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September 15, 2023

RAILS Board Committee Reports

Advocacy Committee Report - Chair Robin Helenthal

The Advocacy committee met on September 14, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. The next meeting is November 9, 2023. Filapek gave an overview of the unserved, the Cards for Kids Act, and improvements that have been made in expanding service. Members discussed strategies such as intergovernmental agreements, a school ID serving as a library card, and library cards issued as part of the school registration process. Harris provided an update on the ILA PPC committee meeting including discussions on legislative meetups and legislative priorities. ILA will move forward on RAILS' proposal to reduce the treasurer bond as well as equitable access to electronic resources and lowering the minimum threshold for competitive bids. They are continuing to look at the district cannabis tax proposal. The Intellectual Freedom committee is working with ACLU and the new regional response task force. ALA is looking for support for the federal public access to information bill.

The AISLE Conference will take place in Champaign Urbana on October 1-3. A poster session titled *Advocacy in Your Building* will offer useful tips for the school librarians to self-advocate within their school building to teachers, administrators, and other decision makers.

Members explored priorities for the upcoming fiscal year. The group discussed whether it would be more appropriate to meet every other month instead of the current monthly schedule in order to provide more time to work on advocacy efforts between meetings. A consensus was reached to transition to every other month moving forward but will reassess this schedule if a need arises.

The October 12th meeting is cancelled due to the revised every other month schedule. The topic for the next meeting will be a presentation on the School Library Data project. The next meeting is November 9, 2023.

Consortia Committee Report - Chair Thomas Stagg

The next meeting is October 16, 2023.

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 – Gwen Gregory

The committee will convene in October/November and set a schedule for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Resource Sharing Committee Report - Chair Becky Spratford

The Resource Sharing Committee met on August 31, 2023. The next meeting is November 13, 2023.

The Resource Sharing Committee welcomed new members Dr. Marlo Barnett, Amy Dodson, Travis Givens, and Laura Long. Monica Harris announced the hiring of new RAILS Associate Executive Director, Joe Filapek, reported that the RAILS has made information about the Decennial Committees on Local Government Efficiencies available on its website, and noted that Chicago Public Library has joined Explore More Illinois, which has dramatically increased the program's usage. Barb Miller talked through the basics and benefits of the Find More Illinois program, and she encouraged committee members to promote the program as much as possible. Harris reviewed the FY2024 operational plan, highlighting EDI efforts and RAILS' partnerships that are helping expand advocacy for libraries across the state. Harris updated the committee on the Statewide Online Educational Resource Program. The committee approved the FY2024 meeting schedule. Anna Behm presented on the RAILS e-Read program and e-content in Illinois, noting the complexities and challenges of managing access to e-content across the state.

Universal Service Committee Report - Chair Alice Creason

The Universal Service Committee met on September 7, 2023. The next meeting is December 7, 2023.

A large portion of the meeting was devoted to the introduction of new members and providing an overview of the work the committee has done in the past, the issues that it is currently working on, hearing committee feedback, and answering their questions. Joe Filapek gave an overview of the history of the issue of the Unserved population in Illinois. Monica Harris provided committee members with updates on broadband expansion initiatives as well as the statewide database project. The new members had some excellent suggestions as to the future direction the committee work might take.

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.