

RAILS Advocacy Committee

Membership

Committee members:

RAILS board members

RAILS Executive Director

RAILS Director of Communications

Quorum and Voting

A quorum consists of the majority of voting members.

Charge

The purpose of the RAILS board advocacy committee is to: Educate board members about issues affecting RAILS and libraries that may require advocacy efforts locally, regionally or nationally. For the purposes of this committee, advocacy means being informed about issues and able to speak persuasively and knowledgeably to library funders, supporters, legislators and other stakeholders when appropriate. Such issues may include:

- Importance of librarians
- Status of school libraries and importance of school librarians
- Value of multitype cooperation, what different types of libraries learn from each other
- Funding – state and federal
- Intellectual freedom
- Net neutrality
- Projects and initiatives that RAILS works on

The committee will work collaboratively with the ILA Public Policy Committee and Advocacy Committee and may attend meetings or act in a liaison role for RAILS to these committees. Committee members will attend advocacy events offered by the ILA and the ALA. Committee members will also work to educate trustees at other RAILS members about these important issues.

RAILS Advocacy Committee – Revised Charge

Membership

Committee members (10 total – not counting ex officio members):

- 4 RAILS Board members
- At least one staff member from a RAILS academic library (may or may not be RAILS Board member)
- At least one staff member from a RAILS public library (may or may not be RAILS Board member)
- At least one staff member from a RAILS school library (may or may not be RAILS Board member)
- At least one staff member from a RAILS special library (may or may not be RAILS Board member)
- At least two public library trustees (may or may not be RAILS Board members)
- RAILS Executive Director (ex officio)
- RAILS Associate Executive Director (ex officio)
- RAILS Director of Marketing & Communications (ex officio)

Charge

The purpose of the RAILS Board Advocacy committee is to:

Identify issues and challenges affecting all types of libraries (academic, public, school, and specialized); work with partners to initiate local, regional, and/or statewide advocacy efforts to help resolve these issues/challenges; and encourage library staff and trustees to participate in and/or support these advocacy efforts as appropriate.

Such issues/challenges may include:

- Demonstrating the value and importance of all types of libraries
- Supporting and promoting funding initiatives for all types of libraries
- Promoting collaboration between different types of libraries to advance library-related initiatives
- Working with the Association of Illinois School Library Educators (AISLE) to support and advocate for school libraries, including enforcing the requirement for a certified school librarian in every school

- Working with the Illinois Association of College and Research Libraries (IACRL) to advocate for and support academic libraries
- Working with the Special Libraries Association, Illinois chapter (SLA-IL) to advocate for and support special libraries
- Supporting and advocating for traditional library values (resource sharing, net neutrality, intellectual freedom, etc.)
- Developing messaging, talking points, and other resources library staff from all types of libraries and public library trustees can use when speaking about library issues and challenges to funders, supporters, legislators, and other stakeholders
- Supporting and promoting the RAILS My Library Is... campaign and other RAILS programs/activities

The committee will work collaboratively with the ILA Public Policy Committee and Advocacy Committee, and may attend meetings or act in a liaison role for RAILS to these committees. Committee members will report back on important issues identified at these meetings that the advocacy committee might address.

Committee members will attend advocacy events offered by RAILS, ILA, ALA, and others as appropriate.

Committee members will work with AISLE, IACRL, SLA-Illinois, and other statewide partners to represent and promote the value of all types of libraries. Committee members representing the four library types will provide advice and direction on particular issues/challenges for their library type that the committee might address.

Committee members will work to educate trustees and staff at RAILS member libraries about important issues and encourage them to take action on these issues as appropriate.