



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).

Committee or Forum: **Advocacy Committee**

Report completed by: **Magan Szwarek**

Date: **11/8/2020**

Activities underway or completed since the last report:

The Committee presented two successful programs at ILA Conference: Advocacy for Introverts, Advocacy for Extroverts: an ILA Advocacy "Bootcamp" and Advocacy Tips & Tricks from Legislators. Both were well attended.

Legislative Meet-up coordinators met with ILA Executive Director Foote and committee co-chair in September to brainstorm ideas for modifying the meet-ups in response to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis.

The chairs of the Best Practices & Diversity Committees joined the November 9th meeting to provide an overview of their goals and projects for the year. The Advocacy Committee wants to identify opportunities for us to tie their work in on a statewide level. The Advocacy Committee can help with the amplification and reinforcement of the work being done by these committees.

Projected activities/ initiatives during the upcoming months:

A subcommittee has been created to continue work on the development of a series of advocacy training modules.

A proposal was submitted for Reaching Forward 2021.

Planning continues for the legislative meet-ups. We propose to keep the traditional Monday/Friday schedule in February, but modify the timing and amend the number to manage the overall attendance in a series of Zoom meetings.

Intended outcome/ goals of project(s):

In support of our previously stated goal 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. The training subcommittee intends to have at least two training modules completed and the manual updated in time to support the February 2021 legislative meet-up schedule.

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
- 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
- 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.

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**):

THANK YOU for your service to ILA and Illinois librarianship!