



Illinois Library Association

ILA Forum and Committee Reports

This form is to be completed by committee chairs/forum managers in collaboration with board liaisons. The ILA Executive Board will have meetings on the following dates in 2022-23: 9/22/22, 11/17/22, 1/12/23 (mid-year “mini meeting;” no report necessary unless you are requesting board action), 3/9/23, 5/25/23. Reports should be submitted two weeks before each board meeting to the board liaison, the ILA staff liaison, and emailed to ila@ila.org.

Forum or Committee: Intellectual Freedom Committee

Report completed by: Matt Matkowski

Date: 12-29-22

Activities underway or completed since the last report:

- Held committee meeting on 11-9-22.
- Many ideas have been generated:
 - Creating a “fact check” area on the committee’s website where librarians can have easy access to facts and in-context representation of commonly challenged books. Kristin has created shared Google folder/docs for the committee to contribute to.
 - Discussed the concept of an “anti-ban mobilization task force”, where a librarian in need could put the word out and supporters could organize to show up and speak favorably at the next board meeting.
 - Several ideas for Noon Network topics have been floated.
 - A listening session to hear what libraries and staff are experiencing in terms of intellectual freedom issues.
 - Find a speaker from outside the library field to talk about hate groups.
 - Book challenge/First Amendment audit tips.
 - ILA Reporter articles
 - Recap of what happened intellectual freedom-wise in Illinois in 2022, from books bans, to program challenges, to First Amendment audits.
 - Articles following-up on/expanding awareness of the aforementioned fact check website or task force, should they get off the ground.
 - ILA 2023 Panel
 - Discussed gathering a group of staff who have experienced challenges to discuss what happened and what they did.
 - Discussion of a challenge tips panel for Reaching Forward North, there is already one

submitted for Reaching Forward South.

- The committee had been approached by Prospect Heights Public Library to do a presentation on bans and challenges at their upcoming in-service day, but then they were able to secure the iSchool's Dr. Emily Knox for the presentation, and in my book, if you can get Dr. Knox, of course you go with Dr. Knox.
 - There are rumblings that we may be asked to do something similar for the Arlington Heights Memorial Library's in-service day, no word yet on if we will be bumped for someone more famous and well-versed.

Projected activities during the upcoming months:

- The remaining IF committee meetings for the term are:
 - 1-18-23
 - 3-8-23
 - 5-10-23
- As chair, my #1 goal is to make good on at least a few of the ideas we have generated and put them into action.

Questions or concerns that need to be addressed by the ILA Board:

- None at this time.