

Illinois Library Association Advocacy Committee
Monday, April 5, 2021 Virtual Meeting

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:02
2. Members present: Betsy Adamowski, Nanette Donohue, Keith Michael Fiels, Matthew Fruth, Gail Graziani, Qiana Johnson, Magan Szwarek (co-chair), Alex Todd (co-chair), Jeffery Wheeler, Amanda Zagloba.
Ex officio: Veronica DeFazio, Diane Foote, Jeanne Hamilton, Daniel Matthews, Greg McCormick.
Guests: Cynthia Robinson, ILA, Monica Harris, RAILS
3. Agenda approved by unanimous consent, with item #9 to be addressed first
4. Minutes from February meeting approved by unanimous consent
9. ILA program submittals:
 - “Library funding for beginners”
 - Legislator panel discussion
 - “It’s just a bill”: how a bill becomes a law
 - “Ready, Set, Advocate” basic advocacy 101Discussion ensued regarding a program to launch the new “Ready, Set, Advocate” Toolkit and online training program. The group agreed to hold on a program pending further discussion about the program launch.
Betsy Adamowski and Keith Michael Fiels provided an update on the “Ready, Set, Advocate!” program:
 - A logo has been designed
 - The existing and now outdated ILA advocacy toolkit is being updated
 - Three online training modules will accompany the new toolkit
 - The toolkit and module power points are in final stages of preparation, and will be shared with the Advocacy Committee and others in late April for discussion and review
 - The modules will be recorded during the summer
 - A formal launch of the program in the fall
 - The goal of the program is to provide a comprehensive training program and resources for every Illinois library advocate and applicable to every type of library
 - The program will serve as the basis for a systematic, sustained statewide training program and “train the trainer” program to provide advocacy skills for thousands libraries and library supporters.
5. Reports:
 - ILA Executive Director:
Diane reported that the ILA Executive Board has approved three library luminary candidates

A new fundraising recognition program is being rolled out, which will recognize lifetime giving. Universal recognition will also be provided in the Annual Report.

Work continues on developing an Equity, Diversity and Inclusion statement for across the association.

ILA continues to invest in top priorities, which include Advocacy.

The ILA Election is now open, and members should have received email notification.

With libraries now open, an update of the “Bigger than a Building” site will be needed.

ALA will not be holding an in person Legislative Day, a series of fly in days in February and 4 virtual advocacy days will take the place of Leg Day. Focus will be on 2022 funding.

Information was provided on the Build America’s Libraries Act.

Alex Todd raised the issue of a regular review of the ILA Advocacy web site every year. He suggested it might be included in the AC calendar.

ILA President:

Veronica reported on EDI, which is an ILA strategic goal. “Courageous Conversation” training for all Board members

A mid-year meeting of committee chairs will be held to touch bases on EDI.

Legislative Liaison:

Legislative liaison Derek Blaida was involved in legislative meetings, so the PPC chair will present the legislative report (see following item).

Public Policy Committee

Dan reported that a “diversity in literature” bill has been introduced that would give school boards power to select every title included in curriculum. ILA is monitoring the bill.

Other bills introduced or under discussion include a bill requiring libraries to host ten years of documents on their web sites, a media literacy bill, and a bill that would require public entities to engage in a conversation about efficiency every ten years.

The committee is reviewing the ILA Public Policy Principles.

6. Around the table & across the state: no updates
7. The legislative meet ups were quite successful, and in some instances the virtual format appeared to increase legislative and attendee numbers. 75 legislators or staff and 493 attendees participated in the seven meet-ups.
8. Reaching Forward: Keith, Gail and Nanette will be presenting a “Ready, Set, Advocate!” advocacy 101 program on Friday, May 9th.
9. See above

10. Presentations and opportunities for 2021-2022: Alex led a discussion of how the advocacy committee can establish relationships with groups such as ATLAS, LACONI and others to get ILA advocacy training into their regular schedules.
11. Committee composition for 2021-2022: President elect Jeanne Hamilton announced that Magan Szwerek and Nanette Donohue will be serving as co-chairs for the coming year. She indicated that ILA is looking at an overall committee composition statement that will harmonize with existing individual committee statements.
12. The meeting was adjourned at 2:09 pm