Illinois Library Association Advocacy Committee
Wednesday, July 14, 2021, 1:45 pm
Online Meeting
Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Magan Szwarek at 1:45 pm.

**Attendance**

**Voting Members**
- Present: Joanna Bertucci, Keith Fiels, Gail Graziani - Lisle Library District, Kate Hall, Chris Houchens, Qiana Johnson, Amanda McKay
- Absent: Matthew Fruth, Valerie Neylon, Jeffrey Wheeler

**Ex-officio Members**
- Present: Diane Foote, Jeanne Hamilton, Marielle McNeal
- Absent: Sam Adams-Lanham, Heather Jagman, Greg McCormick

**Approval of Agenda:** approved by unanimous consent

**Approval of Minutes:** approved by unanimous consent

**Introductions:** Committee members introduced themselves, their libraries, and what brought them to volunteer for the Advocacy Committee.

**Advocacy Committee Overview:** Members were reminded of where they can find the committee charge and calendar on the ILA website.

**Discussion of current projects**

**Legislative Meet-ups:**
There was a robust discussion of the goal of the legislative meet-ups and how the committee can best serve each of the areas. Although the response to the 2021 virtual meet-ups was more positive than anticipated, the committee would like to explore the idea of hybrid meet-ups.

**Items to explore at the August meeting:**
- Goals for the events
- Soliciting feedback from each area re: in-person or virtual events
- Bookending the meet-ups with preparation and next step process training, incorporating the module training.
- Development of trustee-specific training before the meet-ups?

**Ready, Set, Advocate! Training**
Keith gave an overview of the work that was done by Betsy and him to update the existing Advocacy Toolkit and develop a set of corresponding training modules for each section and outlined the Ready, Set, Advocate framework. Jeanne shared the slide deck used by Keith, Nanette, and Gail to present Advocacy 101 at Reaching Forward to give new committee members a preview of the logo and design.

**Next Steps:**
- Content has been delivered to ILA for formatting by the designer
- Official launch at ILA, but if the final product is ready by September, Kate can communicate it out to Director’s University past participants and potentially have it included in the next session. Development of a communication plan for making the library community aware, after launch.
- Familiarizing committee members with the content, partnering with more seasoned committee members to present, identifying conferences, meetings, networking groups, other opportunities to present the content

**Future Planning**
- Potential revamp of the Bigger than a Building Campaign
- Further discussion of the Advocacy Committee’s role in supporting the PPC agenda, how the committees are intended to work together, are there areas for improvement/increased impact?
- Jeanne confirmed that the ILA Executive Board plans to meet remotely until January 2022
- The meeting schedule and note-taking roster are included in the agenda.

**Adjournment**: The meeting was adjourned at 3:07 pm by Magan Szwarek

**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.