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July 19, 2024

RAILS Board Committee Reports

Advocacy Committee Report - Chair Monica Caldicott

The Advocacy Committee met on July 11. The next meeting will be September 19.

The committee discussed collaboration with specialized libraries. RAILS can support and advocate for specialized libraries by providing a resource to make holdings of specialized materials available. Yanikoski expressed appreciation to RAILS and ISL for the support and services they provide to specialized libraries. Harris reported on the June ILA PPC meeting and the ALA reports on legislation and intellectual freedom. The AISLE advocacy letter campaign resulted in the hiring of a librarian at Orland School District #135 after input from community members and advocacy efforts, according to a June 18, 2024 Chicago Tribune article titled "Librarians staffed below state recommended levels in some south suburban schools". The article also mentioned the RAILS SLATE dashboard. The topic for the next meeting is School Libraries and Certification.

Consortia Committee Report - Chair Thomas Stagg

The Consortia Committee met on July 15. The next meeting is October 21.

Filapek reported that the Resource Sharing Committee has reviewed and updated the RAILS Resource Sharing Plan. The Resource Sharing Plan has also been reviewed by the RAILS Policy Committee and the RAILS Board; it is being sent to the Illinois State Library for final approval. The committee approved the FY25 Consortia Committee Meeting Schedule. Harris shared that the contract for statewide database access has been finalized with EBSCO, and that libraries should respond to the surveys they received from the Illinois State Library. [Suzanna Jones](#) at the Illinois State Library can be contacted with any questions or concerns. Committee members commended RAILS, and especially Leila Heath and the RAILS Resource Sharing department, for their quick work in responding to the project. Slaughter announced that RAILS has supported the formation of a statewide library-led Digital Equity Networking Group, and that more information on the federal and state funding for the Digital Equity Act should be released in the coming month. Secretary of State's office has been tracking affordability, access issues, and internet speeds for Illinois residents and libraries. There is also investigation of the potential complications for public libraries caused by the dissolution of school district-based internet consortia as a result of the ICN program providing free connections to K-12 schools. Halter presented an updated webform for RAILCAR FY26 submissions for consortia, and the development of a more comprehensive platform to access and review the compiled data. Filapek noted that RAILS is working with a small group of libraries to determine what percentage of items are sent via delivery that are not tracked via ILS. The committee discussed the accuracy of ILS data versus fine-counts and establishing a margin of error in Delivery counts.

EDI Committee Report - Chair Dianne Hollister

There is no upcoming meeting scheduled.

Executive Committee Report - Chair Alex Vancina

There is no upcoming meeting scheduled.

Policy Committee Report – Gwen Gregory

RAILS Board Policy Committee met on June 14. The meeting schedule will be set after all Committee positions are filled.

Rather than create a fixed Social Media Policy for Trustees, the Committee decided to opt for providing up-to-date and regular training for them as part of Board education. The committee also reviewed the revisions to the Social Media Use Policy and began work on the policies related to RAILS vehicle use from the Employee Handbook.

Resource Sharing Committee Report - Chair Becky Spratford

The Resource Sharing Committee met on May 6. The meeting schedule will be set after all Committee positions are filled.

Universal Service Committee Report - Chair Alice Creason

RAILS Board Universal Service Committee met on June 6. The meeting schedule will be set after all Committee positions are filled.

They discussed updates on ISLAC activities, the statewide databases, and online educational resources provided by Monica Harris. The committee reviewed goals from the 2020 Universal Service Plan and discussed a potential 2024 revision, including redefining the definition of the “unserved.” They also discussed the IGA between Des Plaines Public Library and the Village of Rosemont and received a presentation on “paper libraries” by Joe Filapek.