

**RAILS Board Committee Reports****June 18, 2026*****Advocacy Committee report - Chair Jean Carroll***

The committee met on May 14, 2026. The next meeting is not yet scheduled.

The advocacy efforts on the eBook legislation campaign were reported on by Aaron Skog and Sara Murray from ILA PPC. Many steps were taken with the help of Derek Blada, legislative consultant of ILA, along with the formation of several teams. Derucki and Silva provided an overview of the school librarian staffing challenges. A working group will be launched to create a school advocacy kit, which will include statements and support resources. Harris reported on the status of IMLS funding, E-rate restrictions, HR 7661 on book banning, and HB 4261, the proposed bill on increasing annual grants. AISLE advocacy was presented by Gail Meyer who put in a request that RAILS provides a statement for public library directors to help in advocacy efforts.

Consortia Committee Report – Chair Alex Vancina

The next meeting is scheduled for July 13, 2026.

Executive Committee Report – Chair Gwen Gregory

No meetings scheduled.

Nominating Committee Report – Chair Alex Vancina

The next meeting is on June 3, 2026. No additional meetings are scheduled.

Harris announced that 247 ballots had been counted for the 15 candidates running for six seats on the RAILS Board, starting in July 2026. The six elected trustees to the RAILS Board were presented and ratified by the committee. After discussion on building the slate of officers for the 2027 fiscal year, a vote was taken to approve the proposed slate. Vancina thanked everyone for their work and willingness to serve on the committee. The slate of officers will be presented, discussed, and voted on at the July Board Meeting.

Policy Committee Report – Chair Catherine Yanikoski

The Policy Committee met on Wednesday, May 27, 2026. The next meeting is on June 24, 2026.

The Policy Committee voted to recommend the following policies for board review: Remote Work, Employment Classifications, Compensatory Time, Hours of Work, Performance Review,

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Salary Adjustments, and Termination of Employment. The committee voted to recommend the removal of the On-Call policy from the Employee Handbook. The ADA Grievance Procedure, Personal Appearance, Complaint Reporting Process, and Welcome to RAILS policies were reviewed and edits were suggested.

Resource Sharing Committee Report – Chair Jennifer Hovanec

The committee met on June 8, 2026. The next meeting is on September 14, 2026.

Filapek welcomed new committee member, Kelly McCully from Bourbonnais Public Library District, who is filling a vacancy. Filapek announced that RAILS Strategic Plan survey results are being reviewed, and that results of the RAILS Board election are forthcoming. Filapek and Harris updated on the priorities of the Illinois State Advisory Committee (ISLAC), including a new group that will be convening to address residents unserved by public libraries in Illinois. Barb Miller, Consortial Services Supervisor, gave an overview of Find More Illinois (FMI). Harris and Filapek detailed the status of current state legislation and hopes for more progress to occur in the fall veto session. In unfinished business, Filapek shared the Community College Survey Results, gathered at the behest of the Universal Service Committee. Suzanna Jones from the Illinois State Library gave an overview of the Statewide Database program, which is now known as Illinois Reliable Information Sources (IRIS). The Resource Sharing Committee approved a draft meeting schedule for FY2027. Filapek reviewed the committee composition for FY2027, and thanked members who are at the end of their terms.

Universal Service Committee Report – Catherine Yanikoski

The committee met on June 5, 2026. The next meeting is on September 4, 2026.

The committee reviewed the 2024 Universal Service plan and the action item assignment. Filapek reported on legislative updates and on the current RAILS Strategic planning. The committee reviewed potential advocacy and legislative initiatives related to service for the unserved, including possible proposals for the ILA Public Policy Committee, and discussed the opportunities and challenges presented by each. Discussion on FY2027 membership occurred. The FY2027 schedule was approved.