

# Illinois Library Association Advocacy Committee

Monday, November 9, 2020 at 1:00pm

Virtual Meeting

## MINUTES

### 1. **Call to Order and Roll Call**

Meeting called to order at 1:03.

### 2. Introduction of Guests

### 3. **Approval of Agenda: November 9, 2020**

Approved

### 4. **Approval of Minutes: October 5, 2020**

Approved

### 5. **Reports**

#### a. ILA Executive Director, Diane Foote

The first virtual ILA conference. There 911 Attendees with 164 exhibit staff. There were 50 different exhibit companies and 11 sponsors. The financial details are being finalized, but a little money might have been lost, but at first pass, the conference was well received. Debriefs for how the conference went are beginning.

#### b. ILA President, Veronica DeFazio

Veronica thanked the conference planning committee. She also noted that she was excited that the chairs of the Diversity and the Best Practices committee were present at this meeting and that the committees are looking at ways to collaborate.

#### c. ILA Legislative Consultant, Derek Blaida

After the elections, libraries have never been a better position. The graduated income taxes was going to generate \$3.1-3.4 billion dollars. That revenue was expected to be collected in February 2021. The Lt. Governor noted that if the graduated income tax wasn't passed, other taxes will need to be raised. The governor has said that he doesn't want to cut education. There is also not the possibility to make cuts in other areas. With the holidays and the increase in COVID cases, the legislature will most likely return after the new year and begin addressing finances.

#### d. ILA Public Policy Chair, Daniel Matthews

The PPC talked about shifting priorities and have chosen to be broader in their focus around legislation. These priorities will be advocating to be part of the conversation in the state for guidance around COVID, talking about the value of libraries, and maintaining library funding.

### 6. **Around the Table & Across the State**

No reports

### 7. **Diversity and Best Practices Committee – Hannah Rapp, Alea Perez, Jenn Hovanec**

We want to look at how we can combine our efforts around diversity, equity and inclusion. Hannah Rapp from the Diversity Committee has been talking over the past few months about how to expand their work. At the conference the committee had listening sessions and

some of the highlights were barriers to training, accessibility of the training, and staff buy-in for these issues. There is interest from people about more advanced trainings. There was also recognition that the demographics of the library profession is a challenge in our diversity and equity issues and serving our communities.

Jenn Hovanec chair of the Best Practices Committee reported that the committee has made their priority for this year equity, diversity and accessibility. In their conversations, they have noted that this work is a continuum and involves collections, physical spaces, programming and outreach, and policy. They are putting together readings and tools that people can use. The committee has committed to two networking meetings and putting something forward for Reaching Forward. They also plan to write an article for the ILA Reporter. There is a subgroup that is working on identifying those working on land acknowledgements and how can we make this information and labor more available. The question was raised about how can the Advocacy Committee work with these committee. The group wants to see if there are ways we can tie this work in on a statewide level. The Advocacy Committee can help with the amplification and reinforcement of this work and these messages.

**8. Train the trainer – Keith, Betsy, Magan**

The modules are available and the committee is reviewing the content. They are working on an update to the advocacy manual. They want to have the manual and a series of modules available to share with people as the lead up process for the legislative meet ups. Keith will reach out to ILA to talk about what sort of ILA staff support will be needed.

**9. Legislative meetups – Magan, Diane, Alex**

Now that the election is complete, work can begin in earnest. The PPC's decision to focusing more broadly, that will impact what we communicate to legislators. There are new legislators this year and we will want to communicate with them in specific ways about libraries. ILA wants to reach out to the new legislators to introduce libraries even before the meet ups. The Advocacy Committee could offer guidance about how individuals and libraries could reach out to their elected officials.

**10. ILA Roundup – Advocacy for Introverts and Panel Discussion**

The sessions were well attended. There was a federal legislator for the legislator panel and there was a robust discussion.

**11. Reaching Forward 2021**

The program is going to be online and will use the same platform as the Annual Conference. Submissions are due November 20<sup>th</sup>. Nanette and Gail will work on submissions working with Keith.

**12. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 2:14.

### **Advocacy Committee's 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. 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 Present:**

Betsy Adamowski <b>X</b> Wheaton Public Library	Nanette Donohue <b>X</b> Champaign Public Library	Keith Fiels <b>X</b> Retired/ALA
Matthew Fruth Oak Park Public Library Board	Gail Graziani <b>X</b> Lisle Library District	Qiana Johnson <b>X</b> Northwestern University
Amanda McKay <b>X</b> Effingham Public Library	Val Neylon <b>X</b> City Colleges of Chicago	Magan Szwarek* <b>X</b> Schaumburg Twp District Library
Alex Todd* <b>X</b> Prospect Heights Public Library	Jeffrey Wheeler <b>X</b> U of I Chicago	Amanda Zagloba <b>X</b> Chicago Public Library
<b>Ex-Officio Members Present:</b> Veronica DeFazio <b>X</b> ILA President	Diane Foote <b>X</b> ILA	Jeanne Hamilton <b>X</b> ILA VP/President Elect
Marielle McNeal ILA Board Liaison	Daniel Matthews <b>X</b> ILA PPC Chair	Greg McCormick Illinois State Library
Derek Blaida <b>X</b> ILA Legislative Consultant		

**Guests:** Jenn Hovanec, Hannah Rapp, Deirdre Brennen, Cynthia Robinson, Thomas Stagg, Monica Harris, Mary Witt