ILF Legislative Committee  
Meeting Minutes for September 5, 2017

Meeting was held at ILF office, with conference call option.

Attendees: Co-chairs Jos Holman and MacKenzie Ledley; members Monica Casanova, Kelly Ehinger, Kristi Howe, Naz Pantaloni, David Peter, Terry Rheinheimer, Nick Schenkel, Leslie Sutherlin, Edra Waterman; Jake Speer; Contracted Advocate Matt Long; and ILF staff Brittany Snow and Lucinda Nord. Absentees included Melody Gault, Michael McCullough.

Jos called the meeting to order shortly after 10:30.

With one correction from Monica Casanova about her attendance (she was absent) in August, the meeting minutes from August 1, 2017 were approved. Kelly motioned, Kristi seconded, and approved as corrected.

Jos invited a verbal updates in addition to the written reports from ISL, Bose and ILF as provided on the attachment to this report.

Bose Public Affairs –
- Given the announcement that DWD Commissioner Steve Braun would be leaving DWD to run for the CD in the 4th District, Matt and Lucinda requested committee feedback about who would be best to replace his presence at the Fall Forum. Committee shared their preferences; Matt would follow up.
- Jos asked whether Bose would be assigning a second person to our account. Lucinda explained that she has met with Bose team and discussed with Matt and team the approach that is more similar to other accounts—where Matt would serve as the primary representative on our account and attend our meetings. However, we would have full access to the entire team at Bose, depending upon the needs. Each Bose staff member brings a different area of expertise and range of relationships. Jos expressed that he felt this change should be communicated to the full membership, as some might not understand why only one person from Bose attends our meetings.

Update from Indiana State Library
- Jake Speer reviewed the plans to date around the 20th anniversary of INSPIRE, currently planned for a one-day conference and celebration in April or May. They anticipate a Governor’s proclamation and more plans soon.
- Jake shared that he is meeting with IN Office of Technology to review the RFP on internet connectivity, as it is time to re-bid the contract. (Currently ENA holds the contract for the internet consortium.)
- Jake explained that he aims to work with ILF on the library services definition.

Update from ILF office
- Jos asked Lucinda about the summer ILF Education and Workforce survey and message to the participants in the survey that the survey results would be available to respondents and available upon request to ILF members. Jos expressed that he felt strongly that all responses should be made available to ILF members regardless if they participate in the survey and not upon request. Lucinda explained that the process was a result of a recommendation from the board in order to encourage participation. Other committee members expressed agreement with the practice of incentivizing participation this way, as it is common with other systems, and that ILF members would still have access upon request.
Lucinda noted strong participation is important to strengthening our relationship with DWD and the potential Adult Literacy study.

- No other comments about the updates.

**Recent issues in the news** –

- The committee discussed the IN Chamber’s study on School Corporation Size and Student Performance [http://share.indianachamber.com/media/SchoolCorpStudy815.pdf](http://share.indianachamber.com/media/SchoolCorpStudy815.pdf), as suggested reading from Lucinda. Leslie expressed that she felt the study was poorly constructed and that the real problem is with the funding formula that hurts rural schools. She commented that increased consolidation could hurt children in rural schools who already have 40 to 60-minute bus rides. Leslie offered her own experience that she serves 6-8 buildings as the only certified school librarian. The study did not look at graduation rate or attendance, which may be higher in rural or smaller schools.


- Lucinda explained that she shared two items, as she anticipates there will be a discussion in the General Assembly in 2018, and that ILF should be prepared with a proactive response. The issues facing rural areas with declining populations and property taxes will also impact libraries. A school consolidation bill may also provide an opportunity to define school libraries or to elevate them, as we did with the school consolidation language in 2017 session. She also explained that she monitors the intellectual freedom challenges that result in proposed legislation in other states, as certain advocacy groups simply copy other states.

**Discussion items**

- **Strategic Visioning** — Tabled this as already discussed last month; the board is looking at the membership of committees and standing rules once the bylaws vote is complete.

- **Statehouse advocacy** – Matt and Lucinda already had updated committee through the Advocacy Update about Rural Broadband and ESSA, the only two items most aligned with ILF agenda on the remaining interim study calendar.

- **Legislative Fall Forum**

  - The committee discussed the plan for the day, with the DWD Speaker (TBD), prioritization exercise and the Advocacy Work Plan. Committee members agreed with the day and still find it challenging to have enough time to discuss.

  - Committee reviewed two documents: 1) a list of every policy proposal that had been collected by the ILF office through meetings, interviews, surveys and discussions with ISL, and 2) a prioritization exercise for them. Lucinda explained that the goal is to draft a more comprehensive plan that allows us to consider short-term and long-term policy goals. We know that addressing the unserved areas issue will not happen in 1 or 2 years, but that, if it is a goal (as stated in our policy priorities for many years), then we should consider the types of short-term policies and strategies that help build toward the longer term goals. It requires us to take a longer-term view of advocacy that also allows us to be responding to changing demographics, tax base, politics and the possible bad pieces of legislation that might be introduced.

  - Some raised whether all the possible policy proposals should be included, as some might be too controversial. Discussed whether the list should be winnowed down. Committee members liked the structured facilitated discussions at tables, as they felt this worked
well last year. However, Jos and Terry suggested that some people come to the forum with the expectation to express their point of view. The committee discussed whether similar sessions should be held more than once/year, perhaps through regional meetings.

- After a robust discussion, the group agreed that *all policy proposals should be presented* but that members should be surveyed in advance of the Fall Forum in order to give guidance to the committee of where to focus. For example, if 100% of members agree about an issue as a priority and the way to get there, it does not need face-to-face time at the fall forum. However, the issues that have some level of consensus but concerns or an unclear definition of the proposal may need deeper discussion. The committee digressed around certain specific issues on the list, including library cards and various work-arounds for non-residents and students. Nick asked what the goals was—is it to identify the hot button issues or the areas of consensus.

- Lucinda walked the committee through the prioritization exercise as a way of helping members consider whether each proposal is easy or hard to pass and implement, the level of importance to the field, the alignment with the mission and vision and whether or not the proposal helps us gain additional supporters. The idea is that we want to identify a shared understanding about what it might take to achieve the long-term goals, while also making progress on important short-term priorities. The exercise also asks participants to consider types of strategies, barriers and resources.

- Committee agreed to offer an online survey that would include questions about prioritization of specific policy proposals as well as open-ended questions. The survey would also ask respondents whether they intend to participate in Fall Forum. Lucinda would send the draft survey to the committee for review and edit with goal to get out to members within 2 days. Committee discussed that the intro and language should frame the survey about what would benefit libraries in Indiana, not just my library.

- Committee discussed roles for committee members at the Fall Forum, helping to facilitate the discussion.

- Other Business
  
  In other business, Jos shared that he learned that former co-chair Bill Wiebenga was not doing well with the progression of his cancer. Carmel Clay PL hosted a special recognition for him. Keep him in our thoughts.

**Next Meeting Dates:** Legislative Fall Forum Oct. 5 at Hamilton East Public Library, Fishers Location (Note no meeting on Oct. 3, though we may email in between.)

Adjournment
UPDATES (as of 8/25)

Updates from Indiana State Library (from Jake Speer)
- The 20th Anniversary of INSPIRE occurs in 2018 and activities are being planned
- Internet Connectivity Request for Proposal will be released in September
- Public Library and State Library Annual Reports are near completion and will be mailed to decision makers and libraries in the fall
- Indiana Memory-DPLAfest is scheduled for September 8th at IPL

Updates from Bose Public Affairs (from Matt Long)
- DWD Commissioner Steve Braun is resigning at the end of August. See article. Steve Braun is rumored to enter the 4th District Congressional race, currently held by Rep. Todd Rokita. How should we handle our Fall Forum speaker invitation?
- DLGF Commissioner Courtney Schaafsma has been nominated by Indiana Office of Management and Budget Director Micah Vincent to serve as executive director of the state's Distressed Unit Appeals Board (DUAB). Plainfield Clerk-Treasurer Wesley Bennett will serve as DLGF Commissioner starting 9/5.
- State Rep. Tom Washburne (R) has announced he will not seek reelection in 2018. First elected in 2012, Washburne chairs the House Courts and Criminal Code Committee. His district comprises all of Gibson County and portions of Vanderburgh, Posey, Knox and Pike Counties in SW Indiana.
- The Joint Committee on Judiciary and Public Policy met on August 22 to discuss the repeal of the handgun license law. All law enforcement groups opposed the idea, and the NRA along with two people supported it.

Updates from ILF Office (from Lucinda Nord)
- The ILF Staff Report to the Board for 8/4/2017 in advance of the 8/10 meeting is here.
- Advocacy and Communications
  - Many advocacy (ESSA, Gov's Office, Congressional visits, DWD) and conference updates were included in August issue of Focus http://myemail.constantcontact.com/Focus-on-Indiana-Libraries--Volume-71--No-8.html?soid=1125822718139&aid=mjdTCLDgLCw
  - Communications strategy will relate to Advocacy work, with Libraries Transform Indiana custom messages and more coming soon; let us know if you want to discuss or weigh in from the Advocacy perspective.
- Professional Development
  - Conference registrations are open for IPLA, Fall Forum and Annual, including ALA Bootcamp as pre-conference. Register early for Fall Forum, as space is limited.
  - Looking at different models for 2018 for conferencing, roundtables and cohort-based professional development
- Collaborations and Special Projects – While many of these collaborations relate more to library programs, each helps bring attention to the value of libraries by key influencers.
  - Collaboration with IN Department of Workforce Development – 15 libraries are hosting Workforce Innovation Network employer feedback sessions between 9/7 and 9/28
  - 131 responses to date on ILF survey about workforce development and partnerships
  - Awaiting possible Request For Proposal from IN DWD regarding study of adult literacy resources
  - Exploring a Lawyers in Libraries project for fall 2018 with IN Coalition for Court Access, Indiana Bar Foundation and IN Supreme Court.
Proposed Prioritization Exercise during the 2017 Legislative Fall Forum

**Step 1** (10-15 min): **Clarify Issues.** Review the list. Divide the list of ideas among all tables. 25-30 ideas divided among 12 tables=3 ideas per table. Clarify any questions within 15-min timeframe. If not clarified what the issue is, then to the bottom of the list.

**Step 2** (10-15 minutes): Identify and assess **specific legislative/advocacy proposals** - Each table will complete the following for each policy idea:

a) Write the **specific proposal in simple language** in 1 sentence
b) Identify if any additional research or data is needed; write on post-it note and attach to card
c) Assess, then plot each card on a chart on a sheet, then on the wall
   a. Assess Ease of Passage/Implementation
   b. Assess Importance of proposal to Library Community/ILF Mission/Vision

![Diagram](chart.png)

**Step 3** (15-20 min): Discuss **Barriers, Strategies and Resources** that would be needed (i.e. why certain proposals would be harder to gain support in terms of # of legislative advocates; public awareness or public will; better in odd or even year; etc)

a) Barriers to overcome – brainstorm list (opposition, lack of awareness, complexity of issue, only applies to a subset of ILF, organizational capacity, lack of consensus on goal, etc.)

b) Strategies – brainstorm strategies for success (attendance at Third House, grassroots network, library tours, externally produced report, external champions, bi-partisan support, media champion, etc.)

c) Resources – contract lobbyist, communications campaign, coalition of partners (Chambers, businesses, vendors, leaders), Leading legislators, strong internal network of members, etc.

**Step 4** (10 min): Discuss **plotted wall in context of strategies and resources** needed for success

**Step 5** (10 min): Identify **areas of consensus** and areas for Advocacy Committee to address in future.