

Illinois Library Association Advocacy Committee Meeting Minutes 01/08/2024

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Gail Graziani at 1:01pm

Attendees

Voting Members

A	Adamowski, Betsy <i>Wheaton Public Library</i>	X	Graziani, Gail (Co-Chair) <i>Indian Prairie Public Library</i>
A	Adams-Lanham, Sam <i>Barrington Area Public Library</i>	X	Houchens, Chris <i>Charleston Carnegie Public Library</i>
X	Bertucci, Joanna <i>Park Ridge Public Library</i>	A	Kirk, Laura <i>Churchill Elementary School Library</i>
X	Danowski, Dennis <i>Macomb Public Library</i>	X	McKay, Amanda (Co-Chair) <i>Effingham Public Library</i>
X	Dombrowski, Monica <i>Winnetka-Northfield Public Library</i>	X	Murray, Sara <i>Algonquin Area Public Library</i>
A	Donohue, Nanette <i>Champaign Public Library</i>	X	Prendergast, Tim <i>Hodgkins Public Library</i>

Ex Officio Members

X	Byers, Amy <i>ILA VP/President Elect</i>	X	Robinson, Cyndi <i>ILA Executive Director</i>
A	Jagman, Heather <i>ILA Immediate Past President</i>	A	Todd, Alex <i>ILA Board Liaison</i>
A	Johnson, Ryan <i>ILA President</i>	X	Waltermire, Kyla <i>ILA Public Policy Committee Chair</i>
X	McCormick, Greg <i>Illinois State Library Executive Director</i>		

Guests: Derek Blaida, *ILA Legislative Consultant*; Ryan Livergood, *Director - Warren-Newport Public Library*

2. Approval of Agenda: January 8, 2024

No changes to agenda; agenda approved

3. Approval of Minutes: December 4, 2023

No comment; minutes approved unanimously

4. Updates

a. ILA Public Policy Committee

Kyla reported: The Committee met this morning. Some legislation has been filed, but we are likely in a holding pattern through the primary election cycle. PPC is looking for feedback on newspaper publication requirements. RAILS will send out a survey to RAILS and IHLS members seeking information from libraries about the roadblocks they counter in publication, particularly cost and lack of local papers.

b. ILA Executive Board

Amy reported: The Board will meet next Thursday and there is nothing to share at this time.

c. Illinois State Library

Greg reported: There is no update today.

d. Legislative Update

Derek reported: An Illinois legislator from Elmhurst is requesting numerical or other statistical support for why libraries are seeking to reduce the requirement for the Treasurer's Bond from 50% to a lower amount, aside from saving taxpayer dollars. If anyone has any justification that can be shared, please pass it along. To our knowledge, there has never been a Library Treasurer's Bond called or challenged and libraries represent a very low-risk group.

e. Meet-up Attendance 2023

Cyndi reported: Statistics from meet-ups comparing 2020 vs. 2023 attendance were shared. Attendance for library people was down from 2020 (notably in some places), but legislator attendance was generally flat or increased. Derek reported that several legislators noted that while they had been able to attend previously (January meet-ups), the change in time of year (to November/December meet-ups) means they were able to spend more time connecting with attendees and were less rushed to get to their next appointments. It is suggested that we hold the next meet-ups in November/December 2024.

5. Recap of Recent Programs/Upcoming Programs

a. ILA Reaching Forward Committee Proposal

Joanna reported: A proposal was sent to present at Reaching Forward North.

b. Back in Circulation Conference

Tim reported: The Back in Circulation Conference, hosted by the University of Wisconsin, will be held in October 2024, and program proposals are due by March 1, 2024. There was some discussion that attending or presenting at the BIC Conference might conflict with the ILA Annual Conference, but also a note that advocacy training could be beneficial for frontline staff who typically attend BIC. There is also another conference, Lead the Way, also hosted by the University of Wisconsin, which will be held in April 2025, and this looks like a good fit for advocacy training. A suggestion was also made to have someone present at the Library Marketing and Communications Conference (LMCC) which will be held in St. Louis in November 2024.

6. Subcommittee Updates

a. Ready, Set, Advocate Training Modules

Monica reported: This subcommittee has not yet met.

b. Legislative Meet-ups

Chris reported: There is no update from this subcommittee.

c. Website Update/Other Advocacy Tools

Gail reported: Some progress was made last month and another meeting will be set soon. Cyndi reported that she or Sarah [Anderson] usually update the ILA website and can make changes as needed.

d. Conference Programs and Ongoing Advocacy Training

Tim reported: The subcommittee will be looking at opportunities to present at conferences in 2024 and 2025. Cyndi noted that ILA has a budget to support conference attendance for presenters if their library is unable to cover all costs.

e. ILA Reporter Article

Joanna reported: This subcommittee will be meeting soon to solidify ideas.

7. Old Business

a. More Than a Building

Cyndi reported: This project is taking a little longer than expected, but it is almost ready and we should see it very soon!

8. New Business

a. Advocacy Toolkit for Equitable Access to Electronic Literary Materials Act

Ryan Livergood reported: Ryan is seeking support from the Advocacy Committee for creation of a toolkit to support legislation regarding equitable access to electronic literary materials (eg, ebooks) and suggested a 1-2 page information sheet/FAQ form and/or a letter to the editor template. Derek supported the idea of an information sheet, especially if it includes examples of cost and timing difference for libraries' vs consumers' access to digital content. He suggested that should there be a hearing for this bill, library leaders (not Derek) would be most effective in testifying. Legislators will need to hear from library leaders, library staff, and library users to understand the importance and impact of this bill. There is big money at stake if changes are made, so we will need to move in steps, and we will be more successful if this can get packaged with other bills.

9. Adjournment

Gail adjourned the meeting at 1:37pm.