Indiana Library Federation
Legislative Committee Minutes
August 2, 2016 at 2 p.m.

Attendance: Kelly Ehinger, Melody Gault (phone), Jos Holman, Kristi Howe (phone), MacKenzie Ledley, Matthew Long, Michael McCullough, Lucinda Nord, Dr. Nazareth Pantaloni (phone), Terry Rheinheimer (phone), Nick Schenkel, Jake Speer (phone), Edra Waterman, and Bill Wiebenga

Absent: Leslie Sutherlin

Welcome: While committee members arrived, they watched online the final minutes of the Interim Study Committee on Government where Bev Martin was testifying. The group was welcomed and the meeting was called to order. There were no additions or corrections to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes: Nick Schenkel motioned to accept the minutes of June 7, 2016, with a second by Jos Holman. Motion passed.

LIT and Library Code Subcommittees: Bill Wiebenga thanked those serving on the sub-committees related to Local Income Taxes and Library Code and referenced the written report sent in advance of the meeting (attached).

Executive Directors Report and Request for Feedback: Lucinda Nord updated the committee about the feedback received from her meetings with leaders and members of ILF, asking aspirations, challenges and changes in the spirit of the Harwood Institute. Two themes emerged that directly relate to the work the Legislative Committee and ILF Advocacy: 1) ILF should be the voice for libraries and the people who work in them, and 2) ILF should have a more proactive approach to advocacy. The Board will discuss a Work Plan at its 8/11 meeting, which includes five areas that will lay the groundwork for a strategic planning process. She explained how she wanted to engage the members in the processes and communications and seeks input from the Legislative Committee since advocacy is a primary role of ILF. She also explained how because of the two mergers, ILF will need to revisit the by-laws and organizing documents, which provides the opportunity to provide a more direct line from the Legislative Committee to the Board. The Committee offered initial feedback on a few ideas, and will provide additional feedback in future.

- Comprehensive communications strategy that includes increased internal communications with members to improve engagement, transparency and accountability and external communications with key stakeholders to help build public will for libraries in the future.
  o Committee agreed that communications are important and want to discuss how this committee will be involved, as some are not sure that it is their role.
  o Committee appreciated the internal written report provided in advance of meeting and agree that the committee report to the board may be shared as a communication with members.
- Broad approach to advocacy including administrative advocacy and federal advocacy.
  o The Committee clarified that the ILF Legislative Committee had always focused on state legislation that directly affects libraries and librarians. Some members
expressed openness to bigger picture thinking on advocacy, while others expressed concern about expanding view.

- The committee discussed ideas around additional stakeholder engagement or communications. Lucinda explained a long-term strategy to build public will toward a values-based position like “all Hoosiers should have access to high quality libraries birth to death” (to be discussed and refined). Her vision is that we would help foster champions in parents, retirees, volunteers and donors to help build public will.

- **Committee role and autonomy** - Some members expressed how the Legislative Committee has operated with a level of autonomy from the ILF office. Lucinda reflected that the attorney and insurance agent (as well as good nonprofit management) have cautioned how committees and divisions should be more aligned with increased role clarity. She explained how ILF is responsible for fiscal and insurance liability for actions of committees, divisions and associations, and thus, the work should be coordinated and aligned. She also described how the ILF office should be supporting the work of the volunteers, freeing up limited volunteer time to focus on mission-advancing work.

**Legislative Study Committee Discussion**

- Earlier in the day, the Interim Study Committee on Government covered the issue of increased flexibility in transfers with funds of taxing units. Rep. Harman appeared to soften his presentation since his presentation in Plymouth and further offered several recommendations. The Study committee seems to show support for increased flexibility and home rule in transfers within a taxing unit and less support for transfers among units within a taxing district or from unit or district to another.

- At request by ILF office and advocates, Bev Martin testified about how libraries are good stewards of funds and would appreciate increased flexibility within existing library funds. However, she expressed concerns about 1) definition of “reserves”, and 2) transfers to different political subdivisions. Members of the study committee peppered her with questions about capital improvements, plans and levies. Nick asked to clarify if the intent is to “allow” or “require” transfers; it appears allow, but we will remain vigilant. MacKenzie Ledley also attended, in preparation for possible future testimony. Matt, Lucinda and Carolyn (through email follow-up) reported positive responses from study committee members. Matt and Carolyn will follow up to ensure that libraries are understood. The study committee will meet again on Aug. 23 and Sept. 20, with Aug. 23 meeting dealing with contractual issues.

- Other committees meeting this summer involve ISTEP replacement, teacher background checks, road funding, immigration, redistricting, etc.

**Legislative Advocates’ Report**: Matt Long updated the Committee about political changes in the preceding weeks, including:

- Gov. Pence was selected as the GOP VP candidate, which rippled changes in races.
- Both the Republican and Democratic National Conventions were held.
- The IN GOP nominated Lt Gov Eric Holcomb for Governor candidate and Auditor Suzanne Crouch for Lt. Gov candidate. There is some question whether and how much of Gov Pence’s $7.3M campaign funds they may be able to access, as federal campaign rules limit amount.
• The IN Dem’s gov candidate John Gregg with Christina Hale as Lt. Gov candidate team have been actively airing ads and have a sizable campaign fund.
• In the US Senate race, Evan Bayh is replacing Baron Hill in the race against Todd Young.
• ILF will need to build relationships with many new legislators and a new state administration.

Planning for Fall Forum:

• Jos asked how planning is coming along. Logistics are confirmed with Fort Benjamin Harrison State Park for Oct. 5, 9-3, following up the IPLA meeting on Oct. 4. Registrations are open. Ways and Means Chairman Tim Brown has been invited to attend as the legislator as Sen. Kenley is not able to attend (new information this week). Courtney Schaafsmma from the DLGF will also speak. Times are not yet confirmed.
• Committee discussed desired audience and tentative agenda topics with goal to create framework for 2017 Legislative agenda by end of day. Agreed to not include detail of “how to talk with your legislator” as done last year, but will include abbreviated version of why advocacy is important and “how-to’s” within 10-15 minutes. The Committee will meet at Forum’s conclusion. Lucinda will work with Carolyn and Matt on final draft agenda and send to Bill and Jos for refinement in advance of Sept. 6 meeting.

ISL Report/Announcements: Jake Speer offered the report highlights:

• State Budget Committee heard IDOE request to release connectivity funds on 7/29 at IU Kokomo. Not sure if INSPIRE funds will be on the August or September agendas.
• ISL continues many activities related to the Bicentennial, including construction of the Young Readers Center, Education Center and Plaza improvements next to the ISL.
• Professional Development Committee is finalizing the IN Library Leadership Academy with 23 individuals on Oct. 13-14.
• Contracts are were finalized for the INSPIRE.IN.GOV databases on July 1. A subscription to Rosetta Stone was added.
• Statewide Circulation Remote Circulation System (SCRCS) will go live Aug. 15 with 167 libraries.
• The Difference is You conference is scheduled for Aug. 11 at Indianapolis Public Library for support staff who may not have access to other professional development. Expecting at least 115 so far.

Correspondence

• No other related communication from the office or with chairs.
• Michael McCullough asked about an email thread question about late fines in schools. Someone posted that “overdue fines” are prohibited but “damage fines” are allowed. No one can find the source. Jake will have Sylvia look up the answer.

Network Coordinator’s Report: Nick Schenkel asked more about Lucinda’s report about communications strategy, especially as it relates to network coordination and role. In interest of time, Lucinda will call Nick to learn about history and actions of coordinator role.
Committee members expressed that ILF communications directly with stakeholders would be a significant change from prior practice. Legislative communications had been through the library directors, who would be responsible for communicating with local contacts.

Lucinda described this as a critical policy question for the members, committee and the board. Should the ILF communications strategy focus on providing talking points, tools and templates that would be shared only with members and/or library directors, who act as gatekeepers to the information and advocacy work? Or should ILF provide those member/director communications AND also provide direct communications (updates, action alerts) to other champions (parent advocates, retirees, donors, volunteers)? Lucinda suggested there are many tools that ILF is not using to help build public will and support, which will support the library director and respect how busy library directors are. All agree that the local relationships are key to effective advocacy. Discussion to be continued.

Committee also discussed concern about sharing too much information with members with cautions about certain members acting on their own where they might not have the advocacy training or understanding about an issue. Lucinda reflected that a constant theme she is hearing is the need for increased communications to all members and a demonstration of value of membership, as well as raising profile of libraries externally.

Committee discussed what should be reported about recent legislative committee actions and policy issues and in what format. Lucinda offered that ILF will pilot an “electronic” newsletter where she envisions regular updates about policy/advocacy issues. She described vision for regular updates to full members about policy issues affecting all library staff.

Federal Network Coordinator’s Report:

Terry Rheinheimer reported that Carla Hayden was confirmed by Congress as the new Librarian of Congress. She reported that members were asked to thank Sen. Donnelly who voted for the confirmation. Committee discussed how this is very important given that Congress is not acting on other issues and discussed Lucinda’s proposal of how to include in September communication to members, possibly with a link to “thank you” message to Sen. Donnelly.

Terry will have more to report in anticipation of going to D.C. in May.

Other Business: No new business

Next meeting: Next meeting will be September 6 at 10 a.m. at the ILF Office.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn made by Jos, with second by Michael. Meeting adjourned at 2:50PM.