

Draft Minutes

RAILS Board Advocacy Committee Meeting

July 10, 2025 | 4:00 p.m.

RAILS Burr Ridge Service Center
125 Tower Drive, Burr Ridge, IL 60527

1. Welcome and Call to Order
Carroll welcomed members and called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.
2. Roll Call of Members
Goyer called the roll of the committee members:
Present:
RAILS Burr Ridge: Jean Carroll
Engineering Systems, Inc.: Catherine Yanikoski
Rockford University: Stephanie Nissen
Shorewood-Troy Public Library District: Karen Voitik
Wilmette Public Library: Carolyn Sennett
Absent: Monica Caldicott, Dianne Hollister, Amy Walsh, Yolande Wilburn
3. Recognition of Guests and Announcements
Guests in attendance at RAILS Burr Ridge: Joe Filapek (ex-officio), Karen Goyer (minute-taker), Monica Harris (ex-officio)
Guests via Zoom: Dan Bostrom (ex-officio), Mary Davis Fournier
Harris announced Alice Creason has stepped down from the committee. She thanked Creason for her service to this committee since August 2021.
4. Public Comments
There were no public comments.
5. Adoption of the Consent Agenda
 - 5.1. Adoption of the Agenda
 - 5.2. Approval of the RAILS Board Advocacy Committee Minutes of May 8, 2025
Yanikoski moved for the approval of the consent agenda, Sennett seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

6. New Business

6.1. Library Association Challenges and Support

Mary Davis Fournier, Public Library Association (PLA) Executive Director, spoke on the topic of library association challenges and support. Challenges include providing a unified voice while advocating for the nation's libraries and adapting to changing technology. Attracting and retaining members is an important issue for library associations. Individual membership to the Public Library Association provides access to continuing education, resources, and opportunities for professional development that institutional membership does not allow. Members are an important source of information for the library association to ensure its work aligns with issues libraries are facing. Libraries can support the library associations by encouraging staff to join with an individual membership. The public may join PLA as a full member or a public supporter.

7. Reports

7.1. Institute of Museum and Library Services Update

Harris provided updates on the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), including the termination of the digital equity capacity grant, a positive ruling on E-rate funding, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals ruling that politicians have the right to remove books from public libraries, and ongoing legal challenges to IMLS staffing and funding. The decision on the renewal of IMLS is due in September.

7.2. Illinois Legislative and Advocacy Update

Harris reported on the status of bills related to broadband access, non-resident fees, opioid antagonist availability, and expanded security grants.

7.3. Aisle Advocacy Committee Report

There was no report.

7.4. ALA Annual Reports on Legislation and Intellectual Freedom Overview

Harris reviewed ALA's annual reports on legislation and intellectual freedom, noting a significant increase in book challenges and the rewriting of the Library Bill of Rights.

8. Unfinished Business

8.1. Library Issues Updates

There were no updates for discussion.

9. Meeting Recap and Agenda Building for the Next RAILS Board Advocacy Committee Meeting on September 11, 2025

The next Advocacy Committee meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, September 11, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. The topics will be school libraries and a discussion of future meeting topics.

10. Adjournment

Carroll adjourned the meeting at 4:57 p.m.