



20 August 2018

TO: RAILS Board of Directors

FROM: Deirdre Brennan

SUBJECT: Board Development Topic: Value of Attending RAILS-Area Library Conferences

Our board development topic this month is library conferences and why it is valuable for RAILS staff and board members to participate in these conferences as extensively as possible.

RAILS considers it extremely important to have a strong presence at all the library conferences in our area because that is where our members are. Since varied levels of staff from all four types of RAILS libraries (academic, public, school, and special) attend these events, we always meet members we have not met before. We also have the opportunity to engage with many more members in one place than we are able to engage with by visiting our libraries on an individual basis.

Our presence at library conferences includes:

- Exhibiting – conference exhibit booths offer the perfect opportunity to talk with members about RAILS programs/services, including new offerings they may be unaware of, and to get their feedback on our programs/services. We usually have a captive audience because exhibit hall visitors choose to come to our booth. We constantly strive to find new and different ways to attract members to visit us and the popularity of RAILS' exhibit booths continues to grow.
- Presenting programs – RAILS staff present programs at library conferences as possible to share knowledge and to help fulfill our goal to provide continuing education (CE) for our members. These programs often give us the opportunity to educate our members about RAILS programs/services as well.
- Sponsoring conferences or conference activities – it is important for RAILS to support area conferences, not only because they are of great benefit to our members, but also because they help us to achieve our strategic goals. For example, conference programs help us extend CE to more staff at more of our member libraries. These programs also

promote resource sharing by exposing members to CE related to resource sharing topics. Attending conferences also helps our members to network, share ideas and best practices, and to learn from staff in similar positions at other libraries.

- Attending conference programs and participating in other activities – in addition to providing opportunities for RAILS staff development, attending conference programs helps us stay on top of new developments and trends in the library field that we can then share with our members. These programs/activities also provide another opportunity for engaging with staff from our member libraries and helping them to engage with each other.

Attending library conferences can be very beneficial to RAILS Board members by:

- Providing a number of opportunities to network and share ideas with staff and trustees from different RAILS member libraries and from libraries throughout the state of Illinois
- Offering a wide variety of programs where board members can get a broader perspective about all of the different issues libraries of all types are currently facing, different aspects of library service, and current issues, trends, and emerging technologies affecting libraries
- Providing exhibit areas where board members can see many of the products libraries are using or can be using in action. Board members also have the opportunity to visit RAILS' exhibit booths to learn more about our programs/services, to get to know the RAILS staff, and to engage with RAILS members visiting our booth.

Specific information about FY2019 conferences in the RAILS area follows. Conferences are listed in chronological order.

ASSOCIATION FOR RURAL AND SMALL LIBRARIES (ARSL) CONFERENCE

WHEN: September 13-15, 2018
WHERE: Bank of Springfield Center, Springfield, IL

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

ARSL was established in 1982 and is an affiliate of the American Library Association. Their annual national conference was created especially for library staff in small and rural public libraries. The conference is held in different states and geographic regions each year to allow more staff from rural libraries to participate. Over 700 library professionals are expected to attend the conference in Springfield.

RAILS ACTIVITIES AT ARSL

All RAILS Board members attending the conference are invited to participate in any/all of these activities.

Exhibit Booth

RAILS will have an exhibit booth at the ARSL conference, with these exhibit hours:

Thursday, September 13, 10:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Friday, September 14, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

While all conference attendees are welcome to visit our booth at any time during exhibit hours, RAILS is also offering our members the opportunity to schedule a 30-minute, one-on-one discussion with a RAILS staff member to discuss RAILS programs/services targeted to their library.

Sponsorship

RAILS is sponsoring the Friday, September 14 lunch at ARSL.

Other Activities

RAILS Member Meetup, Wednesday, September 12, 7:30-9:30 p.m., Brewhaus Bar, Springfield

RAILS has scheduled a member meetup the evening before the opening session of ARSL to give any RAILS members in the area an opportunity to connect in a relaxing atmosphere. All library staff from all types of libraries are invited, whether they are attending the conference or not. Light refreshments will be served. Food can also be purchased and there will be a cash bar.

FURTHER INFORMATION FOR RAILS BOARD MEMBERS:

Registration for the ARSL 2018 conference is closed. All RAILS Board members are invited to attend the September 12 member meetup whether you are registered for the conference or not. Register for the meetup at www.librarylearning.info/events/?eventID=27439.

WHERE TO FIND OUT MORE: <https://arsl.info/conference-main-page/>

HEALTH SCIENCE LIBRARIANS OF ILLINOIS CONFERENCE

WHEN: September 26-28, 2018
WHERE: Cliffbreakers Riverside Hotel, Rockford

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Health Science Librarians of Illinois (HSLI) is a nonprofit organization of approximately 100 Illinois members interested in health sciences. Members work in academic and special libraries, including hospital libraries.

HSLI's annual conference helps members maintain/refresh their skills and to network with others who share similar positions. The theme of the 2018 conference is "Rivers of Data, Streams of Knowledge."

RAILS ACTIVITIES

All RAILS Board members attending the conference are invited to participate in any/all of these activities.

Exhibit Booth

RAILS will have a table at the HSLI conference on Thursday evening, September 27.

Sponsorship

RAILS is sponsoring the Thursday afternoon break at HSLI.

Programs

Thursday, September 27, during morning session

Dan Bostrom, RAILS Member Engagement Manager, will provide an update on what is happening at RAILS of special interest to health science library staff. Representatives from the Illinois State Library, Illinois Association of College and Research Libraries, and Illinois Heartland Library System will also participate in this session.

FURTHER INFORMATION FOR RAILS BOARD MEMBERS:

Anyone interested in librarianship and learning is welcome to attend the conference. Early registration for HSLI 2018 ends on September 12. There are a variety of different registration options available on the [HSLI website](http://hsli.org).

WHERE TO FIND OUT MORE: <http://hsli.org/conference/>

ILLINOIS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION (ILA) CONFERENCE

WHEN: October 9-11, 2018

WHERE: Peoria Civic Center

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE:

The Illinois Library Association (ILA) is a nonprofit, professional membership organization that represents all types of Illinois libraries (academic, public, school, and special). Founded in 1896, it is the third largest state library association, with over 3,000 institutional and personal members, including library trustees.

The theme for the annual conference this year is “Libraries: All Inclusive,” and it is expected to be the largest library conference in the Midwest, and the third-largest state library exposition in the nation.

RAILS ACTIVITIES

All RAILS Board members attending the conference are invited to participate in any/all of these activities.

Exhibit Booth

RAILS will have an exhibit booth (#301) at the ILA conference, with these exhibit hours:

Wednesday, October 10, noon-5 p.m.

Thursday, October 11, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

While all conference attendees are welcome to visit our booth at any time during exhibit hours, RAILS is also offering our members the opportunity to schedule a 30-minute, one-on-one discussion with a RAILS staff member to discuss RAILS programs/services targeted to their library.

Sponsorship

RAILS is a platinum sponsor of the ILA conference and we are sponsoring the opening exhibits buffet lunch in the exhibit hall on Wednesday, October 10, from noon-1:30 p.m.

Programs

Tuesday, October 9, 10:45-11:45 a.m.

"They're Good Docs Brent"

Brian Smith, RAILS Application and Web Developer, will present this session that takes a practical look at how semantic tags in HTML, Word, and PDF files relate to usability and accessibility. He will also discuss tools for improving the structural elements of web documents.

Wednesday, October 10, 3-4 p.m.

Table Talk: Landscape of Resource Sharing in Illinois: Interlibrary Loan and Delivery

Mark Hatch, RAILS Delivery and Facilities Director, will discuss resource sharing in Illinois, along with representatives from the Illinois State Library and the Illinois Heartland Library System.

Other Activities

Find More Illinois/Networking Reception

RAILS is planning a reception on Tuesday, October 9, from 5-6:30 p.m. to provide an opportunity for networking and to introduce Illinois library staff to [Find More Illinois](#). Auto-Graphics, the vendor we are working with on Find More Illinois, is sponsoring the reception. All RAILS Board members are encouraged to attend!

FURTHER INFORMATION FOR RAILS BOARD MEMBERS:

[Trustee Day at the ILA Annual Conference](#), Thursday, October 11, includes training and networking opportunities for library trustees. Registration includes a full day of programming, continental breakfast, and a luncheon. The day begins with a keynote address by parliamentarian Nancy Sylvester. Three breakout sessions are scheduled throughout the day.

Programs include:

- Effective Parliamentary Procedure for Dynamic Library Board Meetings
- “I’ve Fallen and...I’m Going to Sue!” Public Entity Liability for Injuries on Public Property
- A Trustee’s Guide to Municipal Bonds
- Creating the Culture to Attract Quality Board Members
- Top Ten Budget Disasters Facing Your Library
- Board Wars
- It’s That Time of Year Again...Evaluating Your Library Director (RAILS Board member and Bartlett Public Library trustee Dave Barry will present this program with Karolyn Nance, Bartlett Public Library Director)

Time is reserved in the schedule to allow trustees to visit the exhibit hall to see the latest in library products and services. Be sure to stop by the RAILS booth (#301)!

Early bird registration for Trustee Day is \$175 for ILA members and \$200 for non-members. Early bird registration for Trustee Day plus the full conference is \$225 for ILA members and \$275 for non-members. The early bird deadline is September 10, 2018.

WHERE TO FIND OUT MORE: ila.org/conference

ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS SCHOOL LIBRARY EDUCATORS (AISLE) CONFERENCE

WHEN: November 1-3, 2018
WHERE: Tinley Park Convention Center

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

AISLE, formerly the Illinois School Library Media Association (name changed July 2018), provides leadership and support for the development, promotion, and improvement of the school library media profession and programs in Illinois. The theme of this year's annual statewide conference is "School Libraries Are for Everyone."

RAILS ACTIVITIES

All RAILS Board members attending the conference are invited to participate in any/all of these activities.

Exhibit Booth

RAILS will have an exhibit booth at the AISLE conference, with these exhibit hours:

Friday, November 2, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Saturday, November 3, 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

While all conference attendees are welcome to visit our booth at any time during exhibit hours, RAILS is also offering our members the opportunity to schedule a 30-minute, one-on-one discussion with a RAILS staff member to discuss RAILS programs/services targeted to their library.

Sponsorship

RAILS is a silver-level sponsor of this conference and we are sponsoring the Friday, November 2 dessert reception in the exhibit hall.

FURTHER INFORMATION FOR RAILS BOARD MEMBERS:

Attending this conference provides an opportunity to learn about the current and future issues affecting school libraries and to network with staff from this library type. During RAILS' recent efforts to gather member feedback on our strategic plan, members from all types of libraries told us how important it was for RAILS to support school libraries. School libraries are often the place where children learn library skills and having a strong school library experience leads to continued use and support of other types of libraries during a person's lifetime.

Early bird registration ends on September 21, 2018. There are a variety of [registration options](#) available on the AISLE website.

WHERE TO FIND OUT MORE: <https://www.aisled.org/conference.htm>

ILLINOIS YOUTH SERVICES INSTITUTE

WHEN: March 21-22, 2019

WHERE: Marriott Bloomington-Normal Hotel & Conference Center

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE:

This institute was developed by the LACONI (Library Administrators Conference of Northern Illinois) Youth Services section and the Illinois Library Association, in collaboration with RAILS and the Illinois Heartland Library System. The purpose of this two-day conference is to bring library staff serving children and teens together to learn, network, and share best practices. The institute was last held in March 2017.

RAILS ACTIVITIES

All RAILS Board members attending the conference are invited to participate in any/all of these activities.

Exhibit Booth

RAILS will have a table at this event due to our being a sponsor of the institute. Further details will be provided when available.

Sponsorship

RAILS is a sponsor of the Youth Institute and a RAILS staff member serves on the 2019 Youth Services Institute planning committee.

FURTHER INFORMATION FOR RAILS BOARD MEMBERS:

More details on RAILS activities at the conference and opportunities for RAILS Board members will be provided when available.

WHERE TO FIND OUT MORE: <https://www.ila.org/events/illinois-youth-services-institute>

REACHING FORWARD CONFERENCE

WHEN: May 3, 2019

WHERE: Donald E. Stephens Convention Center, Rosemont, Illinois

ABOUT THIS CONFERENCE:

This annual one-day conference includes programming for a variety of different library staff levels, including front-line staff, managers, marketing professionals, human resource managers, programmers, readers' advisory and reference staff, technical services staff, and youth and young adult services staff.

RAILS ACTIVITIES

Exhibit Booth

RAILS will have an exhibit table at the Reaching Forward conference.

Sponsorship

RAILS is a sponsor of Reaching Forward and a RAILS staff member serves on the Reaching Forward planning committee.

FURTHER INFORMATION FOR RAILS BOARD MEMBERS:

More details on RAILS activities at the conference and opportunities for RAILS Board members will be provided when available.

WHERE TO FIND OUT MORE: <https://www.ila.org/event/1/313/reaching-forward-conference>

REACHING FORWARD SOUTH CONFERENCE

WHEN: Date To Be Determined

WHERE: Location To Be Determined

ABOUT THIS CONFERENCE:

Reaching Forward South is an annual professional development conference for library support staff in central and southern Illinois.

RAILS ACTIVITIES

Exhibit Booth

RAILS will exhibit at Reaching Forward South if this option is available.

Sponsorship

RAILS was a sponsor for Reaching Forward South in 2017 and 2018. We await details on sponsorship opportunities for the 2019 conference.

FURTHER INFORMATION FOR RAILS BOARD MEMBERS:

More details on RAILS activities at the conference and opportunities for RAILS Board members will be provided when available.

WHERE TO FIND OUT MORE: www.reachingforwardsouth.org