

**Illinois Library Association Advocacy Committee**

**Monday, January 10, 2022**

**10 a.m. - 12 p.m.**

**Online Meeting**

**Minutes**

**Attendance**

**Voting Members**

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

**Absent:** Valerie Neylon, Kate Hall, Qiana Johnson, Marielle McNeal

**Ex-officio Members**

**Present:** Diane Foote, Jeanne Hamilton, Sam Adams-Lanham

**Absent:** Greg McCormick

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

Meeting was called to order by Magan Szwarek at 10am.

**Approval of Agenda: January 10, 2022**

Agenda was approved by unanimous consent

**Approval of Minutes: December 6, 2022**

There are no minutes to approve at this time.

**Legislative agenda (PPC)**

[2022 Palm Card](#)

Diane Foote noted that with the influx of ARPA and IIAJ funds, everyone is hoping they will translate into more funds for broadband across the country. The challenge is matching federal dollars to needs. The strategy is to get funding in place first. eBooks are also a national issue and are on our legislative agenda for the year. Several states are also in various stages of being introduced and passed.

Derek Blaida noted that the legislative calendar has become even more complicated with the challenges presented by the new surge. However, we are in a good place with both initiatives, given all of the various constraints.

**Legislative Meet-ups**

[1/5/22 Update](#)

Registration has opened and is going well. The coordinators expressed an interest in making sure that there are more interactive pieces during the event to increase engagement and value. The committee brainstormed several options including asking what happens at a library on a typical day from both librarian and legislator point of view as well as a poll about eBook pricing.

**Conference program proposals**

The Reaching Forward and Reaching Forward South proposals have been accepted. The call for ILA Annual proposals will be available in the coming weeks. All ILA conferences are planning for in-person conferences with COVID protocols in place.

### **Bigger Than A Building Revamp**

Gail Graziani, Magan Szwarek, Keith Michael Fiels, and Diane Foote met to update the campaign that began in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. The specifics of that content are very much geared towards the early days of the pandemic and thus not appropriate for today's reality, but the outline and the concept are as vital as ever. Committee members are encouraged to provide any updates to the content by January 17.

### **Adjournment**

We adjourned at 10:50 by unanimous consent.

### **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 - 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.