



Illinois Library Association

ILA Forum Report

Committee or Forum: Trustee Forum

Report completed by: Kathy Caudill, ILA Trustee Forum Vice President/Manager-Elect

Date: March 10, 2021

Activities underway or completed since the last report:

Trustee Forum Executive Board meeting – January 16, 2021

The Trustee Forum Executive Board met on January 16, 2021 via a Zoom meeting.

- a. The Board finalized topics for trustee training programs to be held in March, April, and May. See *Trustee Training* below.
- b. The Board discussed social media and other communication tools for possible future use.

Trusty Trustee Newsletter – Issues of the *Trusty Trustee* newsletter were distributed to ILA trustee members on December 15, 2020 and March 9, 2021.

Trustee Training

- a. A series of trustee training programs will be offered on Saturday mornings in March, April, and May:
 - a. March 13– *One Year On – Where is Your Library and How Can You Prepare for a Post-COVID World* – Speakers will include directors and board members from Bloomington, Effingham, and Northbrook Public Libraries.
 - b. April 17 – *Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the library: What Library Trustees Need to Know* – presented by Anne Phibbs, Founder and President of Strategic Diversity Initiatives.
 - c. May 15 – *Boot Camp* for new and seasoned trustees – including presentations on Finance 101 (Jamie Rachlin, Meristem Advisors LLC), Succession Planning (Amanda Standerfer, Fast Forward Libraries), and Forging Strong Relationships between library trustees and directors (Christine Westerlund, Vice-President, Chatham Area Public Library Board of Trustees, and Amy Byers, Director, Chatham Area Public Library).

Projected activities/initiatives during the upcoming months, intended outcomes/goals of project(s), and anticipated timeline(s) and completion date(s) for each project:

Upcoming Scheduled Trustee Forum Board meetings – all meetings will be held via Zoom

- i. ILA Trustee Workshops - March 13, 2021, April 17, 2021, and May 15, 2021
- ii. June 5, 2021
- iii. August 21, 2021

Increasing access and opportunities for diversity/inclusion - While the current Forum Board membership is diverse in gender and race, most of our board members are from suburban Chicago libraries. With the addition of a Board member from Peoria, the central part of the state is also represented. We continue our recruitment efforts to seek younger trustees, and those residing in central and southern Illinois, for service on the board. The planned trustee training program on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion will hopefully assist in that recruitment effort.

Increasing leadership opportunities - The Trustee Forum board continues to recruit new trustees for board service, offering opportunities for trustees across the state to become trustee forum leaders.

Guarantee of Equal Representation - The new bylaws limit membership on the Executive Board to one trustee per library. This will ensure that every library represented on the Forum Board will have an equal vote.

Legislative and Community Advocacy - Conference programming, Spring trustee training programs, and legislative meet-ups, as well as materials available on the website, all assist in ILA trustee advocacy efforts.

Delivery of Member Value – Trustee trainings, legislative meet-ups, annual conference, *Trusty Trustee* newsletter, and ever increasing information available on the ILA website hopefully continue to drive trustees to the ILA website, providing an opportunity to learn about the association and membership benefits for trustees.

Activities should be designed to advance the ILA Strategic Plan. Which strategic goal areas are best addressed by the activities above? Check all that apply and describe briefly how the activities will advance the goal(s). View the full plan at <http://www.ila.org/about/strategic-plan>.

X **Goal area: Advocacy—Legislative Advocacy** – Legislative Meet-ups, trustee training sessions, and Trustee Day programs at the annual conference.

X **Goal area: Advocacy—Community Advocacy** – Trustee training dates in March, April, and May, and at ILA annual conference (including Trustee Day programs).

X **Goal area: A Culture of Diversity and Inclusion—In the Profession** – Virtual annual conference, Zoom trustee trainings, and Zoom Trustee Forum board meetings, make participation available regardless of geographic location, making it possible for more trustees to participate.

X **Goal area: A Culture of Diversity and Inclusion—In the Association** – Opportunities are made available to increase trustees’ level of involvement in the association, attendance at virtual trainings and conferences, and with the trustee forum.

X **Goal area: Delivery of Member Value** – Accomplished with the *Trusty Trustee* newsletter, ongoing trustee trainings (annual conference and in March, April, and May), and resources available on the ILA website for trustees.

X **Goal area: Leadership** – Increased opportunities for trustees to become leaders in the Forum.