

Illinois Library Association Advocacy Committee

Monday, April 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 at 1pm by Co-Chair Alex Todd. Roll Call is included at the end of the minutes. This Meeting was conducted via Zoom due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. Introduction of Guests—Derek Blaida, Mary Witt, and Monica Harris
3. Approval of Agenda: April 6, 2020—The agenda was approved by unanimous consent.
4. Approval of Minutes: March 2, 2020—The agenda was approved by unanimous consent.
5. Reports
 - a. ILA Executive Director, Diane Foote—Diane shared that the ILA Executive Committee was working hard to decipher all of the laws being modified or new ones being introduced with the pandemic. She ask the Committee to focus on what we should be doing at this time to assist Illinois libraries. Diane noted that many in-person events are being postponed or canceled, including Directors University. Reaching Forward has subsequently introduced special Friday online training sessions. She explained that the ILA Conference is still scheduled—for now. The ALA Conference in Chicago is going virtual and the National Legislative Day in Washington, D.C., was canceled.
 - b. ILA President, Molly Beestrup—Molly thanked Tam (Tamara Jenkins at ILA) for her work on the “updates from the President” postings.
 - c. ILA Legislative Consultant, Derek Blaida—Derek tried to alleviate the fears of the group by stating that money in Springfield is not a problem—yet, but the impact of this virus and the subsequent shutdown will be powerful. He reminded all of us on the positive impact of libraries and asked us to keep fighting the good fight.
 - d. ILA Public Policy Chair, Dennis Danowski—Dennis was not on the Zoom session. Diane did share the success in Illinois with the Dear Appropriator letters. We saw an increase in participation from legislators this year over last.
6. Around the Table & Across the State
7. Presentations and e-Opportunities
 - a. Reaching Forward—Reaching Forward south was postponed, but is still happening. The Committee discussed options for providing advocacy training in the virtual environment. ILA, RAILS, IHLS are all continuing education opportunities. Keith Michael Fiels and Betsy Adamowski prepared a syllabus and PowerPoint presentation for advocacy bootcamp. They asked for folks that would be willing to take the talk on the road. Nanette Donahue and Jim Deiters offered their services.
8. Advocacy Annual Calendar—Jeff Wheeler sent a draft of the annual advocacy calendar to the co-chairs just prior to the meeting. This will be forwarded to the rest of the team for review.
9. ILA 2020 Conference Proposals—Two, advocacy-centered programs were submitted by

Committee members to the Conference Planners.

10. Committee Composition: Jeff Wheeler and Nanette Donahue prepared a revised composition statement for Advocacy. Members at the meeting and ILA staff/president/vice-president gave their feedback. It is incumbent of the Committee to put forward names to the ILA President to ease his/her search, but the Statement must not cause unnecessary restrictions for the President. Molly asked that the Statement recommends promotion, but not decision. The ILA Executive Board has final approval on the composition statement.
11. Advocacy and COVID-19—Diane would love to gather ways that Illinois’ libraries are continuing to provide services to community members during the shutdown. She asked for Committee members to share their stories. Monica Harris and Mary Witt from RAILS reminded everyone that the System is doing the same with collection of “tales from the frontline.”
12. Adjournment—Alex Todd adjourned the Meeting at 2pm.

Voting Members Present:

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

Ex-Officio Members Present:

<u>X</u> Molly Beestrup Northwestern	___	Dennis Danowski Macomb Public Library	<u>X</u>	Diane Foote ILA
<u>X</u> Veronica DeFazio Plainfield	<u>X</u>	Kate Kite Six Mile Regional	<u>X</u>	Greg McCormick State Library

Guests: Derek Blaida, Mary Witt, and Monica Harris