



RAILS Board Committee Reports

Advocacy Committee Report - Chair Jean Carroll

The committee met on September 11, 2025. The next meeting is on November 13, 2025.

Carolyn Kinsella, AISLE Executive Secretary, spoke on the topic of the current state of school libraries, the decrease in licensed school librarians in Illinois, and advocacy efforts AISLE has spearheaded. Kinsella noted that legislation is the best way to make improvements, and local advocacy is an important tool. Derucki gave an overview of the SLATE Project dashboard. The members discussed future committee meeting topics. Harris gave an update on the status of IMLS and reported on the legislation supported by ILA. The dates of the 2025 Legislative Meetups can be viewed at <https://www.ila.org/events/legislative-meetups>. Caldicott reported on the AISLE letter project. A letter of support is sent to the school district when a report is received of a school librarian position that is cut. Caldicott suggested the committee members help to compose a form letter for library supporters to follow up with school districts.

Consortia Committee Report - Chair Alex Vancina

The next meeting is on October 20, 2025

Executive Committee Report - TBD

There is no meeting scheduled.

Nominating Committee Report - Chair Alex Vancina

There is no meeting scheduled.

Policy Committee Report – Chair Catherine Yanikoski

The committee will meet on September 24, 2025.

Information from this meeting will be included in the October Board Committee reports.

Resource Sharing Committee Report – Jennifer Hovanec

The committee met on September 15, 2025. The next meeting is on December 8, 2025

Filapek shared that RAILS has launched a new interactive resource sharing map that can be broken down by library, library system, and county. On Wednesday, September 24, at 2:00 p.m., Grant Halter, Data Analysis Manager, will host a webinar to present the map's capabilities. There are plans to revise the 2019 Community College Library survey to gather information on how community colleges provide services to their residents and, more specifically, services to individuals without access to a public library. Barb Miller, Consortial Services Supervisor, gave an overview of Find More Illinois (FMI). Filapek reported that Illinois Public Act 104-0036 was

signed into law in August, authorizing Illinois public libraries and library districts to bill nonresident fees quarterly or biannually. Harris shared an update on federal funding and the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Lastly, committee members discussed the current state of resource sharing at their libraries.

Universal Service Committee Report - Chair Catherine Yanikoski

RAILS Board Universal Service Committee met on September 12, 2025. The next meeting is on December 5
The members reviewed and refined a community college library access survey, as well as the upcoming ILA Annual Conference panel discussion regarding the Unserved. Joe Filapek presented a legislative update. Finally, Director Scott Pointon from the White Oak Library District joined the committee meeting for a discussion of his legislative proposal focused on the unserved.