

**Illinois Library Association Advocacy Committee**  
**Monday, April 4, 2022**  
**10 a.m. - 12 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Nanette called the meeting to order at 10:00am

**PRESENT**

**Voting Members:**

Nanette Donohue\* - Champaign Public Library

Magan Szwerek\* - Schaumburg Township District Library

Keith Fiels - Retired/ALA

Matthew Fruth - Oak Park Public Library

Gail Graziani - Lisle Library District

Kate Hall - Northbrook Public Library

Qiana Johnson - Northwestern University Libraries

Amanda McKay - Effingham Public Library

Jeffrey Wheeler - U of I Chicago

**Ex officio Members:**

Sam Adams-Lanham - ILA PPC Chair, Barrington Public Library

Diane Foote – ILA

Cyndi Robinson- ILA

Jeanne Hamilton - ILA President, Bloomington Public Library

Heather Jagman - ILA VP/President-Elect, DePaul University

**ABSENT**

**Voting Members:**

Joanna Bertucci - Park Ridge Public Library

Chris Houchens - Charleston Carnegie Public Library

Valerie Neylon - City Colleges of Chicago

**Ex officio Members:**

Derek Blaida- ILA Legislative Consultant

Greg McCormick - Illinois State Library

Carmen Patlan - ILA Board Liaison, Highwood Public Library

2. Approval of Agenda: April 4, 2022

There being no changes, the agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

3. Approval of Minutes: [March 7, 2022](#)

There being no changes, the minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

#### 4. Legislative agenda (PPC)

Diane Foote shared that eBook pricing passed unanimously in the house, but did not go further due to a Maryland court ruling where the judge stated that while the law had merit, this is legislation that belongs at the federal level, not the state level. As a result, our general assembly is wary of taking up legislation that will be shot down in court. ILA will continue to pursue this topic, but the state legislative solution is on hold right now.

Another ILA public policy focus is advocating for libraries to be included in the state sponsorship of highspeed broadband. This is not included in the current state budget, but libraries are in the proposal to have it covered by ARPA funds. Our concern is that ARPA funds are not sustainable so this is still something that ILA needs to continue to work on making part of the state's ongoing budget.

Last week, Senator Laura Murphy proposed an amendment to [HB5283](#). HB5283 is legislation that allows library district boards to hire a treasurer that is not on the board. This legislation mirrors similar legislation for Park Districts.

Senator Murphy proposed the [amendment](#) based on the 3:3 board deadlock that exists at the at the Niles-Maine Public Library District. The first amendment filed stated that: Vacancies shall be filled within 90 days after a vacancy has been declared. Shortly thereafter, a [second amendment](#) was filed that added: If the trustees fail to appoint a new member within 90 days after a vacancy has been declared, the State Librarian shall appoint an individual to fill the vacancy within 30 days after the trustees have failed to fill the vacancy. If the State Librarian fails to fill the vacancy within the 30 days after the trustees have failed to fill the vacancy, the vacancy shall be filled at the next regularly scheduled election.

There is nothing in the law that would allow enforcement. The Attorney General has stated that the Illinois State Library does not have authority to do anything with issues that arise such as the Niles Maine District Library board deadlock. We have some concerns about the amendments including how this would impact small library districts that can't find people to serve on the board, the lack of anything in the amendment to help with enforcement, and the fact that it applies to elected and appointed board members. The bill has now moved to the local government committee for review. The General Assembly is set to adjourn this Friday so it is unlikely that anything will happen, but not impossible given that Senator Murphy is the Senate Deputy Majority Leader for the Senate and chairs the Local Government committee.

Sam Adams-Lanham mentioned that we talked previously about [HB3254](#), the diversity in literature bill. The bill passed the house, but didn't make it out of senate committee. Nothing further will happen this session. We do have a letter from Tracy Hall, ALA executive director, and ALSC, YALSA, AISLE, ILA, and others about our opposition of the way the law is written, but support of having more diverse literature made available to students. There are a couple suggestions that we are sitting on and could move forward with if the bill is resurrected next session.

On federal level we are starting appropriations process and ILA will have info in the next eNewsletter on contacting your legislators about Dear Appropriator letters. This year's LSTA

funding is \$197.5 million. President Biden's FY23 budget has funding at \$201 million, but we are asking for \$232 million for LSTA funding in FY23.

5. Conference program proposals

a. Reaching Forward

Magan Szwarek, Betsy Adamowski, and Keith Field will be presenting at Reaching Forward South this Friday and Reaching Forward North in early May. They will be trying to bring other people in as active participants in the program. They are meeting to talk about that tomorrow.

b. ILA Annual

i. Keith Fiels is getting an ILA program proposal submitted today for Ready Set Advocate.

ii. Nanette Donohue will put in an ILA program proposal for the legislator panel, but is not attending so cannot moderate session. Legislators are not chosen until after the proposal is accepted. Cyndi Robinson will share last year's proposal with Nanette.

6. Bigger Than A Building Revamp Update

a. [Logo update review](#)

Tam Jenkins from ILA is seeking new strategies to keep IL libraries relevant. She suggested adding Illinois Loves Libraries to the Bigger than a Building logo. After discussion, the committee generally agreed that simpler is better and while we like "Illinois Loves Libraries," we do not feel like it needs to be part of the general logo. If ILA does decide to add that wording, committee members thought that the 2<sup>nd</sup> option was best.

b. Story collection ideas (Tam/Diane)

As part of the ILA Legislative Meet-Ups, we collected a number of stories. Tam will be using these to market Illinois libraries in ILA's social media and elsewhere. We can then use these examples to show people what they can submit and gather more stories. This will help us build up a story repository.

Diane Foote asked committee members to nominate someone for the McClarren Legislative Award. ILA has received one nomination so far.

7. Adjourned at 10:40am