

Illinois Library Association Advocacy Committee
Monday, August 30, 2021, 10:00 AM
Online Meeting
Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Magan Szwarek at 10:00 am.

Attendance

Voting Members

Present: Joanna Bertucci, Nanette Donohue, Keith Fiels, Matthew Furth, Gail Graziani, Kate Hall, Qiana Johnson, Amanda McKay, Magan Swarek, Jeffrey Wheeler

Absent: Chris Houchens, Valerie Neylon

Ex-officio Members

Present: Sam Adams-Lanham, Diane Foote, Jeanne Hamilton, Heather Jagman, and Marielle McNeal (joined at 10:55 am)

Absent: Greg McCormick

Also Present: Derek Blaida, ILA Legislative Consultant

Approval of 8/30/21 Agenda: approved by unanimous consent

Approval of 7/14/21 Minutes: approved by unanimous consent

Kate requested that an update from the Public Policy Committee (PPC) be a standing agenda going forward. PPC will meet after the Advocacy Committee on 8/30. Magan and Nanette are ex-officio members of PPC and will share out updates from PPC after their 8/30 meeting.

Ready, Set, Advocate!

Diane screen shared the final versions of the Ready, Set, Advocate tool kit and module documents. The modules can be used as standalone items or as a series. Members volunteered to record modules, 2 per module.

- Nanette and Gail
- Kate and Joanna
- Betsy and Keith

ILA staff will assist with recording and production. These videos will be made available on ILA's YouTube channel. Kate suggested that the modules be adapted into shorter 15 minute bites with the goal of being more accessible to Trustees who may not want the full 45 minute video.

ILA Conference Programs Review

- Ready, Set, Advocate! An ILA Advocacy Mini "Boot Camp"
 - o 1 session based on the new Ready, Set, Advocate platform
- Meeting Stakeholders Where They Are: Crafting a Library Message to Build Buy-In
 - o Qiana shared an update on this program and asked for suggestions for individuals to ask to be on the panel. Diane shared some helpful suggestions and will send those names to Qiana.
- Advocacy Tips & Tricks from Legislators
 - o The group discussed a strategy for reaching out to legislators with the goal of having representation from central and southern Illinois.

- Amanda will reach out to the Library in Representative Dave Severin's district
- Nanette will reach out to Carol Ammons
- Matt will reach out to Representative LaShawn Ford
 - Backups were identified, if needed:
 - Sam Adams- Lanham will reach out to Representative Katie Stuart
 - Kate will reach out to Congressman Brad Schneider's office.

Bigger Than a Building Review

- Keith and Magan, assisted by Gail will review the content of "Bigger Than a Building" after ILA. In the meantime, ILA will remove the link from ILA's website as the content is dated and suggests that Libraries are still closed as a result of the, now expired, stay-at-home order.

2022 Legislative Meet-ups

- In-person vs. virtual format for the 2022 legislative meetups was discussed. Kate suggested that planning for virtual is perhaps the best given the current trajectory of the pandemic. Keith added that some good work was done in the execution of last year's online format and continuity from last year's event is important.
- Derek added that as the legislative maps are not complete (and likely won't be until the new year) our focus should be making the event as easy as possible for legislators to attend as they will be very busy soliciting for signatures for their re-election petitions. Given their compressed schedule, Derek also felt that legislators would prefer to speak to larger audiences.
- It was also suggested that there does not have to be a one size fits all approach for all regions of the state as some areas reported record attendance with the virtual format where in-person meet-ups had been poorly attended.
- No final decision on format was made.
- Next steps include:
 - Magan will reach out to last year's local coordinators to determine their intention to stay on for the next round. Local coordinators will then be polled to establish a local coordinator subcommittee meeting date.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:41 am by Magan Szwarek

**Respectfully Submitted,
Joanna Bertucci**

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
Magan Szwarek* - Schaumburg Township District Library
Joanna Bertucci - Park Ridge Public Library
Keith Fiels - Retired/ALA
Matthew Fruth - Oak Park Public Library
Gail Graziani - Lisle Library District
Kate Hall - Northbrook Public Library
Chris Houchens - Charleston Carnegie Public Library
Qiana Johnson - Northwestern University Libraries
Amanda McKay - Effingham Library
Valerie Neylon - City Colleges of Chicago
Jeffrey Wheeler - U of I Chicago

Ex officio Members:

Sam Adams-Lanham - ILA PPC Chair, Barrington Public Library
Diane Foote - ILA
Jeanne Hamilton - ILA President, Bloomington Public Library
Heather Jagman - ILA VP/President-Elect, DePaul University
Greg McCormick - Illinois State Library
Marielle McNeal - ILA Board Liaison, Edward Hines VA Hospital

Upcoming meeting dates and assigned minutes takers:

August 30, 2021 - Joanna Bertucci
October 4, 2021 - Keith Fiels
November 1, 2021 - Matthew Fruth
December 6, 2021 -Gail Graziani
January 10, 2022 - Kate Hall
February 7, 2022 - Chris Houchens
March 7, 2022 - Qiana Johnson
April 4, 2022 - Amanda McKay
May 2, 2022 - Valerie Neylon
June 6, 2022 - Jeffrey Wheeler

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.