

ILA Public Policy Committee Notes

March 4, 2024

Tom Stagg, 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
Laura Long – East Moline Public Library
Jamie Paicely, Flossmoor Public Library
Tana Petrov - Fountaindale Public Library District
Donna Schaal – Argenta-Oreana Public Library District
Aaron Skog – System Wide Automated Network
Tom Stagg - Alpha Park Public Library District
Nikeda Webb – Matteson Public Library

Voting Members Absent- None

Ex-Officio Members Present

Derek Blaida – ILA Legislative Consultant
Amy Byers – Chatham Area Public Library District, ILA President-Elect
Gail Graziani – Indian Prairie Public Library, Advocacy Committee
Monica Harris – Reaching Across Illinois Library System (RAILS)
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
Greg McCormack- Illinois State Library
Ellen Popit – Illinois Heartland Library System (ILHS)
Cynthia Robinson – ILA Executive Director
Deborah Althoff Will, AISLE (filling in for Lou Ann Jacobs)

Guests

Dan Bostrom, RAILS
Joe Filipek, RAILS
Tina Hubert, Six Mile Library District
Paul Mills, Fountaindale Public Library District, ILA Counselor
Kate Niehoff, RAILS
Catherine Yanikoski, Engineering Systems Inc., RAILS Board

Review Agenda for changes and additions- Change to move Derek Blaida's updates to first item.

State Update

Derek Blaida informed the group the Governor's budget was announced for FY 2025. The monies that the Secretary of State requested were in the package. HB 4224 the Library Bond Percentage Bill will be introduced Wednesday afternoon. <https://www.billtrack50.com/billdetail/1647500>

SB 2787 The Raise Competitive Bidding bill has seen objections by the iron workers union. They are trying to maintain the \$25,000 threshold. <https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/103/SB/10300SB2787.htm>

The Equitable Access to Electronic Literacy Materials bill (HB 4258): Derek praised Representative Eva Delgado for the support of the bill. The bill is having a lot of pushback by the publishers, as they are trying to kill the bill. Derek recommended to the group that it be advocated by all levels of the library community.

HB 2401 School Code Diversity in Literature bill was discussed. Two (2) amendments have been added to the bill. Will take a wait and see if this progresses.

Monica Harris asked about the repeal of the grocery tax and the effect on local government. Derek thought the budget would be tweaked to recover those costs to the local units.

Laura Long asked about two (2) pieces of legislation. SB 2908 Adult Changing Station and Table: this would be a hardship to smaller libraries that are limited in space <https://trackbill.com/bill/illinois-senate-bill-2908-adult-changing-station-table/2499808/>. SB 2631 Illinois Century Network Act to see if libraries could be included in this legislation. The bill currently covers park districts, forest preserve districts, conservation districts, and soil and water conservation districts. <https://legiscan.com/IL/text/SB2631/id/2847249>

Kyla Waltermire asked Derek about the Illinois Municipal League meeting he attended re: OMA. It's increasingly unlikely that broad changes will be made, although there's still a chance narrow changes might be approved (ex. – someone deployed through the National Guard who needs to attend remotely).

Derek would like to have a review of the legislative bills during the Easter legislative break. A Doodle poll will be sent out to the group to select a time on March 26.

Approve 2024-2-5 minutes

Moved: Mike Driskell
Second: John Kokoris

Approved as presented

Advocacy Update, Gail Graziani and Amanda McCay
Reported that they will be presenting at the Reaching Forward North event.

AISLE Update, Deborah Will
AISLE is pursuing legislation to place a school librarian in every school as per ISBE regulations. They are looking to developing partnerships to push for this action and to get qualified librarians trained and certified.

ILA Executive Board Update, Amy Byers
Reported that they are having a strategic plan meeting and are working on ILA Executive Director Cindy Robinson's evaluation. Laura Long will be Chair of the PPC in the next term. Other chair appointments and board report will be out next week.

Illinois State Library Update, Greg McCormick
Deferred question on HB 4567 to later in the meeting.

Intellectual Freedom Update, Elizabeth Lynch
No Report

Library Systems updates

IHLS: Ellen Popit
IHLS is working on its Per Capita Grant and developing an operating plan. She discussed the Metropolis Library meeting that IHLS staff attended in support of the library. Also attending: Emily Knox for research on book bans.

RAILS, Monica Harris
The iLEAD trustee training portal is going to be presented at the Burr Ridge Service Center and for the RAILS Board Meeting as well as other meetings in the RAILS service area. The School Library Advocacy Through Education (Slate) Project dashboard has been updated. <https://railslibraries.org/data-analysis/school-data>

Federal Update, Cyndi Robinson
March 25 will be the update on the legislation list.

The ILA Alert had a notice about the Public Service Loan Forgiveness student debt relief program, which includes library workers. ALA has a link to thank the government for the debt relief program.
https://oneclickpolitics.global.ssl.fastly.net/messages/edit?promo_id=22126

ALA Congressional Advocates will be going to Washington to talk to the legislators. From Illinois: Veronica DeFazio of the Peoria Public Library will be meeting with Representative Darren LaHood.

Old Business**Publication Notices**, Monica Harris

Monica shared the preliminary data and will have a follow-up at our next meeting. Laura Long asked about geographic links of the data presented. Monica will check with Grant Halter on that.

New Business

Laura Long shared that Valerie Marshall, Executive Director at Niles- Maine District Library, discussed with Senator Laura Murphy the possibility of legislation requiring library trustee training. No action yet; just something to be aware of.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 10:52 AM.