

Illinois Library Association Advocacy Committee

Monday, October 5, 2020 at 1:00pm
Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

1. Call to Order and Roll Call—Magan Szwarek called the meeting to order at 1:02
2. Introduction of Guests—Noted at the end.
3. Approval of Agenda: October 5, 2020—Approved by unanimous consent
4. Approval of Minutes: August 31, 2020—Approved by unanimous consent
5. Reports
 1. ILA Executive Director, Diane Foote
 - ILA Executive Board met last week and business included: inducting Janice M. Del Negro as the latest Illinois Library Luminary, sunseting Public Library Forum, reviewed current fiscal findings that will be available in the next Illinois Reporter, and ended the meeting with a session with Jennifer Gray to have a better understanding of diversity, equity, and inclusion.
 - Reading Colors Your World has been launched for Summer Read 2021 and have added several additional state partners: Oregon, Iowa, and Washington.
 - Kendall Harvey has moved on to become a Deputy Director at another library and have welcomed Sarah Anderson as the newest Administrative Coordinator.
 2. ILA President, Veronica DeFazio
 - Conference is in 2 weeks and it is the first completely virtual, which includes 3 half day sessions.
 - Sponsorship goal has been exceeded.
 - Access will be available to the session for up to 90 days after the conference.
 3. ILA Legislative Consultant, Derek Blaida
 - Lt. Governor's statement regarding the ballot referendum potentially failing and potential cuts up to 20%. Currently operating under the 20/21 appropriations.
 - Discussion regarding potential for additional funding for libraries.
 4. ILA Public Policy Chair, Daniel Matthews
 - PPC had a lot of discussion about legislative priorities
 - 3 proposals: Unserved minors, library mergers, and new instructional materials be open educational resources
 - All three priorities will remain, knowing that there are challenges with implementation.
6. Around the Table & Across the State—no update
7. Train the trainer – Keith, Betsy, Magan

- Met a few weeks ago and shared a written report with the committee ahead of this meeting.
- Training ahead of the legislative meetups will be key as they are re-imagined.
- ILA Advocacy Workbook is ready for an update and re-tooling; will be broken into a series of modules that is mapped to training; goal is to get it in place in time for the meetups.
- Once meetups have concluded, they would like to conduct train-the-trainer sessions.
- Toolkit would also be updated to reflect community advocacy/telling the library's story as well as state/federal advocacy.

8. Legislative meetups – Magan, Diane, Alex

- Met with the coordinators of the meetups and how the needs differ around the state.
- The coordinators would like to replicate the in-person events as much as possible.
- Unsure that replicating it exactly, especially the breakout sessions with the individual legislators, is not possible; however, finding some way to facilitate interpersonal interaction is important.

9. Social Media Messaging – Gail, Matt

- “Libraries Transform” would be the base, but using “Bigger Than a Building” as the theme, such as “My library is Bigger Than a Building: [INSERT YOUR EXPERIENCE]”

10. Advocating for diversity in libraries – Magan, Alex

- A survey has just gone out regarding training needs around diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- Alex and Magan have reached out to the Diversity and Best Practices committees and invited them to attend our November meeting to discuss how we can work together to promote this.

11. ILA Annual Conference Panel discussion - Alex, Magan, and Jim D.

- Alex and the committee are still working on getting panelists, but are hopeful that they'll find some strong legislative panelists.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 by Magan.

Advocacy Committee's 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. 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. 2

Voting Members Present:

✓ Betsy Adamowski
Wheaton Public Library
Matthew Fruth
Oak Park Public Library Board

✓ Alex Todd*
Prospect Heights Public Library

Ex-Officio Members Present:

✓ Veronica DeFazio ILA
President
Marielle McNeal ILA Board
Liaison

✓ Nanette Donohue
Champaign Public
Library

✓ Gail Graziani
Lisle Library District
Val Neylon
City Colleges of Chicago

✓ Jeffrey Wheeler U of I
Chicago

✓ Diane Foote ILA

✓ Daniel Matthews ILA
PPC Chair

✓ Keith Fiels Retired/ALA

✓ Qiana Johnson
Northwestern University
✓ Magan Szwerek*
Schaumburg Twp District
Library

✓ Amanda Zagloba
Chicago Public Library

✓ Jeanne Hamilton
ILA VP/President Elect

✓ Greg McCormick Illinois
State Library

Guests: Derek Blaida, Cyndi Robinson, Monica Harris