



Illinois Library Association

### **ILA Committee and Forum Reports**

This form is to be completed by committee chairs/forum managers in collaboration with board liaisons. The ILA Executive Board will meet on the following dates in 2020-21: 9/24/20, 12/3/20, 3/25/21, and 5/20/21. Reports should be submitted **two weeks before each board meeting** to the board and staff liaison (liaisons are listed on rosters at <http://www.ila.org/about/committees> or <http://www.ila.org/forums>) and the ILA office (email: [ila@ila.org](mailto:ila@ila.org)).

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Committee or Forum: **Advocacy Committee**

Report completed by: **Alex Todd**

Date: **September 3, 2020**

#### Activities underway or completed since the last report:

The Committee, in conjunction with the ILA Executive Director, have canceled the 2021 legislative meet-ups. Although there are still several months before the events, planning would need to start soon and it does not appear that the current situation will dissipate enough to make them possible.

The Advocacy Committee is concentrating on training this year. We will continue to develop advocacy training tailored for specific audiences (trustees, staff, community, etc.).

The Committee is sponsoring its annual legislator panel discussion during ILA in October. The theme has always been learning the best ways to develop relationships with legislators and how to motivate positive action on desired causes. This year, we will ask the panelists how to do these things in a socially distanced environment.

#### Projected activities/initiatives during the upcoming months:

The Committee Co-chairs and ILA Executive Director will meet with the regional legislative meetup coordinators in the next few weeks to discuss alternative actions. With the meetups not happening in 2021, we need to brainstorm other ways to keep our message at the forefront of our legislators' minds. Initial ideas are targeted lobbying of key committee chairs and sponsors; having trustees and library staff attend legislator office hours or other virtual events; social media campaigns reminding legislators of the critical role libraries play in sustaining their communities during the pandemic.

Each committee member will be trained on the modules described above. We will then be able to hit the ground running once COVID prohibitions are lifted. We also expect this to be an ongoing part of serving on this Committee so that we can promote advocacy across the state and throughout the year.

#### Intended outcome/goals of project(s):

We want to sustain the progress we've made on our established initiatives this year, particularly with the legislative meetups.

We also want to lay a foundation that will allow next year's Committee to integrate advocacy training with regional and statewide conferences, regional workshops, and individual libraries.

#### Anticipated timeline(s) and completion date(s) for each project:

Activities should be designed to advance the ILA Strategic Plan. Which strategic goal areas are best addressed by the activities above? Check all that apply and describe briefly how the activities will advance the goal(s). View the full plan at <http://www.ila.org/about/strategic-plan>.

- Goal area: Advocacy—Legislative Advocacy
- Goal area: Advocacy—Community Advocacy
- Goal area: A Culture of Diversity and Inclusion—In the Profession
- Goal area: A Culture of Diversity and Inclusion—In the Association
- Goal area: Delivery of Member Value
- Goal area: Leadership

The first goal of the ILA Strategic Plan is Advocacy. We don't think this is (only) an alphabetical coincidence. Advocacy is a cornerstone of ILA and for all libraries. Everyone loves us, but we're easily overlooked. The Advocacy Committee works to remedy this among our legislators and within our communities.

Through our initiatives, we advocate for greater diversity and inclusion in ILA and throughout our profession.

Greater diversity and inclusion increases the value of ILA membership.

Questions or concerns that need to be addressed by the ILA Executive Board (**please discuss with your board or staff liaison first. Board liaisons can help with strategic, programmatic, policy-related and content-related questions; staff liaisons can help with procedural or business-related questions**):

In addition to the Committee's recommendation to cancel the 2021 legislative meetups, we would also welcome any ideas for reaching the legislators this year.

We would also welcome ideas on how we might ... re-conceptualize some of the meetups going forward. The current breakfast/lunch model works well in relatively dense areas like Buffalo Grove, Oak Brook, etc. But they don't work as well in more rural areas where many legislators, staff and trustees need to travel a long ways to reach the event.

The Internet says this is the "World's Toughest Riddle"

I have \$50.

I spend \$20, leaving me with a balance of \$30

I spend \$15, leaving me with a balance of \$15

I spend \$9, leaving me with a balance of \$6

I spend \$6, leaving me with a balance of \$0

Total the spending:  $20+15+9+6=50$

Total the balances:  $30+15+6+0=51$

Where did the extra \$1 come from?