

## Minutes from the ILA-PPC Meeting on February 1, 2021

The meeting was called to order by Daniel Matthews at 10:03am.

### Attendance

Voting Members Present: Sam Adams-Lanham, Marian Albers, Monica Dombrowski, Ryan Livergood, Rebecca Malinowski, Daniel Matthews, Karolyn Nance, Kathy Parker, Dee Anna Phares, Scott Pointon, and Catherine Yanikoski.

Voting Members Absent: Dennis Danowski

Ex Officio Members Present: Molly Beestrup, Deirdre Brennan, Derek Blaida, Anne Craig, Veronica De Fazio, Diane Foote, Jeanne Hamilton, Lou Ann Jacobs, Greg McCormick, Ellen Popit, Magan Szwarek, and Alex Todd, and Leigh Ann Wilson.

Ex Officio Members Absent: N/A

Guests Present: Monica Harris, Cyndi Robinson, Tina Subert, and Mary Witt.

### Approval of Agenda

Marian Albers moved to approve the agenda. Monica Dombrowski seconded the motion. All approved, motion carried.

### Approval of Minutes

Dee Anna Phares moved to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2020 meeting as presented. Sam Adams-Lanham seconded the motion. All approved, motion carried.

### ILA Legislative Meet-ups Update

Diane Foote reported that the attendance at the Southern Illinois meet-up was terrific, with 14 legislators and 70 attendees. It was observed at the event that legislators were commenting on the many vital functions that libraries serve in their communities and the services libraries are offering during the pandemic. Several legislators discussed their personal experiences with libraries and what a powerful impact libraries had on their lives. Diane reviewed the registration status of the other legislative meet-ups. Marian Albers discussed the great attendance at the Southern Illinois meet-up and raised the possibility of doing more virtual events due to the success of the meet-up.

### Springfield Update

Derek Blaida reported that while there are several bills being introduced, he has not sent out a short bill list as not to create any unnecessary alarm. Derek explained that the House cannot do anything until February 9 or 10 because rules haven't been established, and no committees are doing any hearings at this time. There will be thousands of bills introduced eventually and many of them will never become law. Most of the bills that do get final passage will happen in May.

Marian Albers asked Derek about the status of the budget and whether or not libraries will receive their full per capita grant. Derek reported that there is no indication that the current budget year will be cut and that state sales tax and income tax are coming in stronger than anticipated. Diane Foote asked about the status of the education reform bill. Derek indicated that it has not yet been signed by the governor but it can take up to 30

days to be sent to the governor, followed by up to 60 days before a decision needs to be made. It is fully expected the governor will sign the bill. Diane noted that we want to have a librarian serve on the commission that will be coming up with education reform recommendations.

### **Federal Update**

Diane Foote reported that in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, which included COVID-19 stimulus relief and funds for the 2021 fiscal year, there is no dedicated library support for COVID relief. However, there is funding that supports what libraries do, especially in regards to broadband. There is also an additional \$5 million for IMLS, including \$2 million for the Library Services and Technology Act, and an increase of \$2 million directed to the Grants to States program. Diane shared an ALA list linked from the ILA website, which overviewed increases for line items important to libraries.

Diane reported there are two acts being proposed that are of interest to libraries. The Build America's Libraries Act is a bill that has been proposed that would fund \$5 billion toward construction and repair of libraries in economically disadvantaged areas of the country. The Special Districts Provide Essential Services Act would provide direct federal report to special districts throughout the United States, including Illinois library districts. While ALA and ILA support this legislation, the primary focus is on dedicated funding for all libraries. There is an impact survey that district libraries are encouraged to fill out which will be shared in the upcoming ILA alert. There may also be an upcoming alert for ILA members to contact their legislators regarding the Build America's Libraries Act.

### **Broadband Updates**

Diane Foote reported that the Broadband Advisory Council has formed. One of the priorities from last year was to get a library representative appointed to the Broadband Advisory Council, and Anne Slaughter has been appointed our library representative on that committee. There is also a newly formed statewide Office of Broadband Service, from which a large report is expected soon. There is an Illinois Connected Communities Grant and libraries are specifically eligible. Daniel Matthews asked what action items we can take. Several ideas were discussed, including the possible creation of a brief one-sheet for smaller libraries with limited resources to explain how the grant might be useful, encouraging smaller libraries to partner with larger organizations, putting out a webinar explaining how libraries can apply for the grant, and for RAILS and Heartland to put our in their regular communications. Our major action items are awareness and education.

### **Vaccine Advocacy Update**

Diane reported that libraries are having success using the template letter developed by ILA to advocate for prioritizing COVID vaccinations for library staff. There is a "Vaccine Eligibility for Illinois Libraries" on the ILA website tracking the county health departments that have specifically indicated vaccine eligibility for library staff under Phase 1. Diane shared new CDC guidelines that have library staff under Phase 1c.

Daniel discussed the challenges academic libraries have in terms of advocating for vaccinations. Since academic libraries are part of a larger structure, they cannot advocate for themselves over the rest of campus. There are some campus union organizations that have started petition campaigns, but we cannot participate in these union efforts.

### **Adjournment**

Marian Albers moved to adjourn and Catherine Yanikoski seconded the motion. All voted yes, motion carried.