



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

April 20, 2023

RAILS Board Committee Reports-corrected 2/22/23

Advocacy Committee Report- Chair Robin Helenthal

The committee met on March 9. The next meeting is April 13, 2023.

Harris gave an overview of materials challenges issues including data, talking points, and efforts. The ALA Office of Intellectual Freedom reported 67 materials challenges in Illinois in 2022, an increase over 41 reported in 2021, however, many challenges are not reported. An ALA poll shows most voters oppose banning books and support librarians and libraries. Efforts against materials challenges include HB2789 and the development of a rapid response model for Illinois libraries that would provide a volunteer network that can respond to urgent requests for support when materials challenges are submitted. Talking points and toolkits related to materials challenges are available from organizations such as ALA, Freedom to Read Foundation, Pen America and United Against Book Bans.

Members discussed issues librarians face related to materials challenges. Caldicott shared details on how Community High School District 128 updated their policy to limit the scope of who can submit a materials challenge to only those who are residents in the school district; a challenge cannot be filed if it goes against the school board EDI policy; a materials challenge is called a Statement of Concern and requires the filer to sign and attest they have read 100% of the material of concern.

The ILA Intellectual Freedom Committee and Trustee Forum will present on materials challenges at Trustee Day at the ILA conference. Harris reported on ILA legislative and advocacy updates. The ILA Public Policy Committee explained the bills they will focus on fall into three categories: FOIA and OMA, including a bill that would allow those with childcare issues to attend meetings remotely; First Amendment issues and amendments to [HB2789](#); and the budget and unfunded mandates. Walsh stated the House bills being watched by AISLE are numbers HB2789, [HB1107](#), and [HB1481](#).

Members discussed public library board issues and will keep an eye on developments. Walsh reported that the AISLE (Association of Illinois School Educators) retired librarian project is live. Librarians who retire can notify AISLE using an online form. A letter will be sent to the school district with an offer to post the job opening to AISLE members. The letter also explains the impact of a certified school librarian. RAILS will be copied on the letters emailed to school districts. The tentative topics for the next meeting agenda are: ILA legislative and advocacy updates and specialized libraries.

Consortia Committee Report-Chair Thomas Stagg

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

EDI Committee Report - Chair Dianne Hollister

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

Executive Committee Report - Chair Alex Vancina

The committee did not meet.

Nominating Committee Report - Chair Alice Creason

The committee will meet on May 1.

An update will be given at the Board meeting.

Policy Committee Report - Chair Jennifer McIntosh

The committee met on March, 8. The next meeting is on May 4, 2023

Resource Sharing Committee Report - Chair Becky Spratford

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

Universal Service Committee Report - Chair Alice Creason

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