



Advocacy Committee Charge

The IHLS Advocacy Committee is an adhoc committee comprised of board members and staff. Their focus is increasing awareness of IHLS services for member libraries and potential members, supporting member libraries in pursuing their own advocacy efforts and encouraging community support through education and new funding opportunities.

Understand:

To understand why the community no longer places value and importance on libraries and the services they provide to communities. Including the trend toward schools reducing the number of trained librarians on staff.

Educate:

Educate member libraries, school administrators, citizens, community groups, legislators (local, state and national), corporate leaders and other potential funding contributors about the mission, goals and services of IHLS.

Advocate:

Promote and "market" our value to the same audiences to influence opinion and decisions that might effect our ability to fulfill our mission, goals and offer services.

Build relationships:

Build, maintain and develop strong relationships with member library staffs, library boards, school administrators, school boards, community groups, corporate leaders, legislators and other potential funding contributors.

Empower Board Members & IHLS Staff:

Provide board members and staff with tools to help their advocacy and education efforts in their own communities. Effectively communicate how as a team they are making a difference. Then provide comprehensive and simple content for them to share in order to cultivate understanding and pride.

Models:

Develop education, advocacy and relationship building models that can be shared with member libraries so they can create a library supportive culture within their own communities.