

Illinois Library Association Advocacy Committee
Monday, December 7, 2020 Virtual Meeting

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Meeting called to order at 1:02 p.m.

2. Introduction of Guests

Cyndi Robinson, ILA; Tom Stagg, Alpha Park Library, Mary Witt and Monica Harris, RAILS

3. Approval of Agenda: December 7, 2020

Approved

4. Approval of Minutes: November 9, 2020

Approved

5. Reports:

a. ILA Executive Director, Diane Foote

The ILA Executive Board met last Thursday and approved a broad advocacy approach, focusing on what libraries have done during the pandemic using wording from the Bigger Than a Building and RAILS' My Library Is... campaigns. ILA has three main asks that are not tied to specific legislation: 1. keep libraries at level funding in the budget this year and next year, 2. If there is Covid-19 relief funding, that libraries be made explicitly eligible, and 3. If guidelines or regulations are being put in place that affect libraries, that we are consulted beforehand.

In addition to the advocacy approach, the PPC Committee meeting discussed whether libraries will be included when vaccines are rolled out to public-facing institutions – currently the roll out is limited to healthcare workers and residents of long-term care facilities.

b. ILA President, Veronica DeFazio

The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion subcommittee is crafting definitions of what the terms diversity, equity, and inclusion mean and will be bringing that to the Board. The idea is to bring committee chairs and forums together virtually this winter to plan how to move forward together without everything having to run through the Diversity Committee.

c. ILA Legislative Consultant, Derek Blaida

The fall veto session is cancelled, so there won't be any scheduled clean up days for unfinished business in January as usual. As far as vaccines – who qualifies, what categories, etc. are still very fluid. We know that front line essential workers and those in long-term care facilities are the first groups who will receive the vaccine. Illinois' strategy is focused on the 50 counties with the highest per capita death rate. Some unresolved questions are, does being deemed essential mean you must stay open? Will there be certain states where

employees are mandated to be vaccinated to work on front lines? There is no clarity yet in Illinois.

- d. ILA Public Policy Chair, Daniel Matthews
PPC Committee Meeting held today – all topics have already been covered by Diane and Derek.

6. Around the Table & Across the State

No reports.

7. Legislative meetups – Magan, Diane, Alex

Planning has commenced for the meetups. Most of the coordinators Diane has reached out to have accepted the challenge. Betsy and Magan are also coordinators. Normally by now we would know all the locations and details, but we don't have that now because we don't have the legislative schedule. Assuming the legislature won't be in session on Mondays and Fridays as usual, we are looking at days between January 29th and March 5th.

Some tentative dates are February 5th for Southern Illinois anchored by Effingham Public Library, February 15th Metro East, February 19th West Suburban, February 22nd Buffalo Grove (Presidents' Day). We are looking for coordinators for South Suburban, Western Illinois region, and the Northwestern region.

What will these events look like? They will be shorter due to being online. We will have the typical round-robin for legislators to have their say. Constructive criticism received: lack of reliable legislator participation, they may arrive late, leave early, or switch out aides that appear. Benefits to being virtual: we cover eight regions and now people don't have to drive so there could be higher attendance. The PPC discussed how to handle break-out sessions within the larger session – ILA is not sure about facilitating this because of time limitations and the technical challenges of managing rooms when attendance is fluid, with people coming in and out of the event.

Legislators have told Derek that it is helpful if they have a hard start time and hard stop time and know exactly when they will speak during the agenda. We also want legislators to hear our spiel and not just to speak so that attendees will learn our legislative priorities and connect to the elected officials.

8. Advocacy Training & Reaching Forward 2021 – Keith, Betsy, Gail, Nanette

An application has been submitted to ILA for the Reaching Forward advocacy presentation. Thought has gone into how best to get training out to as many people as possible throughout the state. Covid-19 is forcing us to use different formats to get this done. We had a training program, but are now taking it to another level with READY, SET, ADVOCATE! It has three modules: Getting ready to understand Advocacy and the role it plays in your library, Setting the stage to build and tell your Library story, and Advocate and act now!

This will be our branding and ILA will market the idea and design it visually. December will be spent writing the script, January taping it, and then February 1st, launch. Then the training will

be given a home on the ILA website with a link for libraries to use for Board members, staff meetings, for other training, or for preparing for a referendum. It will also be updated as needed. The goal is to get the training out there and branded so people know what it means when they hear READY, SET, ADVOCATE!

9. ALA Advocacy Calendar – Diane

ALA has put out resources for state chapters, especially for smaller state organizations that don't have staff, but ILA will use it, too. ALA created an advocacy calendar for states - we already have one, but ours may be more internal. We could add the ALA calendar into the "retooled" advocacy toolkit. It has an advocacy checklist calendar which can help promote advocacy throughout the year.

10. Advocacy websites from other state library associations – Diane

This ALA resource for state organizations lists examples of webpages to look to for best practices – ILA's website is listed as an example.

11. Adjournment

Adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Voting Members Present:

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