

ILF Legislative Committee
April 5, 2011
Meeting Summary

The Legislative Committee met on April 5, 2011 at the I-MCPL Services Center. Due to a conflicting hearing, John Barnett was unable to attend. Carolyn Elliott gave the advocate's update. Obviously, bills are still in flux due to the inactivity during most of March. The bill regarding an ISL Foundation has passed out of its House Committee. It has not yet been voted on by the entire House. The bill which contains the language regarding severance packages and membership dues has been assigned to a House Committee for a hearing. Early on there seemed to be some questions concerning Class 1 and Class 2 libraries but we believe the representatives understand that the two types of libraries really have no bearing on the bill.

There are still some issues regarding fiscal review of Library Improvement Reserve Funds. ILF members will be notified if it seems like they need to contact representatives and/or senators regarding this issue. At this time, we are unsure whether the bill allowing individuals to carry firearms into public buildings with no exceptions other than schools will go forward. We advise members to talk with their representatives to explain why we are concerned about this. The voucher bill has been diluted down somewhat but we are still watching it. Work is moving rapidly on bills due to the tight time frame. The original funding figures for Inspire and continued connectivity appear in all versions of the budget bill although this is less money than has been appropriated in the past.

Yvonne Olinger will continue on as the Federal Network Coordinator. She and Terry Rheinheimer plan to attend National Legislative Day. ALA is concerned because participation from Indiana seems to be lower this year. They will be contacting Hoosier ALA members to encourage them to be a part of this event. If there are librarians who are unable to attend but would like Yvonne or Terry to send greetings to their federal legislators, we recommend that an email be sent to the legislator advising them of Yvonne and Terry coming to Washington, D.C. and asking them to spend some time with them. Many federal legislators are not designating time to spend with individuals who are not their constituents. If you would like to include a hand-written note for your legislator, contact Yvonne or Terry and they will carry it for you.

The next meeting will be May 10, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. at the 911 building near the ILF office.