

**Illinois Library Association  
Advocacy Committee**

Monday, October 7, 2019 at 1:00pm  
Reaching Across Illinois Library System – Burr Ridge  
125 Tower Dr., Burr Ridge, IL 60527

**MINUTES**

**PolyCom videoconference accessible locations: Vernon Area Public Library; Illinois State Library; ILA HQ; IHLS Carbondale; IHLS Edwardsville; IHLS Champaign**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call (*attendees noted at the end*)
2. Introduction of Guests: *Joe Natale (ISL), Derek Blaida (ILA), and Dee Brennan (RAILS)*
3. Approval of Agenda: October 7, 2019: *Keith motioned, Nanette seconded. All were in favor.*
4. Approval of Minutes: September 9, 2019: *Michelle motioned, Matthew seconded; all were in favor.*
5. Reports
  - a. ILA Executive Director, Diane Foote: *Diane invited all to the 2019 ILA Conference in Tinley Park. She gave an update on the coming ILA' summer reading programs. Diane mentioned the big news that Chicago Public was going fine-free and a recent program hosted by the Art Institute on freedom of speech. She shared that Nanette and the Champaign Public Library worked with Representative Rodney Davis on an LSTA grant to be a Federal Repository. And she noted that ILA Board Member Janine Asmus was awarded School Librarian of the Year.*
  - b. ILA President, Molly Beestrum: *Molly explained that a new ILA task force has created guidelines for appropriate conduct at meetings and conferences—and the methods available for those reporting inappropriate behaviors. She reviewed the study of whether ILA committee and forum meetings are open to the public. Most are open, except for a few including awards and nominating meetings. The Executive Board meets in November, which means that reports are due soon.*
  - c. ILA Legislative Consultant, Derek Blaida: *Derek described the recent efforts to handle patron accessibility to requested items while balancing patron confidentiality. He also mentioned a conversation he had with a representative from Lake County on the topic of sales tax for libraries. The issue of local property tax continues to present itself, and with the State not seeing any of this revenue, a freeze is possible. Scott Pointon and Diane spoke at a Committee Hearing to explain the negative impact that a freeze would have on libraries. TIF districts were discussed.*
  - d. ILA Public Policy Chair, Dennis Danowski: *Dennis and Dee spoke about a potential new bill that would make the merging of public libraries an easier proposition.*
6. Around the Table & Across the State: *Keith reminded committee members that it is imperative that if we have a financial request, that we make that issue and cost known to the Secretary of State and the State Library. Dee would like to make available State-wide database access. The idea of tying the minimum wage increased costs to revenues from the Per Capita was also discussed. Keith also asked about Capital Needs Assessment and Greg explained the ongoing appropriations for these building costs and the survey every*

*performed every other year.*

7. Legislative Meet-ups: *Diane reminded all that she, her staff, and the coordinators, are working to create events that cater to the desires of the local attendees. Last year, Buffalo Grove “broke the mold” by highlighting the positive impact that libraries have on local residents. These “impact stories” are imperative to our success—and can be shared in different formats. All coordinators are asked to review their agendas for the meet-ups and communicate the chosen plans with ILA. Also, we will make great efforts to allow enough time for all events. This will likely require that each meet-up is scheduled on a separate day.*
  - a. Confirm that all coordinators are ready to serve: *The list of coordinators for the eight legislative meet-up in February and March were discussed. Those persons are still being finalized.*
  - b. Set tentative dates: *In the works.*
8. 2019 ILA Conference
  - a. ILA Advocacy Boot Camp: *Keith has Megan Cusick from ALA confirmed to present a one-hour program at the Conference.*
  - b. Legislative Panel Discussion: *Jim and Alex have lined-up Senators Mike Hastings and Pat McGuire. Representative Kelly Burke was still a “maybe.”*
  - c. Consolidated Election Communication Tool: *Alex and Jason Pinshower, Head of Adult Services at Barrington, are making their final preparations.*
  - d. Any interest in an Advocacy Committee meetup at Conference? *Not many folks were interested in meeting at the Conference; no plans were made.*
9. Review the Committee’s Annual Calendar & the 2019-2020 Plan: *Jim passed-around a paper copy of the Ohio Library Council’s advocacy calendar. Many of those in the room at RAILS-Burr Ridge liked the format. Jim will investigate borrowing their format to create an Illinois advocacy calendar. Keith prepared a 2019-2020 plan for this Committee that will be revised and shared.*
10. Document Sharing: Uploading Minutes, Agendas, and Information—*Diane announced that agendas, minutes, and reports are already being added to the Advocacy page on the ILA website. This is a wonderful addition for advocacy continuity.*
11. Adjournment

## 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:

<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)	<u>X</u>	Matthew Fruth Oak Park	<u>X</u>	Qiana Johnson Northwestern
<u>A</u> Val Neylon City Colleges of Chicago	<u>X</u>	Michelle Nielsen Ott Methodist College of UnityPoint Health	<u>X</u>	Magan Szwerek Schaumburg
<u>A</u> Alex Todd Prospect Heights	<u>A</u>	Jeffrey Wheeler UIC	<u>X</u>	Amanda Zagloba Chicago

### Ex-Officio Members Present:

<u>X</u> Molly Beestrum Columbia College	<u>X</u>	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 Present:** *Joe Natale, Deputy Director at ISL, Derek Blaida, Legislative Consultant, and Dee Brennan, Executive Director at RAILS*

