



ADVOCACY & EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date: March 9, 2021

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Call to Order

Josh Short called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Members present: Janet Jenkins, Lupe Mejia, Jill Shelton, Josh Short

Members absent: Tammy Krouse, Zach Newell

Others present: Leslie Bednar, Stacie Bushong, Diane Foote (entered at 5:10 p.m.), Ellen Popit

Public Comment

None

Approval of Minutes

Janet Jenkins motioned to approve the February 9, 2021 minutes with a correction. Lupe Mejia seconded. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business

Updates on School Library Advocacy Efforts

Ellen Popit reported the Statewide E-Resources Program for the Association of Illinois School Library Educators (AISLE) had at least 75 registrants and was a cooperative effort between the Reaching Across Illinois Library System (RAILS) and IHLS staff (Cassandra Thompson, SHARE Director, and Lesley Zavediuk, SHARE Circulation and Resource Sharing Specialist). The Media Literacy bill has advanced through committee for school curricula to include media literacy. Diane Foote, Director of the Illinois Library Association, shared that the Illinois Black Caucus calls for establishing an "Inclusive American History Commission" to help the board develop new standards, review educational resources that teachers can use, and provide guidance for educators on how to ensure that their class content is not biased. Ms. Popit also shared that RAILS is asking for state funding for databases to be used by all citizens of Illinois.

Report on Metro-East and Central IL Legislative Meet-Ups

Diane Foote reported this year the Legislative Meet-Ups agenda focused on the larger picture and how libraries are key during the pandemic. Presented were examples from different regions on how libraries are handling Cares Act funds and other funding. Also discussed were

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the Consolidated Appropriations Act bill that includes economic stimulus provisions due to the coronavirus pandemic and the Build America's Library Act which would provide funds to repair and construct modern library facilities. The Central Legislative Meet-Up had 76 attendees and 9 legislators in attendance, Metro East had 51 attendees and 8 legislators, Southern had 59 attendees, which was a phenomenal turnout, in addition to 6 legislators. All legislators at the events were positive about libraries and interested in hearing about the innovative activities they have implemented during the pandemic.

Updates from ILA March Public Policy Committee Meetings

A proposal that Library Districts be given the ability to set their own fiscal years is not expected to go anywhere. Also, for City Libraries, the requirement be removed for a nine member board and instead mirror the same 7 members required for villages and library districts. Discussed the Library of Congress Subject Heading (LCSH) to replace subject indexing language "illegal aliens" with "undocumented immigrants." Illinois House Bill (HB 616) proposes the Family Medical Leave Act (FLMA) provide 12 weeks of leave granted annually and amended to make it paid leave. Wording on that is still very vague.

New Business

None

Public Comment

None

Announcements

None

Adjournment

Janet Jenkins motioned to adjourn. Lupe Mejia seconded. Motion carried. Adjourned at 5:37 p.m.