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May 24, 2024

RAILS Board Committee Reports

Advocacy Committee Report - Chair Monica Caldicott

The Advocacy Committee met on May 9, 2024. The committee welcomed new member, Yolande Wilburn. Harris gave a presentation on safety and security in libraries followed by a discussion on how RAILS can help libraries prepare. It is important for libraries to have a disaster plan in place before an incident occurs. Harris outlined types of disasters, preparedness tips, and emergency management in Illinois Libraries. Committee members identified ways RAILS can assist libraries: provide a toolkit, a list of resources for mental health training for library staff, and identify a tool that would track related multiple incidents and provide a witness report form.

The FY25 meeting schedule was approved. Harris reported on the status of bills the committee has been following. Walsh reported on the AISLE Advocacy committee.

The next meeting is July 11, 2024. The topic is Collaboration with Specialized libraries.

Consortia Committee Report - Chair Thomas Stagg

The next meeting will be July 15, 2024.

EDI Committee Report - Chair Dianne Hollister

The next meeting is June 18, 2024.

Executive Committee Report - Chair Alex Vancina

There is no upcoming meeting scheduled.

Policy Committee Report – Gwen Gregory

The RAILS Board Policy Committee met on May 17, 2024 and approved the Meeting Via Electronic Means Policy as well as the updated Resource Sharing Plan for presentation to the full Board. They also began work on drafting two new policies – RAILS Board of Directors Use of Social Media and RAILS Artificial Intelligence Use Policy.

The next meeting is June 14, 2024.

Resource Sharing Committee Report - Chair Becky Spratford

The Resource Sharing Committee met on May 6 at 10:00am. The next meeting will be determined at a later date. Filapek announced the hiring of Member Engagement Specialist, Jessica Silva, who has a strong background in academic and school libraries. He also noted the receipt of two new box trucks, and the hope

that more will be received before the end of the fiscal year. Miller reported that the first group of CCS libraries has completed their Find More Illinois training, and the second group will begin training in the early summer. The following libraries have recently gone live within the program: Farmington Area Public Library, Lake Park School District, Oglesby Public Library, Prairie Area Public Library, and Gail Borden Public Library. Filapek reported that bids for the Online Educational Resources Program RFP are under review, and an announcement should be made any day. The committee approved the RAILS Resource Sharing Plan as presented to be brought to the RAILS Policy Committee. Filapek and Hatch discussed the development of a delivery survey that would be shared with select libraries across our LLSAPs. Data from this survey will be used to determine the feasibility of using ILS data in place of the quarterly delivery count process. Slaughter reported on broadband and digital equity in Illinois, including how federal grant money that is allocated to the state may be distributed. She offered resources to stay informed on digital equity in Illinois, including broadbandforlibraries.com, the [Broadband Pulse Page](#) on the RAILS website, and subscribe to the [Illinois Office of Broadband](#) newsletter.

Universal Service Committee Report - Chair Alice Creason

The next meeting is June 6, 2024.

Nominating Committee Report - Chair Thomas Stagg

The committee met on April 30, 2024. The next meeting is June 4, 2024.

The committee reviewed the election process and discussed the 17 nominations received for this year. The election portal opened Wednesday, May 8 and will close Friday, May 24 at 5 pm. We received 10 nominations for 2 open At-large seats and 7 nominations for 3 open Public library trustee seats.