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March 18, 2022

RAILS Board Committee Reports

Advocacy Committee Report- Chair Robin Helenthal

The committee met on Thursday, March 10, 2022/ Next meeting is Thursday, April 14, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. Members reported on the ILA Legislative Meetups they attended. There was low turnout at the Northwestern Illinois meet-up. Only 2 legislators and 3 staffers were in attendance. ILA presenters did a good job of explaining what libraries have accomplished and what we are asking for going forward.

Monica Harris reported on the status of library related bills. The Cards for Kids Act expansion has passed the Senate and is in the House. HB 3254 amends the Instructional Materials of the School Code and gives school boards control of curriculum and books. That bill was progressing but is currently tabled. HB4758 provides access to a broadband grant program to all Illinois K-12 school buildings. Final action will be taken on March 31st. SB3167 on eBook pricing has not progressed. Similar legislation in other states has been challenged in the courts.

There was a discussion on the possibility that many schools are not using library grant money for the library. This topic is of interest to ISL and AISLE. Schools currently self-report how funds are used. RAILS will be looking into how we could investigate the use of grant funding. Committee and RAILS members were encouraged to advocate for the Secretary of State budget increase approval by contacting their legislators.

Joe Filapek demonstrated the RAILS Pulse Page on Material Challenges. RAILS supports our member libraries with continuing education events, links to best practices and resources, and connecting libraries. Filapek noted it is important to find the right messaging to present to school boards and administrators to articulate the foundations of intellectual freedom.

Members discussed changing the Advocacy Committee meeting time to align with school librarian schedules. School librarian input is important to RAILS as we work to advocate for school libraries. Members voted to meet at 4pm in April. A final vote will be taken to amend the meeting time for the remainder of the FY22 schedule when all committee members are present. April meeting topics:

1. Legislative update
2. Amend time of meetings for remainder of FY22 schedule – action requested
3. School data report – Janette Derucki
4. Continue discussion on material challenges – committee members will share challenges in their area
5. Media literacy curriculum in high schools

Consortia Committee Report-Chair Paul Mills

The committee met on Monday, January 10, 2022/ Next meeting Monday, April 18, 2022

EDI Committee Report - Chair Dianne Hollister

The committee met on Tuesday, January 11, 2022/ Next meeting Wednesday, March 30, 2022

Executive Committee Report - Chair Thomas Stagg

The Executive Committee met on five occasions in the past two weeks.

Monday, March 7 at 10:00 a.m. to discuss the candidates who submitted nominations to fill the vacancy of Patricia Smith's at-large board seat. They also reviewed and refined the interview questions. The committee decided to conduct interviews with five of the ten candidates and met Wednesday, March 9 at 3:00 p.m., Thursday, March 10 at 10:00 a.m., Monday, March 14 at 9:30 a.m. and Monday, March 14 at 11:30 a.m. A fifth candidate had to postpone his interview due to a family emergency. The committee will wait to hear from the candidate before making a recommendation to the full RAILS board.

Nominating Committee Report - Chair Alice Creason

The committee met on March 14, 2022/Next Meeting is TBD (April 19-24)

The committee met to discuss the responsibilities of the members, including recruiting a diverse group of candidates (different levels of staff, library size, geographical and ethnic/racial), and encouraging members to vote. Committee members will use their contacts and channels of communication to recruit candidates. The nominating committee will meet again in April to discuss the election process and review the proposed ballot. The final meeting will be in May to verify election results and determine a slate of officers to present to the Board.

Resource Sharing Committee Report - Chair Charm Ruhnke

The committee met on February 14, 2022/Next Meeting is May 9, 2022

Universal Service Committee Report - Chair Susan Busenbark

The committee met on Thursday, March 10, 2022/Next meeting Thursday, June 9, 2022 at 1 p.m.

Monica Harris gave an overview of the new RAILS Strategic Plan and highlighted strategic goal four that focuses on universal service. Karen Egan from the Illinois State Library gave a presentation on the GeoMARC map of Illinois public libraries. Gail Bush updated the committee on the multiple listing service project. The RAILS staff will draft a letter and send to the Illinois State Library and the Illinois Library Association so that they can provide an official letter of support to MRED, Midwest Real Estate Data, to have public libraries added to the MLS real estate listing. Monica Harris reported that the amendment to the library cards for non-resident minors passed in the Illinois Senate and a hearing is scheduled for the Illinois House on March 15. Also discussed was House Bill 4092 focusing on electronic and digital resources for Illinois residents.