ILF Legislative Committee
November 15, 2016 Minutes

Attendance: Kelly Ehinger, Melody Gault, Jos Holman, Kristi Howe, MacKenzie Ledley, Michael McCullough, Lucinda Nord, Nick Schenkel, Jake Speer, Bill Wiebenga, Edra Waterman

Guests: contracted Legislative Advocates Carolyn Elliott and Matt Long; Brittany Snow from ILF office

Absent: Monica Casanova, Dr. Nazareth Pantaloni, Terry Rheinheimer, Leslie Sutherlin

Approval of minutes – Motion from Nick with second from Bill and committee approval of minutes from Sept. 9. Motion from Edra and second from Melody and committee approval of corrected minutes from Oct. 5, 2016 (corrections in attendance and description of ISL-IHB proposal).

Questions about any written reports – Q from co-chairs on Executive Director Report –

- Jos asked whether the draft vision “all Hoosiers have equitable access to quality library services for lifelong learning” has been approved by the Board. A: Only draft based on listening to date and subject to planning process.

- Bill asked how individuals learned about Leader calls as he stated he didn’t receive information of how to join calls. Lucinda described RSVP and posting of info.

Update from Jake Speer, ISL –

- Jake described changes in the IN Library and Historical Board, how Jeff Krull has been replaced with Joseph L. Skvarenina, a historian from Hancock County. While not a librarian in the board seat, Mr. Skvarenina brings opportunity for partnerships.

- Jake described the bill proposal to merge IN Historical Bureau into ISL. The two state agencies already share payroll and processing. The IHB does not provide any training or technical assistance and primarily focuses on providing historical markers and bookstore, as well as focusing on digitization of historical projects. One project proposed is an oral history of legislature, which might be included in a budget request that could increase the total ISL budget request. Chandler Lighty, IHB director, would become a deputy director at merged department. Jake described how ILF support of the plan would be helpful, but that he understood if ILF would not take a position. Committee discussed process and whether ILF should support, oppose or take no position.

  - Committee discussed the process for taking a position. Jos asked whether such a decision would go before the board or whether the committee could make a decision and give direction to Carolyn/Matt (Bose) without taking to the Board. Lucinda responded that if a “position” is included in the board-approved general principles or policy priorities, then ILF can take action; but if not, then it really needs to go before the board, especially if any controversy. The key question for the committee is to determine if there are any risks or liabilities. Committee discussed that communications with members would be critical, as the word “merger” might spark rumors.

  - Committee discussed whether to support, oppose or have no position. Committee members could see no reason to oppose, unless the merger would result in reduced resources to libraries. Jake suggested the merger should be budget neutral to ISL. Committee consensus to support, and ILF will provide a positive communication about strength and benefits of proposal in timeline that aligns with ISL needs, as well as to help avoid rumors and misunderstanding.
Review survey results and reflections on Legislative Fall Forum –

- Members reviewed detailed survey results and text of notes; 32 of about 65 attendees provided feedback on survey.
- Observations: people liked the intentionality of the day through the format and speakers; participants felt more engaged in process and discussion; there was an expectation of sharing ideas at tables, which may have brought out introverts better; how all types of libraries are represented when the day feels a little heavy on public library (committee consensus for Lucinda to reach out to each association); to the question of whether ILF ever considered limiting participation to members only for shaping policy priorities—no, as two levels of review after through committee and board;
- Planning for next year - consensus to wait, as Legis Cmte has other priorities and ILF is reviewing conferencing approach and budget impact. Committee discussed comment from Annual Conference attendees about combining Fall Forum & IPLA with annual conference. Committee agreed that it was too much content for one session, though and might be okay for pre-conference, but agreed to postpone discussion for later.

Quick summary of election results –

- Carolyn and Matt reviewed the changes in the statehouse with the “Trump effect” resulting in super majorities in House (70-30) and Senate (41-9) and all statewide races (Gov, AG, Superintendent of Instruction). Discussed key committee chair changes, including that Sen. Jim Buck will chair Local Government. Discussed that much of Gov-elect Holcomb’s transition team includes many from Gov Mitch Daniels time. Discussed that 11 of 12 referenda passed, but not for Gary Schools.
- Discussed that policy agenda from Republican leadership will be forthcoming, but expect it to include infrastructure, and likely to include education and incremental expansion of pre-K. Discussed that LSA report on tax expenditures may result in legislation related to sales tax on certain excluded items or services; also may include changes to deductions or credits.
- Discussed importance of meeting with new faces. Carolyn and Matt are meeting freshman this week and distributed their photos. Lucinda distributed a list of libraries with new reps/senators, as these will be first contacts for exploring relationship mapping, library tours, etc.

Planning for 2017

- Committee confirmed **direction from participants at Fall Forum**
  - **Principles** – nonpartisan approach and civility as a given; communication and working together (cooperation in network) as highest
  - **Policy Priorities**
    - Leading – Funding for INSPIRE and Connectivity, School librarians in ESSA plan
    - Supporting – Broadband access (and also adult literacy, pre-K, workforce development)
    - Monitoring for opportunities – possible fix for the Local Income Tax issue and any need to see opportunities to join with others on existing funding or governance structures.
  - **Strategies**
    - **Highest priorities**: Outreach and Library Tours/events for policy makers; Seek resolution celebrating 125th anniversary of ILF; Statewide event promotion (i.e. Digital Download, STEAM Day, but not sure specific event, etc.)
    - **2nd highest** - Third House session outreach; champion-building; weekly update calls
    - **Also supported** - Statehouse Day (with a purpose); Message Campaign (adapting ALA’s Libraries Transform for Indiana); Tools/Templates from ILF
Committee discussed **whether and how the election results impact the Principles, Policy Priorities and Strategies as agreed in October.** Does the election change anything? Committee discussed suggestions by ILF executive director.

- **How does the election change, if at all, the way we demonstrate our principles for 2017?** After lengthy discussion about avoiding the term “safe” to describe libraries (because of confusion with security) and avoiding perceptions of being partisan, committee reached consensus that ILF may continue to emphasize longstanding values around how libraries are a place for civil discourse, learning about issues and embracing a nonpartisan approach.

- **How does the election change, if at all, our policy priorities for 2017?** After lengthy discussion about the heightened tensions during and after the election related to characterization and treatment of certain populations (immigrants, religious and racial minorities), committee reached consensus to elevate our monitoring and possible action related to maintaining no restrictions on equitable access to library resources by any group. Committee also agreed that we might elevate our awareness of issues around censorship (i.e. both types—censoring because not conservative enough or too conservative). We will look at ALA Library Code of Ethics for sample language to include in our documents.

- **How does the election change, if at all, our strategies for 2017?** Consensus that we will prioritize meetings with new faces in Statehouse, including with Supt-Elect McCormick.

- **Specifically, what is the dollar amount we will ask in the budget? What support do we have?** Jake, Lucinda and team at ENA met the day prior to discuss amounts and evidence support.
  - The ENA team took the ISL internet connectivity data from the last ISL report and compared it to the ALA best practice standards for connectivity (communities <50K population should have 100 megabyte/sec and communities >50K should have 1 gigabyte/sec). The amount between where libraries are last year and the best practice standard would require $2.5 million in year 1 and $3 million in year 2 for total of $5.5 million. This is separate from amount for schools. Lucinda explained that ILF will take the lead on the advocacy messaging, using supporting documentation from ENA and ISL. Our approach will be to explain that best practices and ISL data suggest that an increase to $5.5 million would benefit Hoosiers in library internet connectivity; however, we understand that the amount of increase may not be possible in one budget cycle and will need to be phased in over budget cycles.
  - Committee discussed how we will support stable funding request for INSPIRE, as there is still a great need for INSPIRE and that because of efficiencies in educational institutions and with contract being locked in for 3 more years, we are advocating for same amount of funding for INSPIRE for 2017-2019 budget.

- **Other Business** – Discussed how the Library Code Revision Cmte will be paused temporarily until ILF is further in Strategic Planning, likely to be resumed in the spring.

- **Next Meeting Date: December 6, 2016, at 10:30am in the ILF Offices.**

- Adjournment at 12:45pm