ILACorous Notes
April 1, 2024
Meeting called to order at 10:01 AM
Nikeda Webb, Note taker

Voting Members Present
Kyla Waltermire – Mississippi Valley District Library (CHAIR)
Mike Driskell - Arlington Heights Memorial Library
Anna Karwowska - Winnetka-Northfield Public Library District
John Kokoris – Hinsdale Public Library (10:03 am)
Laura Long – East Moline Public Library
Jamie Paicely, Flossmoor Public Library
Aaron Skog – System Wide Automated Network
Tom Stagg - Alpha Park Public Library District
Nikeda Webb – Matteson Public Library

Voting Members Absent
Tana Petrov - Fountaindale Public Library District
Donna Schaal – Argenta-Oreana Public Library District

Ex-Officio Members Present
Derek Blaida – ILA Legislative Consultant
Amy Byers – Chatham Area Public Library District, ILA President-Elect
Monica Harris – Reaching Across Illinois Library System (RAILS)
Lou Ann Jacobs – Association of Illinois School Library Educators (AISLE)
Heather Jagman- DePaul University, ILA Past President
Ryan Johnson - O’Fallon Public Library, ILA President
Elizabeth Lynch – Addison Public Library, Intellectual Freedom Committee
Amanda McKay – Effingham Public Library, Advocacy Committee (10:10 am)
Greg McCormack- Illinois State Library
Ellen Popit – Illinois Heartland Library System (ILHS)
Cynthia Robinson – ILA Executive Director

Guests
Dan Bostrom, RAILS
Joe Filipek, RAILS
Tina Hubert, Six Mile Library District
Leila Heath, RAILS
Betsy Adamowski, Wheaton Public Library

Review Agenda for changes and additions

Approve 2024-2-5 minutes
Moved: Aaron Skog
Second: John Kokoris
Approved as presented.

**AISLE Update**, Lou Ann Jacobs
Due to an objection from a board member about Stamped, which is on the Caudill list, the Melbourne School District voted to not participate in the Bluestem or Monarch reading programs, both sponsored by AISLE. AISLE, RAILS, IHLS, and ILA were contacted. ILA gave a presentation to the board. The vote was lost (4-3). There is a petition going around asking the Board to reconsider and reinstate programs.

Cyndi Robinson shared a statement supported by ILA in the chat. Illinois Heartland and RAILS both supported the statement. ILA will also be sending out an email letting people know that they are supporting the statement.

Joe Filapek shared that he has been in touch with the school librarian. She thought a statement from an organization(s) would be helpful. Joe offered to put her in touch with someone to be a resource and asked if she wanted support at the April 8 board meeting. He has not heard anything yet. When he does, 10 to 15 volunteers in that general area will mobilize and attend the meeting.

**Intellectual Freedom Update**, Elizabeth Lynch
The committee is wrapping up the factsheets project that was started a little over a year ago. It’s similar to the book resumes that ALA released. There are 36 titles.

**Advocacy Update**, Amanda McKay
No report

**ILA Executive Board Update**, Heather Jagman
The board met on March 7. A majority of our session was taken up with the strategic planning session. The board wants to remind people that elections opened for the board for next year. Directors University is next week. Reaching Forward Conferences are happening in the very near future. Reaching Forward South has been confirmed as an ILA committee. The board also reviewed statements and formed a subcommittee to review our statements of appropriate conduct for upcoming conferences.

**Illinois State Library Update**, Greg McCormick
No report

**Library Systems updates**
**RAILS**, Monica Harris
RAILS Board nominations are now open. Five open seats can be filled by current employees or members of any RAILS member library, and three public library trustee seats are available. Nominations must be in by April 19. Monica shared a two-and-a-half-minute video featuring some current Rails board members talking about their board experience and what they get out of it.
The Slate Data dashboard has launched. A video created by RAILS about the dashboard is on the RAILS YouTube page. Ginetta Rocky, Data Research Specialist discusses the data and the dashboard in detail.

**IHLS: Ellen Popit**

IHLS has been assisting the Metropolis Public Library in its ongoing struggles between the board, the city, and community organizations. On the 22nd of March, at the close of business that day, the Board President was informed of a letter from the mayor stating that three board members would be relieved of their positions effective immediately. That caused an explosion of response from the community.

Many attended or listened to the streaming city council meeting the following Monday night, at which, that motion was tabled until the mayor had an opportunity to speak to all the individual city council members about why he did what he did. There was a huge community showing at that city council meeting. The community was not in support of the mayor's action. Everybody was opposed to what the mayor had done and what was going on at the library.

Colby Kennedy has been named interim director. IHLS plans on staying on top of what is going on and following all the local media coverage of the issue.

The iLEAD trustee trading portal has gotten off to a great launch. A road show has helped in getting people from around the state to sign in to begin to use the portal. These events are all in L2 and they’re all hybrid events. People are invited to participate locally or via Zoom.

IHLS is working on their board for the upcoming fiscal year. The operational plan for the upcoming fiscal year will go to our Policy and Membership Committee for a first read.

**State Update**

Derek thanked everyone who spent time going over the bills list. The Senate deadline was last week. By the end of April, we will know which bills have crossed chambers and which ones are still alive. We will also know how many of the bills will fall off because they didn’t get past the committee or on the floor of the House or the Senate.

Usually, that means more than half of those bills disappear in a much more manageable list through the end of the session. A much smaller list for perusal and questions should be available mid-April.

The budget is a fairly conservative budget in the sense that the governor proposes the largest spending for the fiscal year budget in state history. Derek shared that he didn’t think it would be above the Governor’s proposed number.

Derek asked the committee to fill out and return a witness slip in support of HB 4224, Supporting Amending the Acquisition of Treasurer Bonds for Libraries. It will take roughly one minute to complete.
**Federal Update**, Cyndi Robinson

The President signed a $1.2 trillion spending package. Veronica DeFazio of the Peoria Public Library met with Representative Darren LaHood. Veronica’s report about her visit to Washington, D.C., can be found in the newsletter.

ILA has been busy reaching out to our members of Congress and Senators to ask them to support library funding. We have also had many conversations with their staff members. ILA emailed letters to all of their offices, and they are also filling out individual forms to ask for this support.

**Old Business**

**Publication Notices**, Monica Harris

RAILS handled collecting responses and compiling the data from the survey. Monia shared her screen and walked through the dashboard with the committee. Grant Halter from the RAILS data team added opportunities for users to take the data and separate it by a couple of different filters such as library service population or library annual operating budget.

There is a lot of variation in terms of how much it costs to actually publish these notices. There is a breakdown between whether or not they’re considering the cost prohibitive for their organizations. Some individual comments are listed on the survey in terms of how they were approaching that question. Users can see how the cost has changed over the last five years, with the most.

Monica reminded the committee that this survey was for the entire state in terms of where the survey was coming in. The hope is that this will allow the committee to have more of a discussion about how to approach this issue going forward. The committee decided to review the survey within the next month and discuss it at the next PPC meeting.

**New Business**

None

**Adjournment**: Meeting was adjourned at 10:32 AM.