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

February 16, 2023

RAILS Board Committee Reports-corrected 2/22/23

Advocacy Committee Report- Chair Robin Helenthal

The committee met on January 12. The next meeting is February 9, 2023.

The committee met on January 12, 2023. Harris reported ILA will hold a meeting for new legislators to introduce them to library issues. A second meeting will be held to train library staff on how to reach out to their legislators. Illinois will have two library representatives attending meetings in Washington D.C. The committee discussed talking points for the Cards for Kids Act Expansion that can be used to demonstrate the benefits of expanding access to all students under the age of 18.

Next steps:
1. The topics for the next meeting agenda are: Legislative and advocacy updates, open educational resources, updates on current library issues, and the Illinois Secretary of State Library Enhancement team report.

Consortia Committee Report-Chair Thomas Stagg

The committee canceled the January meeting. They will meet on met Monday, April 24, 2023

EDI Committee Report - Chair Dianne Hollister

The committee met on February 14, 2023. Next meeting May 9, 2023

Monica Harris highlighted from the RAILS report that the RAILS Continuing Education Event Grants are available. Applications received by February 10, 2023 will have preference, but applications are still being accepted. RAILS will continue to prioritize events focused on equity, diversity, inclusion and accessibility. Applications for the ALA Spectrum Scholarship are being accepted until March 1, 2023. Joe Filapek reported that the RAILS EDI Cohort has four more training dates remaining.

Vanessa Villarreal recently attended the Joint Conference for Librarians of Color (JCLC) and shared that a library in California started affinity groups for BIPOC staff. The affinity groups are staff led, allowing individuals to gain leadership experience. Harris gave a recap on a list of ways which the committee has previously determined as ways to motivate library directors to do EDI work. The list included the EDI Cohort, the ILA EDI toolkit, Directors University, RAILS staff to participate in the editing of the new edition of the Serving Our Public 4.0 Standards for Illinois Public Libraries, and lastly, to have RAILS create a statement of EDI best practices for the RAILS' membership. Villarreal suggested that RAILS come up with

sample language that library staff can use when reacting to a negative EDI related situation. Filapek discussed the ALA DEI Scorecard that was shared in the meeting packet. Villarreal and Michelle Mistalski, as members of the BIPOC Library Workers Networking group reported that the group created a mentorship program along with a mentorship website.

The next committee meeting on May 2, will include the topics of the committee member terms and a conversation regarding the representation of the committee members for fiscal year 2024.

Executive Committee Report - Chair Alex Vancina

The committee did not meet.

Policy Committee Report - Chair Jennifer McIntosh

The committee met on February, 8. The next meeting is on March 8, 2023

The committee approved the Communicable Diseases Policy which is on the board agenda for approval. They discussed the board election and made some suggestions for the recruitment and advertising of the election: create a statement regarding the election with the results of the board survey showing that we are looking for all kinds of diversity; adding diversity categories to candidate profiles. The committee will look to update the procedure for filling a board vacancy through appointment and include a rubric assessment tool and a statement of diversity. At the next meeting, the committee will review RAILS policies outside of the employee handbook and also review example succession plans.

Resource Sharing Committee Report - Chair Becky Spratford

The committee met on February 13, 2023. The next meeting is May 8, 2023

The Find More Illinois program reports 21 new library members in 2022 and shared a new FMI marketing flyer with talking points. The ILL platform is the core service established in 2018, and we will be integrating a basic ILS for nonautomated libraries to support their participation in ILL. Planning is in the early stages and will continue into FY24.

Janette Derucki reported on the ongoing issues with school data collection at the state and national level—with not all libraries accurately reporting their information, noting that not all schools have libraries, not all school libraries have dedicated school library educators, and not all school library spaces are accessible when staff are not present. RAILS plans to analyze how the data collected correlates with student outcomes and educational needs, and how RAILS can implement advocacy for professional development for school and administrative staff.

Anne Behm reported the fee structure for eRead Illinois has been updated for the first time ten years to be more sustainable, equitable, and responsive. The new fee structure will be tiered for public libraries based on the library's operation expenditure, for school libraries, based on enrollment per building, and for academic and special libraries, based on population served.

Monica Harris briefed the committee on a proposal that was developed in July 2022 to address the lack of access to a statewide online resource platform. The Transition Report that came from the office of Secretary of State Giannoulias' office identified an interest in and an immediate need for an online resources program. The Illinois Library Association's Public Policy Committee identified online resources as being their number one priority to move forward in this legislative cycle.

Universal Service Committee Report - Chair Alice Creason

The committee met on December 8, 2022. The next meeting is scheduled for March 7, 2023