

**Proposal for ILA Legislative Committee, 2006:**  
(drafted by Cheri Rendler and Erin Hasler March 2006)

1. Mandatory two-person chair with staggered terms, which would require a change to Section VI of the bylaws and changes in Policies and Procedures (see attachment). Would provide continuity and consistency in Breakfast planning and budget creation/utilization.
2. Review need for federal emphasis chair, since this area seems to be covered by the Intellectual Freedom and ALA Councilor positions. However, define chair positions to include National Library Legislative Day coordinator duties or delegate out to someone else.
3. Delegate legislative information and call to action duties to inform library community to school, academic and special, and public library division chairs. These representatives are more versed in issues and legislation that may be of impact to their type libraries.
4. Primary emphasis on the Legislative Day Breakfast and advocacy vs. lobbying. Clarify that the duty of chairs is to inform, not actively lobby. Clarify use of LIBIDAHO for calls to action.
5. Review scope of paid lobbyist duties and expectations in conjunction with ILA's purpose and ability to assess, respond and act. The paid lobbyist is valuable to help establish relationships, lobby, get up-to-date information, get appointments, and navigate the legislative process. Could utilize lobbyist to partner with other lobbying groups with similar concerns or interests.
6. Clarify expectations of chairs to represent ILA's position on bills and issues that have not been supported or approved by the Association or the Board. Do the chairs lobby or coordinate and inform? Contradictory information provided about this, and needs clarification. Example of this is the 33+ property tax bills presented this session, or the to-date over 250 bills introduced this session that may have an impact on Idaho libraries of various types (ISL email 3-27-06).
6. Establish guidelines for the relationship between the "Law Revision Task Force (LRTF)" and ILA. Traditionally, LRTF (since 2001) has reviewed public library district law and state library law, noted what changes were needed, and drafted bills to amend Idaho State Code, which were then passed on to the ILA chair(s), ILA Board, and then membership for a vote. Consideration is made, in conjunction with the paid lobbyist, to determine the best course of action for any proposed statute changes or responses to potentially harmful legislation. ILA Board chairs are members of the LRTF, according to LRTF, but not ILA policies and procedures. The LRTF and ISL information gathering skills and knowledge/analysis of code/history/legislation are critical, but need to get all membership components of ILA represented (see 6d Leg Comm), possibly by additional representation on the LRTF and an October meeting between Board and LRTF.
7. Review timing of the fall conference with chair turnover (unless terms staggered), and that the budget reporting and setting needs revised. New chairs are expected to create a budget that is due mid-November, while working with someone else's budget, with required expenditures in December and January. Money may be already expended or under/over-budgeted.

8. Need to create a legislative chair manual created to pass on to chairs-none was passed on nor is it known if one exists.

ILA Policies and Procedures page (from <http://www.idaholibraries.org/assoc-biz/policies.htm>):

#### 6. Legislative Committee

- a. Appointed in odd-numbered years.
- b. Co-chairs appointed with responsibilities as State Legislative Coordinator and Federal Legislative Coordinator.
- c. Keeps the Association informed of the legal aspects of library affairs in the state and nation.
- d. Works closely with the Idaho State Department of Education, the Idaho State Library, other appropriate agencies, and the Association divisions and Executive Board to ascertain needs for legislative action benefiting all types of libraries and to create a platform of issues.
- e. State legislation proposed by the Association is referred to this committee prior to formal action by the Association.
- f. In cooperation with the State Librarian, monitors progress of library-related bills through the Legislature and Congress and apprises the Association President of pending issues.
- g. Establishes and maintains channels of communication with state and federal legislators and staff. The State Legislative Coordinator works with committees of the Legislature to facilitate the passage of library-related bills. The Federal Relations Coordinator makes appropriate contacts and coordinates statewide efforts on federal topics.
- h. Maintains clearinghouse of communications from Idaho's library community on legislative topics.
- i. Keeps an up-to-date manual of procedure for legislative chairpersons.
- j. Institutes procedures for contacting organized groups, especially public library trustees and educational and civic organizations. Explains proposed legislation and solicits aid and support.