

IHLS Advocacy and Education Committee

Purpose

The IHLS Advocacy and Education Committee is established to foster communication between IHLS members, staff, and local, state, and national policymakers. By aligning with the IHLS Strategic Plan's goal to "Engage Members," the committee will ensure libraries are positioned as essential contributors to thriving communities while providing members opportunities to connect, communicate, and advocate effectively.

Membership Composition

Minimum Requirements

- At least two IHLS Board members
- At least one IHLS staff member
- At least one IHLS member from a school library (this may overlap with other roles)
- At least one IHLS member from a public library (this may overlap with other roles)
- At least one public library trustee

Additional Considerations

- Members may represent a diversity of library types (public, school, academic, and special) and geographic areas to ensure broad representation

Leadership

- The committee will be chaired by an existing IHLS Board member
- The Chair will facilitate meetings, oversee the agenda, and coordinate closely with IHLS staff

Meeting Schedule

- Meetings will be held every other month (on odd-numbered months)
- All meetings will be conducted virtually to maximize participation and accessibility

Committee Responsibilities

1. Identify and Address Library Challenges: Recognize issues affecting academic, public, school, and specialized libraries, and coordinate advocacy efforts to resolve them.
2. Collaborate with Partners: Work with organizations like AISLE, IACRL, and ILA to advocate for and support various types of libraries.
3. Promote Library Values and Funding: Advocate for core library values (resource sharing, net neutrality, intellectual freedom) and support funding initiatives for all library types.
4. Develop Advocacy Resources: Create messaging, talking points, and tools for library staff and trustees to engage with funders, legislators, and stakeholders.

Expected Outcomes

- Increased member engagement in advocacy initiatives
- Stronger relationships between IHLS members and policymakers at all levels
- Enhanced member capacity to advocate effectively for library needs and priorities