

**Illinois Library Association Advocacy Committee**  
**Monday, October 2, 2023 – Minutes**

Called to Order at 1 PM

**Roll Call**

Voting members present: Gail Graziani, Amanda McKay, Sam Adams-Lanham, Joanna Bertucci, Nanette Donohue, Chris Houchens, Laura Kirk, Tim Prendergast

Voting members absent: Betsy Adamowski, Victoria Blackmer, Dennis Danowski, Monica Dombrowski

Ex officio members present: Amy Byers – ILA VP/President-Elect; Kyla Waltermire - ILA PPC Chair; Greg McCormick – Illinois State Library; Cyndi Robinson – ILA Executive Director; Alex Todd – Board Liaison

Ex officio members absent: Ryan Johnson - ILA President; Heather Jagman - ILA Past President

Also present: Derek Blaida, Legislative Consultant; Sara Murray, Algonquin Area Public Library

Agenda approved by unanimous consent

[August 28, 2023 minutes](#) approved by unanimous consent

**Updates**

- ILA Public Policy Committee (Kyla Waltermire, PPC Chair)

Kyla reported that ILA's Executive Board voted to approve three PPC recommendations to pursue in the General Assembly this year.

- The association will support legislation seeking an inflationary adjustment to \$30,000 from the current statutory competitive bid threshold of \$25,000.
- We will introduce legislation seeking parity between libraries and other governmental units to require library treasurers to hold a bond of 10-25% of total revenue collections from the previous fiscal year, rather than the 50% currently required.
- ILA will propose legislation seeking to change restrictions placed on libraries acquiring and providing access to digital content for patron use. The proposal is based on consumer protection, contract law, and contract preemption to regulate library e-book contracts with publishers.

- ILA Executive Board (Ryan Johnson, ILA President)

Pres. Elect Amy Byers reported in Ryan's absence. In addition to the ILGA goals mentioned above, the executive board:

- Heard a report from Dr. Lian Ruan, Illinois Fire Service Institute Library (IFSI) Head Librarian, Director of IFSI International Programs, and Project Director for the Libraries as Partners for Emergency Preparedness and Response in Times of Crisis investigation, [further details here](#).

- o Were updated on the 2023 ILA Annual Conference being held on Oct 24 – 26 in Springfield and confirmed the 2024 conference will be in Peoria from Oct 8 - 10.
- o Voted to support the [Association of Illinois School Library Educators' \(AISLE\) Library Paraprofessional Statement of Support](#).
- o Voted to confirm Jill Donovan as an Illinois Library Luminary.
- o Selected Fesemyer Consulting, LLC, to update the ILA Strategic Plan.
- Illinois State Library (Greg McCormick, ISL Director)

Greg reported that we are currently in the comment period for [administrative rules to implement](#) the recently passed Book Banning Legislation [Public Act 103-0100](#).

- Legislative Update (Derek Blaida)
  - o Veto session starts in 3 weeks; topics to be addressed will be finalized in 2½ weeks. As veto session is short, any issues that can wait will be pushed back.
  - o Our legislative agenda, as reported by Kyla above, is well-timed, i.e., we know what we want to focus on in advance of the session starting.
  - o The fairness in e-book use proposal is in its 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> iteration, based on what has worked and/or been challenged in other states.
  - o Query about possible systemic change so that laws that apply to other units of government, e.g., competitive bid thresholds, would apply to public libraries as well. Answer is that we want to be careful; not all rules applied to other entities would be productive for libraries.
  - o Insight into difficulties faced by school librarians: in one example, there is a \$1500 book budget + \$250 for supplies. Response is that, on paper, more money is coming from the state, but each of the 600 school districts handles things differently, so this may be a local issue.

### **Upcoming Programs**

October 1, 2023 - AISLE Conference, Champaign, IL Cindy & Nanette are presenting at AISLE on Oct 3.

ILA Annual Conference

- Legislative panel will not be held this year
- RSA: Frontline Edition to be presented by Nanette Donohue and Amanda McKay
- Slots are open at the info table
  - o Determine whether we can offer legislative breakfast sign-ups at table.
- Wear buttons in support of First Amendment, Freedom to Read

### **Subcommittee Updates**

Ready, Set, Advocate Training Modules: Tim, Nanette, Monica, Sam, Joanna

New edition for use in school libraries

Legislative Meet-ups: Betsy, Chris, Laura

- Almost all regional coordinators are lined up

- All but one venue is confirmed
- Volunteers have been great

Webpage Update / Other Advocacy Tools: Chris, Monica, Sam, Gail

No report

Conference Programs and Ongoing Advocacy Training: Nanette, Tim

- PLA declined to have ILA Advocacy present
- Proposals are open for Reaching Forward and Reaching Forward South

ILA Reporter Article: Laura, Joanna

Advocacy article in June issue

**New Business** (as needed)

FYI: Cyndi was part of an Illinois ACLU panel on First Amendment rights; very affirming to hear how much support we have from people outside libraries.

More Than A Building: Cyndi shared that Megan Cusick has been retained and a group is meeting to discuss how Bigger Than A Building might be updated to address current issues faced by libraries, e.g., vocal &/or disruptive book challenges, intimidation tactics. Basic goal is to say, "This is what libraries do, what we have always done, and we are going to keep doing it." Plan is to include a component on staff support. She asked if anyone from Advocacy might be interested in joining the discussion, and Sam volunteered.

Threats and Annual Conference:

- ILA is working with Springfield police to ensure the safety of conference attendees.
- Library safety and response to threats will be discussed at conference. Plans in the works to invite an Assistant State's Attorney and Chief of Police to speak

**Adjournment** by unanimous consent at 2 PM

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

November 6, 2023 – Tim Prendergast

December 4, 2023 - Monica Dombrowski

January 8, 2024 - Victoria Blackmer

February 5, 2024 - Laura Kirk

March 4, 2024 – Betsy Adamowski

April 1, 2024 - Dennis Danowski

May 6, 2024 – Joanna Bertucci

June 3, 2024 – Gail Graziani