



Advocacy & Education Committee

TO: IHLS Board of Directors
FROM: Leslie M. Bednar
DATE: January 23, 2026
RE: Advocacy & Education Committee

At their January 21 meeting, the Executive Committee recommended the following members be added to the Advocacy and Education Committee. All applications were reviewed and vetted by the committee. These members will join current committee members and IHLS staff to form the revised group. Please see the committee membership below.

As per the [committee charge](#), this reflects the diversity of our membership regarding library type, size, and geographic representation.

Our goal is to have an inaugural meeting in February. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks for your consideration and input.



Advocacy & Education Committee

Name	Library Type	Delivery Service Hub	IHLS Board Role	Library	Role	Note
Ryan Johnson, Chair	Public	Edwardsville	Public Library Representative	O'Fallon Public Library	Director	Current member
Mark Decker	Public	Edwardsville	Public Library Trustee Representative	Bryan-Bennett Library (Salem)	Trustee	Current member
Nanette Donohou	Public	Champaign	n/a	Champaign Public Library	Collections & Technical Services Manager	Proposed member
Matt Greider	Public	Champaign	Public Library Trustee Representative	Effingham Public Library	Trustee	Current member
Kristi Lear	Special	Edwardsville	Special Library Representative	Illinois State Archives	Archival Program Administrator	Current member
Kattie Livingston	Public	Champaign	n/a	Charleston Carnegie Public Library	Adult Services Manager	Proposed member
Amanda McKay	Public	Champaign	n/a	Effingham Public Library	Director	Proposed member
Emily Pickell	School	Champaign	School Library Representative	Champaign CUSD #4	Librarian/Media Specialist	Current member
Samantha Ralston	Public	Carbondale	n/a	Crab Orchard Public Library District	Library Director	Proposed member
Sara Zumwalt	Public	Edwardsville	n/a	Litchfield Public Library District	Library Director	Proposed member
Cassandra Thompson, Staff Liaison				Illinois Heartland Library System	IHLS Associate Director/SHARE Director	
Leslie Bednar				Illinois Heartland Library System	Executive Director	
Leah Gregory				Illinois Heartland Library System	Membership and Outreach Director	
Carol Hogan-Downey				Illinois Heartland Library System	Communications and Advocacy Administrator	
Anna Wiegand				Illinois Heartland Library System	SHARE Training Cataloger	