Illinois Library Association
Advocacy Committee
Monday, January 6, 2020 at 1:00pm Reaching
Across Illinois Library System – Burr Ridge
125 Tower Drive, Burr Ridge, IL 60527

MINUTES

1. Call to Order and Roll Call – the meeting was called to order by Jim Deiters at 1:00 P.M.

2. Introduction of Guests

3. Approval of Agenda:

   The agenda for the January 6, 2020 meeting of the Advocacy Committee was approved by unanimous consent.

4. Approval of Minutes: December 2, 2019

   The minutes for the December 2, 2019 meeting of the Advocacy Committee was approved by unanimous consent.

5. Reports
   a. ILA Executive Director, Diane Foote

      Director Foote reported on a letter to the editor published by the <u>Daily Herald</u> on December 31. ILA has drafted a response letter. There was some discussion about whether to respond or not. Director Foote prefers a proactive, positive statement on the record before we need it and before it happens again. The letter drafted by ILA is not a direct response to the original, but details the legal and constitutional arguments supporting open library access.

      The 2020 Federal Budget has an increase in IMLS appropriation.

      ALA's legislative Fly-In day is in February with Director Foote attending along with several other Illinois librarians.

   b. ILA President, Molly Beestrum

      President Beestrum reported that she, Past President Fuerst and President-Elect DeFazio participated in the discussions surrounding the letter to the editor and helped drafting the response.

   c. ILA Legislative Consultant, Derek Blaida

      Mr. Blaida reviewed the current list of bills before the legislature. Most are not good for libraries. They are also very unlikely to make it out of committee.

      The Budget will be prepared and presented in mid-February, during the legislative meetups. Director Foote mentioned that this was listed on the palm cards. State Librarian McCormick stated that the budget will be presented in early February and the Secretary of State is helpful to our priorities which will be included in his budget, at least in part. The fund libraries statement appears to be appropriate.

d. ILA Public Policy Chair, Dennis Danowski – No Report

6. Around the Table & Across the State – No Report

7. Legislative Meet-Ups:

Legislator invitations are going out this week. Reminder calls are needed (and effective). Legislator 'interests' are listed for the first time. Legislators who are not running for re-election may not attend. Current attendance figures were shared.

Dee Brennan talked about a new library video RAILS is producing starting the brother of Three Rivers Director Lauren Offerman. It is called "Elders of the Internet – Why are Libraries Still Important in the Age of the Internet."

The Advocacy video with Derek and Diane will be filmed/recorded on Wednesday. This video will serve as an overview of the legislative meetups for trustees as well as having tips on how to prepare.

We are having difficulty in getting impact stories from each region. Discussion centered on why this is and how we can make sharing easier. Hopefully this year's document will inspire more stories to come forward.

Ms. Adamowski distributed copies of the Advocacy boot camp and her presentation on advocacy given in South Dakota.

8. Reaching Forward – Keith and Nanette

Ms. Donahue and Mr. Feils will present the Advocacy Boot camp program at Reaching Forward North in May and are awaiting approval on their application to talk at Reaching Forward South.

9. Advocacy Annual Calendar – Jim and Jeffrey – No Report

10. 2020 ILA Conference Proposals

The following ideas were discussed:

- Legislator panel discussion – This is a popular annual program. Jim will coordinate again.

- Advocacy boot camp – Ms. Donahue and Mr. Feils will submit a proposal

- Legislative Coordinator Meetup – Role of meetups for staff and trustees, what the heck are the meetups?

- Academic Advocacy – How to advocate to faculty, liaison to your dean, etc. Ms. Johnson, Ms. Nielsen-Ott, and Mr. Wheeler will work on this.

11. Other

a. Ms. Fuerst and Mr. Todd are speaking at the Park District annual state conference on January 25. Please encourage your park district counterparts to attend and report back.

b. Ms. Brennan reported on a new AISLE Group of School Administrators to advocate for school library cooperation by AASL – the national group. This is a state version.

12. Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:26 P.M.

Advocacy Committee's Charge

Supports the targeted advocacy efforts set forth by the American Library Association and the Illinois Library Association. Strives to unite ILA members behind advocacy efforts set forth by the ILA Executive Board. Works in tandem with the Public Policy Committee (PPC) to implement an annual legislative agenda. Provides ILA members with the tools to make local, statewide and national advocacy an integral part of their professional life. Develops a long-range advocacy plan in conjunction with PPC and the Executive Board. Within this broad framework, collaborates with the ILA President and ILA Executive Director to set an annual calendar of advocacy activities and to create communications, materials, and training in support of these activities.

Voting Members Present:

_X_ Betsy Adamowski Wheaton	_X_	Jim Deiters Oak Lawn	_X_	Nanette Donohue Champaign	
_X_ Keith Michael Fiels ALA (retired)	___	Matthew Fruth Oak Park	_X_	Qiana Johnson Northwestern	
_ Val Neylon City Colleges of Chicago	___	Michelle Nielsen Ott Methodist College of UnityPoint Health	_X_	Magan Szwarek Schaumburg	
_X_ Alex Todd Prospect Heights	_X_	Jeffrey Wheeler UIC	_X_	Amanda Zagloba Chicago	

Ex-Officio Members Present:

_X_ Molly Beestrum Northwestern	_X_	Dennis Danowski Macomb Public Library	_X_	Diane Foote ILA	
_X_ Veronica DeFazio Plainfield	_X_	Kate Kite Six Mile Regional	_X_	Greg McCormick State Library	

Guests: Dee Brennan, RAILS; Derek Blaide, ILA Consultant; Cindy Fuerst, Vernon Area and ILA Past-President; and Ashley Stewart, Caseyville.