

ILA Public Policy Committee Meeting Minutes (03/07/2022 Meeting)

Chair Sam Adams-Lanham called the meeting to order at 1:01 PM

Notetaker Dee Anna Phares conducted the Roll Call

Voting Members Present: Sam Adams-Lanham, Barrington Area Library; Brian Chase, Normal Public Library; Melissa Gardner, Palatine Public Library District; Ryan Livergood, Warren-Newport Public Library District; Rebecca Malinowski, Cooperative Computer Services; Daniel Matthews, Moraine Valley Community College Library; Dee Anna Phares, Northern Illinois University; Donna Schaal, Argenta-Oreana Public Library District; Kyla Waltermire, Mississippi Valley District Library; Nikeda Webb, Matteson Public Library.

Members Absent: Monica Dombrowski, Winnetka Northfield Public Library District; Catherine Yanikoski, Engineering Systems, Inc.

Ex Officio Members Present: Derek Blaida, ILA Legislative Consultant; Elizabeth Clarage, Consortium of Academic & Research Libraries in Illinois (CARLI); Nanette Donohue, Champaign Public Library, Advocacy Committee; Veronica De Fazio, Plainfield Public Library District, ILA Past President; Diane Foote, ILA Executive Director; Jeanne Hamilton, Bloomington Public Library, ILA President; Heather Jagman, DePaul University, ILA President-Elect; Lou Ann Jacobs, Association of Illinois School Library Educators (AISLE); Betsy Mahoney, Intellectual Freedom Committee Greg McCormick, Illinois State Library; Ellen Popit, Illinois Heartland Library System (ILHS); Magan Szwerek, Schaumburg Township District Library, ILA Advocacy Committee.

Ex Officio Members Absent: Deirdre Brennan, Reaching Across Illinois Library System (RAILS); Heather Jagman - DePaul University- ILA President-Elect; Patrick Molloy, Chicago Public Library.

Guests: Dennis Danowski, Macomb Public Library; Monica Harris, RAILS; Leila Heath, RAILS; Tina Hubert, Six Mile Regional Library; Cyndi Robinson, ILA; Mary Witt, RAILS.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the February 2022 meeting were approved by unanimous consent.

Report from Advocacy Committee (Magan Szwerek)

- Legislative Meet-Ups Recap: Good attendance at the events across the state.
- Upcoming Events & Information: [ILA 2022 Annual Conference](#) (October 18-20, 2022)—call for conference proposals out now (deadline is April 4, 2022); there will be truncated versions of [2022 Reaching Forward South Conference](#) (April 8, 2022) and [2022 Reaching Forward Conference](#) (May 6, 2022). [Ready, Set, Advocate](#) Advocacy Training Package available on the ILA website.

Report out from ILA Exec Board (Jeanne Hamilton)

Executive Board will meet on March 17, 2022

Federal update (Diane Foote)

- Federal Funding for Libraries:
 - ALA “Fly In” days in February (virtual since 2020) went well; met with Sen. Dick Durbin and Reps. Darin LaHood, Cheri Bustos, and Rodney L. Davis; Greg McCormick (Director, Illinois State Library), Sylvia Norton (AASL Executive Director), and Sara Benson (UIUC Libraries) attended. The only agenda item was library funding. Currently, there is no federal budget and the continuing resolution runs out on Friday, March 11, 2022—Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) is still operating on \$197.4 million (\$5.6 million for IL through grants to states program). Look for a call to general membership when “Dear Appropriators” letters need to go out (for IMLS and for Innovative Approaches to Literacy Act (IAL) for School Libraries—which has been appropriated at \$28 million, but ALA wants \$50 million). Also requesting a “general ask” for \$5 billion in construction funds not in Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act or Build Back Better Act.
 - State Library provided great data for talking about specific issues from across the state
 - Rep. Davis’ staff member committed to visit a library; Sen. Durbin not confirmed yet
 - No National Library Legislative Day this year but legislative advocacy activities planned for ALA Annual in Washington DC—details to follow.
- Presidents Day message from Senator Dick Durbin (video)

State update (Derek Blaida, Diane Foote & others)

- ISBE Inclusive American History Commission issued its report (conclusion p. 19 [p. 21 incl cover & title])
- College Course Materials Affordability and Equitable Access Task Force
 - Has not yet held first meeting
- Questionnaire to library directors in IHLS regarding SB 3497
 - While there’s a great deal of support, there are also some serious reservations (eg. taxpayer equity, problems supplying free of charge, significant loss of revenue because of minimum wage hikes; concern about taking focus away from expanding or creating districts—need bigger areas of tax-supported services; abuse by families who use the cards of youth; unsure how to track loss of material). Need to think through all the potential impacts before enacting; it is probably better to go through geographically tax-supported districts.
 - Also concerns that while labeled “optional,” it may become a de facto mandate, which could lead to Boards ceasing sale of all non-resident cards.
 - ILA will continue in an educational role as the process moves forward
 - Will explore how other states have accomplished full coverage of all citizens; RAILS has a potentially useful resource, Universal Library Service: Serving the Underserved
- ILA Bill Synopsis Report (Derek)

The state legislature is set to adjourn on April 8, 2022. Budget should pass, but legislators could come back in mid-May to pass appropriations package if necessary. Should focus on 2023 and develop the legislative agenda earlier this year; there will be a lot of action in November 2022 and January 2023.

- HB 3254 (School Curriculum Diversity in Literature)—ILA supports increased diversity curriculum but has first amendment concerns about this bill (censorship--books with certain content cannot be taught; title-level veto power given to school districts); AISLE also objected to bill as currently written. ILA raised these objections with the sponsor and suggested language to resolve the problems. No changes were made. Passed the House on March 4, 2022; ILA will now focus on the Senate and educating legislators on the issues. ILA reached out to IL ACLU and will need to inform AISLE and IATE (IL Association of Teachers of English) of the bill's progress.
 - HB 5283—allows for the hiring of a Treasurer instead of electing one from the Board of Trustees (Park Districts already have this option). Will likely pass. ILA is neither pro nor con.
 - SB 302 (Lincoln Library State Historian)—takes away hiring authority for top-tier personnel from the Executive Director of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum.
 - SB 2553—local governments must inform the public about open elected positions.
 - HB 4393—allows for the choosing of the “lowest responsible bidder or best value bidder”; some states already provide this spending flexibility which enables selection of a more experienced vendor instead of just the cheapest.
 - SB 3683 (Broadband access)—a number of amendments associated with this bill.
- E-book legislation

The Association of American Publishers (AAP) sued to block Maryland's 2021 Library Digital Content Law; the judge from U.S. District Court of Maryland did grant a preliminary injunction but suggested there was inequity and a need for a federal legislative solution. The Maryland Library Association released a strong [statement](#) on the decision.
 - HB 4470 (Equitable Access to Electronic Literature Act) has advanced in the House, but its future is unclear. AAP's General Counsel testified in opposition, and the various legal cases across the US may mean it is going nowhere. IL is in a different Federal Court District than Maryland, so could push forward. Before the bill was introduced by Rep. Katie Stuart, legislators did not know about ebook licensing costs—the bill has raised awareness. The focus may now shift to working with companies who provide the platforms, instead of negotiating with ebook publishers.

New Business

- **McClaren Award**

Deadline for submissions is May 15, 2022. In case there are no nominees, PPC should begin thinking about possible candidates. Legislators, libraries, groups are all eligible.

- **Adjusting legislative calendar**

Timing is off and needs to be adjusted. Start planning in the Summer, narrow by Labor Day, get legislative priorities finalized by July 1, so the agenda is in place for October. Would move up

germane issues. Possible revised calendar could be available in mid-April. Would be ideal to move meet-ups to before opening of the legislative session, but difficult to achieve.

- Coverage for all—possible priority for the coming year; will research how other states accomplish fully-funded coverage for everyone. Difficult in an election year. And little appetite for a mandate historically.

- **Secretary of State Elections**

Jesse White is retiring; he has endorsed Anna M. Valencia (currently serving as City Clerk of Chicago), who is a vocal supporter of libraries and broadband.

- ILA does not endorse or lobby for any candidates, but, in the past, it has surveyed the candidates to educate voters—and the candidates for the general election have sometimes spoken at ILA Annual. ILA has also hosted receptions for newly-elected SoS /State Librarian before.
- Exploring the possibility of asking candidates who have filed for the primary or the general election for information via a written survey. This could be done through the *ILA Reporter* or published electronically, and the responses could be shared (without comment by ILA) with members. Need to determine appropriate questions.

- **Diane Foot's Retirement**

No set timeline for her departure, but she will retire before her 5th anniversary at ILA in November 2022. ILA Executive Board will meet on March 17, 2022 to begin discussions about finding a new person to fill the role.

Next meeting – April 4, 2022 (Kyla Waltermire, Notes)

[HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/87093884885](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87093884885); 312.626.6799; MEETING ID: 870 9388 4885

Chair Sam Adams-Lanham Adjourned the meeting at 2:29pm.