

Illinois Library Association Advocacy Committee
Monday, March 7, 2022
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Minutes

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Meeting called to order at 10:02am.

2. Approval of Agenda: March 7, 2022

Approved

3. Approval of Minutes: [February 7, 2022](#)

Approved

4. Legislative agenda (PPC)

Sam Adams-Lanham noted that the PCC committee is meeting in the afternoon and will be getting a report of what is moving from the Senate to the House. The broadband access bill is progressing as is the bill allowing library districts to hire a treasurer who is not part of the library board. The committee is monitoring the progress of the Diversity in Literature legislation. The bill is concerning because, as written, it gives school boards the ability to do line by line edits of book lists as well as banning books on certain subjects. Diane Foote is working with a number of other organizations around this bill. The bill has passed the House and has now moved to the Senate. It is not a library specific bill, but rather for schools, but libraries are often the one keeping on top of these issues.

5. Legislative Meet-ups [Recap](#)

Diane thanked the Advocacy Committee and the local coordinators for their help with the legislative meet-ups. There were a total of 423 attendees and 72 legislators. The comments from legislators were largely positive. ILA worked with Marci Merola to develop the content with help from the local coordinators. The federal budget is in a continuing resolution, but the legislators were optimistic that the budget will be resolved soon. IMLS is asking for a fully funded budget of \$232 million. Some feedback Derek Blaida has heard from legislators is that it's too late in the legislative calendar for them to give up an hour and that they would rather just have a list of what libraries' need/want. There is a mix between people who like online and those who want in person. If Zoom continues, we may need to look at the timing for the meet-ups as well as the possibility of larger regions. A proposed move to December would be difficult in election years because it takes a while for legislators to get their offices set up. To increase the success of the meet-ups, having the legislative agenda approved by October would be best. In order to accomplish this, PPC would need to adjust its meeting schedule in order to be able to meet that sort of deadline. To assist in gathering stories, there was a suggestion to capture stories monthly by themes.

Diane described the ALA fly-in visits at the federal level. Library construction is on the radar for legislators, without it being attached to Build Back Better.

6. Conference program proposals (Betsy)

1. Reaching Forward

Presentations have been updated from Ready Set Advocate. This presentation is for frontline staff, so the content was updated from the previous focus on library directors. Magan will be part of both sessions and talk about the Advocacy committee.

2. ILA Annual

Betsy and Keith have submitted two programs for the conference on behalf of the Advocacy Committee. The programs are intended to be paired, but are able to stand

alone. The first session will introduce the Ready Set Advocate toolkit while the second session is more interactive and is intended for attendees to have a time for putting pen to paper and have the beginnings of an idea. Keith and Betsy are looking for additional speakers.

2. Bigger Than A Building Revamp Update

There is no update at this time. There will be an update for the next meeting.

3. Adjournment

Adjourned at 11:13am

Attendees:

Nanette Donohue* - Champaign Public Library
Magan Szwarek* - Schaumburg Township District Library
Joanna Bertucci - Park Ridge 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
Jeffrey Wheeler - U of I Chicago
Sam Adams-Lanham - ILA PPC Chair, Barrington Public Library
Diane Foote – ILA
Cyndi Robinson, ILA Deputy Director
Jeanne Hamilton - ILA President, Bloomington Public Library
Heather Jagman - ILA VP/President-Elect, DePaul University
Greg McCormick - Illinois State Library
Carmen Patlan - ILA Board Liaison, Highwood Public Library
Derek Blaida - ILA Legislative Consultant
Betsy Adamowski, Wheaton Public Library, Guest

Absences:

Keith Fiels - Retired/ALA
Matthew Fruth - Oak Park Public Library
Valerie Neylon - City Colleges of Chicago