



125 Tower Drive
Burr Ridge, IL 60513
630.734.5000
railslibraries.info

September 15, 2022

RAILS Board Committee Reports

Advocacy Committee Report- Chair Robin Helenthal

The committee met on September 8, 2022. Next meeting is October 13, 2022.

The members received an update on legislative efforts ILA is considering: the Statewide Access to Online Resources, an amendment to the Local Records Act to modernize the process and bring it in line with other states' policies, continuation of hybrid meetings, an update to OMA Training, library budget flexibility to move money from one budget line to another. Harris reported on the ILA Advocacy Committee discussion on planning this year's Legislative Meetups and work on a questionnaire for the Secretary of State candidates. Brennan reported on the status of Saint Andrew Catholic School membership with RAILS and the continuing efforts to retain their membership.

The members identified the goals the committee will focus on for FY23: Support for school libraries and school library data collection; Statewide Online Resources and Record Retention Legislation support; support for Special Libraries; Materials Challenges; Find More Illinois; and Open Educational Resources.

Next steps:

The topics for the next meeting agenda are:

- Advocacy Committee Goals
- Legislative Update
- Report on ILA Advocacy Committee Meeting

Consortia Committee Report-Chair Thomas Stagg

Next meeting Monday, October 17, 2022

EDI Committee Report - Chair Dianne Hollister

The Committee met on August 30, 2022. Next meeting is November 2, 2022

The committee welcomed Vanessa Villarreal, RAILS Board member to the committee. There were two reports presented, the RAILS report and the BIPOC Library Workers Networking Group report. Highlighted in the RAILS report were numerous EDI training opportunities and the BIPOC report included an overview of the networking group and the creation of affinity groups and a mentorship program. New to the agenda, was the opportunity for the committee to share EDI initiatives. Great ideas were shared including adding pronouns to staff badges, EDI focused books to be highlighted to celebrate National Diversity Day (1st Friday of October) and for National Inclusion Day (Oct. 10th), Gender 101 staff training by Lurie Children's Hospital, EDI affinity groups created for staff, and staff language buttons so that patrons know what languages they speak. The conversation included

finding qualified EDI trainers for library staff. Several suggestions were given including networking with other libraries that have had successful staff EDI trainings, refer to ALA's DEI facilitators list, and the RAILS 'continuing education page on the RAILS website. Future webinars and programs were proposed such as how a library can get started or continue on an EDI initiative, how staff members can move forward with an EDI initiative when their library does not, and an EDI mentorship program was suggested for library directors. There was an update on the Cohort EDI Training that will start in October. Lastly, there was a review of the RAILS Strategic Plan goal #2; RAILS modeling best practices in equity, diversity, accessibility, and inclusion. The three objectives under the goal will be the focus of the committee's work

Executive Committee Report - Chair Alex Vancina

The Committee met on September 19, 2022

A report will be given at the Board meeting.

Resource Sharing Committee Report - Chair Becky Spratford

Next meeting is on November 14, 2022

Universal Service Committee Report - Chair Alice Creason

The committee met on September 8, 2022/Next meeting is scheduled for December 8, 2022.

Deirdre Brennan welcomed Alice Creason as new Chairperson to the Universal Service Committee. Greg McCormick gave a report on the August 25, 2022 Illinois State Library Advisory Committee (ISLAC). Among the many topics discussed at the ISLAC meeting, a subcommittee will be formed with a focus on universal library service, though a name for the subcommittee has not yet been determined. Bush reported that four letters of support to request additional data of public libraries to the real estate Multiple Listing Service (MLS), have been given to Sandra Brown, a real estate broker whom Bush has been working with. The letters of support were collected from the Illinois State Library, Illinois Heartland Library System, Illinois Library Association, and from RAILS. Brennan reported that the statewide educational resource program is the number one priority this year for the Illinois Library Association's Public Policy Committee. Catherine Yanikoski introduced the topic of alternative funding resources for libraries that want to or are participating in the expanded Cards for Kids Act. The committee discussed several options to research as possible funding sources for libraries. Jennifer McIntosh introduced the topic of funding inequities and community colleges. If the model of community colleges were to be used as a way to have universal library service in the state, then funding for additional community resources would have to be a priority. Brennan reported that Gail Bush has resigned as a member of the committee, but she will continue to work on the MLS project and report the progress to RAILS to keep the committee informed.