

Illinois Library Association Advocacy Committee
Monday, October 4, 2021, 10:00 AM
Online Meeting
Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Magan Szwarek at 10:01 am.

Attendance

Voting Members

Present: Joanna Bertucci, Nanette Donohue, Keith Michael Fiels, Matthew Fruth, Gail Graziani, Chris Houchens, Kate Hall, Qiana Johnson, Amanda McKay, Magan Szwarek.

Absent: Valerie Neylon, Jeffrey Wheeler

Ex-officio Members

Present: Sam Adams-Lanham, Diane Foote, Greg McCormick, Jeanne Hamilton

Absent: Marielle McNeal

Also Present: Derek Blaida, ILA Legislative Consultant, Cyndi Robinson, Betsy Adamowski, Carmen Patlan, ILA Executive Board Liaison to Advocacy Committee

Approval of 10/6/21 Agenda: approved by unanimous consent

Approval of 8/30/21 Minutes: approved by unanimous consent

PPC Update: Legislative Agenda

At its 8/30/2021 meeting, the Public Policy Committee reviewed seven legislative proposals:

- Provision of broadband service to public libraries, similar to what is offered to K-12 schools in the state
- Provision of state-purchased databases to libraries of all types
- Extending the opportunity for public library trustees to access Open Meetings Act training from sources other than the state, as is allowed for other types of special districts and municipal units
- Legislation to require "reasonable" terms for library purchases of e-books
- Enabling direct mergers of municipal libraries and clarifying language about mergers between districts, between a district and a municipal one, etc.; and enabling the inclusion of unserved areas in between noncontiguous merging libraries
- Enabling the provision of complimentary library cards to anyone under 18 in unserved areas at library board discretion
- Enabling more flexibility in which designated fund "buckets" a library's levy would be available for without going to referendum

Following the meeting, PPC conducted a ranked-choice vote, and the results, in order, were:

Databases 58 points
Broadband 57
E-book pricing 56
Levy & general fund 48
OMA training 44 (tie)

Cards for <18 44 (tie)
Mergers 29

These results were submitted to the ILA Executive Board for discussion at the September 23, 2021 meeting. At that meeting, the Executive Board agreed by consensus to follow a similar polling process, and to eliminate Cards for <18 and Mergers. That poll yielded the following results:

Broadband: 48 points
E-Books: 38
Levy: 28
Databases: 26

There is now an open board discussion occurring via email, which will be followed by vote at the end of the week. The drop-dead date for ILA to finalize these priorities is the December 3, 2021 meeting, but we aim to finalize it prior to then.

Ready, Set, Advocate!

A link to the draft website was shared with committee members.

A draft launch plan for the new tool kit and online modules was discussed. Based on this discussion, a decision was subsequently made to offer the three modules as live zoom sessions as part of ILA's Noon Network on November 8th, 15th and 22nd. The sessions will be recorded and made available permanently on the Ready, Set, Advocate! Web site.

Presenters for the module sessions are:

Module 1: Ready	Betsy Adamowski and Keith Michael Fiels
Module 2: Set	Kate Hall and Joanna Bertucci
Module 3: Advocate!	Nanette Donohue and Gail Graziani

Other components for the launch include announcements at the ILA conference, an article in the *ILA Reporter* and emails to members.

Discussion followed on what messaging is needed to encourage members of the library community to use the materials, share the materials with others and put the tips and techniques in the toolkit and modules to use in their library and community. The idea of a "pledge" was discussed, which would include a commitment to specific actions. Of particular interest heading into the legislative meet ups will be the gathering of real stories about the impact of libraries on real people. These have been shown to be particularly effective in making the case with elected officials.

ILA Conference Programs Review

Three programs are scheduled for the October conference:

- Ready, Set, Advocate! An ILA Advocacy Mini "Boot Camp"
 - Session based on the new Ready, Set, Advocate! toolkit and online training modules will be presented by Betsy Adamowski and Keith Michael Fiels

- Meeting Stakeholders Where They Are: Crafting a Library Message to Build Buy-In.
 - Qiana Johnson is coordinating this program. Planned speakers are:
 - DoMonique Arnold, University Laboratory High School Librarian, University Laboratory High School
 - Jamie Nelson, Head of Special Collections and Archives, DePaul University Library
 - Steven Adams, Librarian for Graduate and Postdoctoral Initiatives, northwestern University Libraries and Board Chair, Black Metropolis Research Consortium

- Advocacy Tips & Tricks from Legislators
 - Nanette Donohue is coordinating. The three legislator speakers are:
 - LaShawn Ford
 - Carol Ammons
 - Dave Severin

2022 Legislative Meet-ups

ILA staff have been working with coordinators to set dates the meet ups. Information on those scheduled so far was included in the committee packet

Derek led a discussion of the future of the Chicago meet-up in light of the current redistricting, as there will be very few Chicago-only districts. Historically, this meet-up has had lower attendance. The possibility was discussed of including Chicago districts in the other meet ups.

Diane indicated the need for a new district map in light of the redistricting, as the location of buildings within districts can be difficult to determine without an actual map.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:19 am by Magan Szwarek

**Respectfully Submitted,
Keith Michael Fiels**

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 Szwerek* - 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:

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.