

**Illinois Library Association
Advocacy Committee**
Monday, March 2, 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 at 1:00 pm by Alex Todd.
Roll Call is included at the end of this document.

2. Introduction of Guests

A list of guests in attendance is attached to the end of this document.

3. Approval of Agenda: March 2, 2020 was approved by unanimous consent.

4. Approval of Minutes: January 6, 2020 was approved by unanimous consent. There was no meeting in February due to the scheduled Meet-Ups.

5. Reports

a. ILA Executive Director, Diane Foote

Executive Director Foote mentioned the Washington, DC, fly-in day that she attended. The White House budget proposed no money for the IMLS, but legislators will not let that happen. She noted the importance of urging Illinois' lawmakers to sign the Dear Appropriator letters. Foote also spoke about the popularity of the ILA iRead summer reading program and how it is utilized across the country. She shared that National Legislative Days are set for May 4 & 5 and that there is a cap on the number of participants this year.

b. ILA President, Molly Beestrup – no report

c. ILA Legislative Consultant, Derek Blaida – no report

d. ILA Public Policy Chair, Dennis Danowski – no report

6. Around the Table & Across the State – Alex Todd shared that he and former ILA President Cindy Fuerst presented at the recent Parks & Recreation Conference held at McCormick Place. During their presentation, they shared the many excellent collaborations Illinois' libraries and parks have in place.

7. Legislative Meet-ups: Summary, Feedback, and Ideas for 2021

Director Foote announced that the Chicago Meet-up is all that is left on the schedule for this 2020. Committee Member Jeffrey Wheeler has a former UIC student prepared to speak at the event. The video about the "internet elders" with Nick Offerman is getting great reviews. Dee Brennan asked about spreading-out or adjusting the schedule if we thought it would provide better turn-out. Timing is important and Keith mentioned we should be able to say "please support the Governor's budget." Alex

asked if a sub-committee should be established for the Meet-Ups to help do preparatory work for the coordinators.

8. Presentations:

a. Reaching Forward: Keith Michael Fiels – Keith and Betsy Adamowski are preparing to present an Advocacy Bootcamp at both RF South and RF North.

b. ILA Conference – Deadline is March 16

9. Advocacy Annual Calendar – Jeffrey Wheeler is working on a draft a calendar for the Committee's review with the aim of having it approved in conjunction with the Advocacy Plan by July 1, 2020.

Discussion on content yielded the following ideas:

- Mark the dates of legislative sessions
- Include the ILA legislative agenda process
- ALA, PLA, ILA program submission deadlines
- Include future planning time

10. ILA Conference Proposals – Jim Deiters will prepare the legislative panel proposal. This event has been quite successful over the last few years. Keith will submit the bootcamp proposal. ILA President – Elect Veronica DeFazio reminded everybody that the Conference Team is looking for paired programs in 2020. Alex Todd will work on a presentation for newcomers describing what the Meet-Ups are all about.

There was also discussion about collaborating with the IACRL Conference when we discovered that Advocacy Committee member Michelle Nielsen Ott is the President of IACRL. This should make collaboration easy!

11. Committee Composition – Nanette Donahue and Jeffrey Wheeler submitted a proposal for the Advocacy Committee Composition. Their proposal looks good and strives for inclusiveness across the State and across library-types. Committee members discussed the proposal and were asked to review so that a composition statement can be added to the Advocacy Committee's structure.

12. Homestretch: Wrapping-Up 2019/2020 and Setting-Up 2020/2021

13. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Committee, Co-Chair Alex Todd declared the meeting adjourned at 2:31 P.M.

Voting Members Present:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Betsy Adamoski
Wheaton | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jim Deiters
Oak Lawn | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nanette Donohue
Champaign |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Keith Michael Fiels
ALA (retired) | <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew Fruth
Oak Park | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Qiana Johnson
Northwestern |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Val Neylon
City Colleges of Chicago | <input type="checkbox"/> Michelle Nielsen Ott
Methodist College
of Unity Point Health | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Magan Szwarek
Schaumburg |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alex Todd
Prospect Heights | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jeffrey Wheeler
UIC | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amanda Zagloba
Chicago |

Ex-Officio Members Present:

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Molly Beestrum
Northwestern | <input type="checkbox"/> Dennis Danowski
Macomb | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Diane Foote
ILA |
| Veronica DeFazio
Plainfield | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kate Kite
Six-Mile Regional | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Greg McCormick
State Library |

Guests: Dee Brennan, Monica Harris, and Mary Witt (RAILS)

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.