ILF Legislative Committee
Meeting Minutes for October 5, 2017

Meeting was held at Hamilton East Public Library immediately following the Fall Forum.

Attendees: Co-chairs Jos Holman and MacKenzie Ledley; members Monica Casanova, Kelly Ehinger, Kristi Howe, Naz Pantaloni, Terry Rheinheimer, Nick Schenkel, Edra Waterman; Contracted Advocate Matt Long; guests Ann Zydek of Warsaw PL and Lissa Krull of Nappanee PL; and ILF staff Lucinda Nord. Absentees included Melody Gault, Michael McCullough, Leslie Sutherlin.

Jos called the meeting to order shortly after 3:30 and welcomed Ann and Lissa in attendance.

We do not have minutes from September; will provide those for the November meeting.

Committee and guests discussed general reactions to the day or what people liked best (highlights paraphrased below)

- Generally, the table talk was “jazzed” with people really excited to be engaged in “point-rich conversation” about policies and strategies.
- It is important to have long-term goals and discuss a path to get there. Some of our goals are difficult and even conflicting.
- It was wonderful to have a room full of people talking about goals for the larger library community rather than “my library needs.”
- It is important to us the workforce development goal as a way to get toward the long-term goal. This is different than jumping on the issue de jour.
- It was illuminating to see how sometimes we work to fix one thing (library cards) which may have a negative impact on our long-term goals about library sustainability. By continuing to create the card work-arounds, we are not helping people understand the value of the library. It was wonderful that we could have this deep conversation and consider various options and impacts.

What could be improved

- Several made comments about how they wanted more time and not to be so rushed on the exercises...that they were just getting started on an issue when time was called. Committee discussed options, including:
  - Making sure that if with IPLA again, the Fall Forum is on Day one to go all day and then continue over dinner.
  - Hold regional meetings throughout the state to engage members in this type of processing about short-term and long-term goals and strategies.

- How can we increase participation by academic and school librarians.
  - Lucinda shared that she just met with the Academic Libraries of Indiana board and discussed the limitations on them in advocacy. Most academic librarians have to be extraordinarily careful to not engage in advocacy directly where someone could perceive they are speaking for their institutions. Point taken though about being sure to keep a line of communication with academics about their needs, even if indirectly.
Regarding schools, Lucinda explained the challenge for school librarians to have any days off during the year. She explained that Saturday meetings draw many school librarians, if we were able to consider a Saturday. She gave example of how one district changed its policy so that days taken off are deducted from retirement and how many school librarians are not provided any flexibility. Tara White, who was present today, is an administrator over school libraries.

Lucinda elevated a comment shared by Ann Zydeck and others who would like a little more unstructured networking time to be included. The committee discussed possibly adding 20 minutes somewhere; however, others were concerned that we should maximize the time together.

Goal of day versus typical focus on next year’s policy priority agenda

The Committee discussed how this session was very good for thinking about long-term goals, but how does the committee reach next year’s priority agenda.

Lucinda summarized that some of the work is already done, where the survey demonstrated strong support for continued priority on rural broadband and we have the agenda elements from 2017 that do not involve budget items.

She also explained that the exercise and strategic vision both point to our advocacy focus on many strategies in 2017 that may not be specific legislative proposals. With the school library census, the adult literacy study and our communications campaign, we can start building toward some of the long-term goals.

Lucinda and Matt also noted that 2018 will be an election year with some potentially ugly primaries that may make legislators want to get in and get out of session.

We will still have legislative items in terms of supporting ISL’s proposals that are anticipated and as usual, guarding against certain bad proposals. Jake explained that the governor’s office has provided support for the ISL-IHLB merger and a cleanup bill on petition and remonstrance, both of which ISL does not anticipate needing ILF support. However, ISL anticipates it working with ILF on the Library Services definition.

Comments from guests – Jos invited specific comments from guests

- Lissa Krull shared that she pulled informal reports on her phone while in the meeting. Regarding the library card issue, we have potentially 57K supporters who are already purchasing nonresident cards and 6K who purchase contractual cards. We should really study the library card issue, as we may have more supporters who are already taking action by purchasing cards. However, they may not understand the issue. These cardholders are our friends and potential advocates. Perhaps we might consider a specific campaign with them. We have a teachable moment every time we offer a card or even a reciprocal card. She expressed how this was a good discussion today.

- Ann Zydek appreciated being in the meeting and reiterated the desire for more networking time but understood why the day was structured as it was.

Next Meeting will be held November 7 at the ILF office, 10:30amET.

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned around 4:50pmET