State-wide coverage on this Committee. ILA President Molly Beestrum and VP Veronica DeFazio paused as they did not want the statement to make the work more difficult. Veronica also explained that the stated job of the incoming President is to find representation from all across Illinois. The Committee will continue work on the proposed changes.

10. Advocacy for 2020/2021—Alex will stay on as co-chair and Magan Szwarek will take over for Jim in the other position. Jim thanked all in attendance for their dedication to libraries. Veronica asked members to consider how we best can react to future emergencies. Magan requested strategies for where the Committee needs to go. Keith described the efforts that he and Betsy put forth to build advocacy training. He shared that the presentations were understandably sidelined due to the pandemic, but he his hope is that the modules will be adopted and improved as we move forward. Keith also asked if advocacy was in the DU schedule; Jim will check on this request. Alex continued with his goal of increasing participation from every member in the coming year. Dee shared the Engage tool from the Massachusetts Library Association. She mentioned their recent virtual legislative efforts. Qiana recently spoke on the work of academic librarians during school shutdowns due to COVID-19. Keith inquired about legislative days in Springfield and a number of participants explained lack of attendance at past trips and the move to local meet-ups.

11. Orientation in July—Veronica restated that this year’s ILA Committee/Forum orientation will be virtual from 1-4pm on July 16. The first part of the event will be an overview of ILA and the work of the committees in regards to ILA’s strategic plan, the second part will be time for specific groups and member introductions.

12. Adjournment—With nothing more to discuss, Alex adjourned the meeting at 2:32pm

Voting Members Present:

<u> </u> Betsy Adamowski	<u> X</u>	Jim Deiters	<u> X</u>	Nanette Donohue
Wheaton		Oak Lawn		Champaign
<u> X</u> Keith Michael Fiels	<u> X</u>	Matthew Fruth	<u> X</u>	Qiana Johnson
ALA (retired)		Oak Park		Northwestern
<u> X</u> Val Neylon	<u> X</u>	Michelle Nielsen Ott	<u> X</u>	Magan Szwarek
City Colleges of Chicago		Methodist College of UnityPoint Health		Schaumburg
<u> X</u> Alex Todd	<u> X</u>	Jeffrey Wheeler	<u> X</u>	Amanda Zagloba
Prospect Heights		UIC		Chicago

Ex-Officio Members Present:

<u> X</u> Molly Beestrum	<u> —</u>	Dennis Danowski	<u> X</u>	Diane Foote
Northwestern		Macomb Public Library		ILA
<u> X</u> Veronica DeFazio	<u> X</u>	Kate Kite	<u> —</u>	Greg McCormick
Plainfield		Six Mile Regional		State Library

Guests: Dee Brennan, Monica Harris, Mary Witt, Cyndi Robinson, and Derek Blaida