

**Illinois Library Association Advocacy Committee**  
**Monday, February 7, 2022**  
**Online Meeting**  
**Minutes**

The meeting was called to order by Magan Szwarek at 10:01am.

**Attendance**

**Voting Members**

**Present:** Nanette Donohue, Keith Michael Fiels, Gail Graziani, Chris Houchens, Amanda McKay, Magan Szwarek, Matthew Fruth, Jeffrey Wheeler

**Absent:** Valerie Neylon, Joanna Bertucci

**Ex-officio Members**

**Present:** Diane Foote, Jeanne Hamilton, Sam Adams-Lanham, Heather Jagman, Carmen Patlan

**Absent:** Greg McCormick

**Also Present:** Derek Blaida, ILA Legislative Consultant, and Cyndi Robinson, ILA Deputy Director

**Approval of Agenda: February 7, 2022**

The agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

**Approval of Minutes: [December 6, 2021](#) & [January 10, 2022](#)**

The minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

**Legislative agenda (PPC)**

[2022 Palm Card](#)

The Equitable Access to Electronic Literature Act was unanimously passed by the Illinois House Consumer Protection Committee and is now with the Illinois Senate Executive Committee. There are several other states with similar bills in the works. While the expansion of the Illinois Century Network to include public libraries was not included in Governor Pritzker's budget address, the effort to get it included in the State's budget will not be deterred and advocacy efforts will continue.

**Legislative Meet-ups**

The Legislative meet-ups have been going well and the move to combine the Chicago and surrounding suburbs is proving to be a success.

1/24/2022 West Suburban & Chicago: 17 legislators, 84 attendees

1/28/2022 Central Illinois: 9 legislators, 61 attendees

2/4/2022 South Suburban & Chicago: 13 legislators, 45 attendees

2/14/2022 Metro East & Southern Illinois (as of 2/7/22): 11 legislators, 85 registered attendees

2/21/2022 North Suburban & Chicago (as of 2/7/22): 14 legislators, 150 registered attendees

2/28/2022 Northwestern IL (as of 2/7/22): 4 legislators, 38 registered attendees

**Conference program proposals**

The deadline for ILA Annual Conference proposals is 4/4/22. Keith Michael Fiels and Betsy Adamowski are developing an Advocacy Bootcamp to be run as a double session with a presentation component and an interactive component. Discussions were had on the Legislator panel and the potential of having it be a hybrid online/in-person program.

## **Bigger Than A Building Revamp**

Update

[Talking points draft](#)

Gail Graziani, Magan Szwarek, and Keith Michael Fiels have been working on revamping the campaign to make it evergreen as it was developed specifically for the pandemic. The process is in the early stages of developing this into a social media campaign with hopes of using it as a tool for libraries to solicit stories.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:08am.

## **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.

[Advocacy Calendar](#)

[Interactive Legislative Map](#)

[Palm card](#)

[Legislative Meet-ups](#)

[How to Prepare for a Meet-up](#)

[Ready, Set, Advocate](#)

## **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 Public 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

Carmen Patlan - ILA Board Liason, Highwood Public Library

**Upcoming meeting dates and assigned minutes takers:**

August 30, 2021 - Joanna Bertucci

October 4, 2021 - Keith Fiels

November 1, 2021 -Gail Graziani

December 6, 2021 - Matthew Fruth

January 10, 2022 - Amanda McKay

February 7, 2022 - Chris Houchens

March 7, 2022 - Qiana Johnson

April 4, 2022 - Kate Hall

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.