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July 19, 2023

RAILS Board Committee Reports

Advocacy Committee Report - Chair Robin Helenthal

The committee met on June 8, and July 13, 2023. The next meeting is on August 10, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

Dan Bostrom gave an overview of the My Library Is program, outlining the history, grants, resources, blog and sharing showcase. Harris reported on the ILA PPC meeting discussions and gave an update on legislative activity. A new bill, SB2243 deals with an ISBE comprehensive literacy plan. SB0689, a 2nd bill addressing book banning, will not be moving forward in its current form. There was a discussion on how the unserved will access the statewide online resources. Preliminary plans include issuing a card or accessing it through the Illinois State Library. Caldicott shared the High School Networking Group discussion on school staffing ratios as outlined in the Evidence Based Funding for Student Success Act and mandated by 2025.

Report from the July 13, 2023 meeting:

Lynn Stainbrook, Director of Rockford Public Library, spoke about her experience at the ALA Congressional Fly-In which included meetings with aides from Senator Durbin's and Congressman LaHood's offices, and tips learned from the federal lobbyists. The event was an opportunity to advocate for library funding and answer questions about library issues.

Dan Bostrom presented the Library Paraprofessional Statement of Support from AISLE. AISLE's push has traditionally been for certified library staff members but in this statement, they are also seeking to address situations where schools are eliminating paraprofessional staff. The committee voted in favor of recommending to the RAILS Board to approve this statement of support.

Harris gave an overview of the ALA Annual reports on legislation and intellectual freedom as well as the legislative and advocacy update from the ILA-PPC committee. Walsh gave an update on AISLE Advocacy issues. There is a shortage of librarians in Illinois as well as a shortage of teachers and administrators. A future concern is the impact of the Illinois literacy bill if it is approved.

The August meeting topic is Find More Illinois. The September meeting topic will be the Unserved.

Consortia Committee Report - Chair Thomas Stagg

The Consortia Committee met July 17, 2023. The next meeting is October 16, 2023.

Committee members inquired about information that will be required from LLSAPs for the upcoming RAILCAR data collection process. The data points were presented in the April meeting and will be collected via the FY2025 LLSAP Support Grants applications, which will be distributed to the LLSAPs this month. Slaughter will send a link to the data collection forms as soon as they're finalized. The committee discussed the pros and cons of a statewide standardized fee structure, the complexities of establishing consortial fee structures across library sizes and library types, and the difficulty of creating an apples-to-apples comparison of fee structures across LLSAPs. The Resource Sharing Committee report will continue to be

shared at Consortia Committee meetings, with possible future refinements to be made based on ongoing feedback. The state of automation in delivery was discussed. The Consortia Committee charge was reviewed, with no changes or discussion. Behm presented an update on eContent consortia in Illinois, access challenges, vendor issues, and eRead Illinois fee structure changes. LLSAPs shared how their remote work procedures have changed since the COVID-19 emergency proclamation ended. The next consortia committee meeting will review automation and delivery processes.

EDI Committee Report - Chair Dianne Hollister

Tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, September 19, 2023, 1:00 pm-3:00 pm

Executive Committee Report - Chair Alex Vancina

There are no upcoming meetings at this time.

Policy Committee Report - TBD

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

Resource Sharing Committee Report - Chair Becky Spratford

Tentatively scheduled for Monday, August 7, 2023, 10:00 am-12:00 pm

Universal Service Committee Report - Chair Alice Creason

Tentatively scheduled for Thursday, September 7, 2023, 1:00 pm-3:00 pm

Nominating Committee Report - Chair Thomas Stagg

The committee will be appointed by the RAILS President and convene in March. Meetings will be held from March through June as needed.