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**MINUTES**

**REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEM**

**ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MEETING**

Thursday, March 12, 2026 | 4:00 PM  
RAILS Burr Ridge and Videoconference Sites  
125 Tower Drive, Burr Ridge, IL 6057 | 630.734.5000

1. Welcome and Call to Order  
Harris welcomed members and called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.
  
2. Roll Call of Members  
Grabowski called the roll of the committee members.  
RAILS Burr Ridge: Stephanie Nissen, Emily Porter  
Cook Memorial Public Library District (Aspen Drive Library): Monica Calicott, Carolyn Sennett  
RAILS East Peoria: Ron Holohan  
Shorewood-Troy Public Library District: Karen Voitik (arrived 4:11 pm)  
Absent: Jean Carroll
  
3. Recognition of Guests and Announcements  
Guests in attendance at RAILS Burr Ridge: Monica Harris, Joe Filapek, Alice Grabowski (designated notetaker)  
Guests via Zoom: Ryan Hebel, Deborah Tomaras, Ashley Shaw, Chloe Misorski, Grant Halter, Jannette Durecki
  
4. Public comments  
Harris announced Wilburn has stepped down from the RAILS Board and will no longer be a part of the committee. Thanks were expressed for her service to Advocacy Committee since May 2024.
  
5. Adoption of the Consent Agenda
  - 5.1. Adoption of the Agenda
  - 5.2. Approval of the RAILS Board Advocacy Minutes of January 8, 2026

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Porter moved for the approval of the consent agenda, Sennett seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

6. New Business

6.1. Report of the ALA Core Subject Analysis Committee Working Group on \$v Retention Tomaras, Shaw, and Misorski from the American Library Association (ALA) Subject Analysis Committee (SAC) Working Group on Subfield V (\$v) Retention reported on the negative impacts on libraries and patrons upon the removal of \$v from cataloging. In February 2026, The Library of Congress removed \$V from most of their new cataloging, will not allow new \$v proposals, and will no longer commit to maintaining authority records with \$v. The working group released a report using library demographics, current public catalog functionality, and potential library procedural impacts (based off a survey completed on 699 library responses including various types of libraries across 36 U.S. states and several continents). The importance of \$v was reviewed within cataloging including the impact on catalog searches leading to diminished collection accessibility. Recommendations presented are to continue providing form submissions in all bibliographic records and committing broad based outreach to include libraries involved in decision making. A request for library organizations to support the Working Group's report recommendations via endorsement.

6.2. RAILS Data Resources for Advocacy

Halter and Derucki presented on RAILS Data Resources for Advocacy including the Illinois Libraries of Impact Data Study which created parallels between libraries and other industries/activities to demonstrate the value and impact on communities. Additionally, the Rails Resource Sharing Map, the RAILS Annual Report, the School Library Advocacy Through Education (SLATE) Data Dashboard, and the use of data supporting local and legislative issues were discussed. Data reports, dashboards, and maps can be found on the RAILS website.

7. Reports

7.1. Federal Legislative and Advocacy Update

Harris stated Congress is now considering the budget for FY2027, ALA members are asked to contact their representatives to sign on to the Dear Appropriation letters to fund library services and technology. Federal bill HR 7661 on book banning was addressed.

7.2. Illinois Legislative and Advocacy Update

Harris reviewed IL HB5236 eBook bill, noting Illinois Library Association (ILA) hosted a network program on March 11, 2026, on details and important next steps. The upcoming House hearing date for this bill was announced. IL HB3411 on Open Educational Resources (OER) grant funding, IL HB4261 on amending the Illinois Library System Act funding, and IL

HB 4888 to Amend the Local Records Act were highlighted. The ILA has a full bill list on their website.

#### 7.3. AISLE Advocacy Committee Report

Caldicott spoke on the Association of Illinois School Library Educators (AISLE) advocacy. Main topics are staffing time for many school districts, elimination of positions, and the lack of replacements of staff retirements. AISLE advocates are sending letters and asking for community support to go to school boards on the importance of school librarians. An ask of public librarians in these communities to add their voice is underway. Regional Offices of Education (ROE) was mentioned as a possible avenue to create more support.

#### 7.4. National Library Legislative Day conference report

National Legislative Day in Washington, DC on February 25-26, 2026, was attended by Harris, Nissen, and Porter. It was reported that ALA is doing amazing things emphasizing a wonderful learning and empowering experience. All had the opportunity to speak with several state Representatives and Senators. Some gaps were noted along with the valuable benefit this event provided. ALA had three requests for support needed: to fully fund the Library Services and Technology Act, to fully fund the Innovative Approaches to Literacy Act, and to protect and strengthen the Federal Communication Commission's E-Rate program.

#### 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 May 14, 2026

The next Advocacy Committee meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, May 14, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. The topic will be eBooks Advocacy.

#### 10. Adjournment

Harris adjourned the meeting at 5:09 p.m.