



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

June 13, 2023

RAILS Board Committee Reports

Advocacy Committee Report- Chair Robin Helenthal

The committee met on May 11, 2023. The next meeting is June 8, 2023.

Three people spoke on the topic of equity, diversity, and inclusion. Sophie Kenney presented an overview of the BIPOC Library Workers networking group. The BIPOC networking group offers members support, mentorship, and resources. More information on this group can be found on the RAILS website. Harris noted that the BIPOC group is doing some of the most impactful EDI work in Illinois right now. Caldicott gave an overview of Vernon Hills High School library's EDI audit of their collection. Joe Filapek gave an update on RAILS work toward equity, diversity, and inclusion.

Harris reported on the ILA PPC meeting discussions and gave an update on legislative activity. Bills discussed were HB 2789 and SB 2419. The tentative topics for the next meeting agenda are a presentation on My Library Is by Dan Bostrom and approval of the FY2024 Advocacy Committee meeting schedule. The next meeting is on June 8, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

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 May 9, 2023. Next meeting TBD

Executive Committee Report - Chair Alex Vancina

The committee did not meet.

Nominating Committee Report - Chair Alice Creason

The committee met on May 31, 2023.

An update will be given at the Board meeting.

Policy Committee Report - Chair Jennifer McIntosh

The committee will reconvene and set a schedule after the new board and committees are in place.

Resource Sharing Committee Report - Chair Becky Spratford

The committee met on May 8, 2023. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for August 7, 2023.

Universal Service Committee Report - Chair Alice Creason

The Universal Service Committee met on June 8, 2023.

Monica Harris announced the good news that the Secretary of State's budget was passed and includes \$5 million dollars toward a statewide online educational resource program. Also discussed was whether to extend the committee's charge to include the underserved population in addition to the one million unserved in Illinois. Ultimately, the committee decided that while this is an important topic that deserves discussion and advocacy, it is important for the Universal Service committee to remain focused on the issue of those unserved by public library service.

Joe Filapek gave a presentation on paper libraries, which are library districts that exist on paper but levy extremely low taxes and, as a result, do not have the resources to provide library services to district residents or even to contract for services with a neighboring library.

Filapek discussed the topic of additional guidance for the Cards for Kids program expansion. The committee members suggested that RAILS provide sample policy language for the use of the libraries considering exercising that option.

Harris announced that RAILS staff will be contacting the committee members regarding the option to extend their participation for FY24. The committee discussed FY2024 member terms and approved a meeting schedule for FY2024.