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Agenda item 7.2

March 27, 2026

RAILS Board Committee Reports

Advocacy Committee Report - Chair Jean Carroll

The committee met on March 12, 2026. The next meeting is on May 14, 2026

Harris thanked Yolande Wilburn for her service on the committee as she is stepping down. Deborah Tomaras, Ashley Shaw, and Chloe Misorski from the ALA Subject Analysis Working Group on \$v Retention discussed the changes that The Library of Congress is proposing with the elimination of subfield v (\$v) from cataloging standards. A survey of librarians was completed, a negative impact on users was found. Recommendation for RAILS to adopt a resolution regarding this change will be considered and presented to the RAILS Board of Directors. Grant Halter and Janette Derucki presented on RAILS Data Resources for Advocacy including the Illinois Libraries of Impact Data Study, Rails Resource Sharing Map, RAILS Annual Report, SLATE Data Dashboard, and the use of data supporting local and legislative issues. A report on National Library Legislative Day was given by Monica Harris, Stephanie Nissen, and Emily Porter. 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. Federal US H.R. 7661 on book banning was addressed. Additionally, four Illinois House Bills were highlighted: IL HB 5236 Digital Library Protection Act, IL HB 3411 grant funding for OER, IL HB 4261 to amend the Illinois Library system Act funding, and IL HB 4888 to amend the Local Records Act. Caldicott shared AISLE is reaching out to communities and public libraries for support on the importance of having a licensed school librarian in every school. The committee will meet on May 14, 2026. The topic will be eBook Advocacy.

Consortia Committee Report - Chair Alex Vancina

The next meeting is on April 20, 2026

Executive Committee Report – Chair Gwen Gregory

The committee met on March 5, 2026. Future meetings are to be determined.

The Executive Committee reviewed and requested minimal edits to the Succession Plan. One change was to have the plan reviewed by the full board triennially, with the Executive Director reviewing annually. They completed the annual review of the Ethical AI Policy and requested that no changes be made. Lastly, the committee reviewed the Executive Director's evaluation process. After discussion, the committee decided to move the review and vote on the Executive Director's yearly goals from July to June.

Nominating Committee Report - Chair Alex Vancina

The committee met on March 19, 2026. The next meeting is on April 30, 2026.

This was the first meeting of the Nominating Committee for the 2026 RAILS Board elections. After introductions, Harris touched base on the committee members' responsibilities, the Bylaws, and reviewed the RAILS Board Member Job Description. Bostrom reviewed the nomination form and mentioned that a candidate can apply to only one open seat. There was a discussion on recruitment techniques and a review of the election timeline.

Policy Committee Report – Chair Catherine Yanikoski

The committee met on February 25, 2026. The next meeting is on March 25, 2026.

The Policy Committee voted to recommend the following policies for board review: Personal Relationships in the Workplace, Receipt of Fraudulent Email, Voting Leave, and Jury Duty. The FOIA, Outside Employment, General Leave of Absence, Funeral/Bereavement Leave, School Visitation Leave, FMLA, Nursing Mothers, and Organ Donation policies were reviewed and edits were suggested.

Resource Sharing Committee Report – Chair Jennifer Hovanec

The committee met on March 9, 2026. The next meeting is on June 8, 2026.

Filapek announced the resignation of Beth Ryan from the Resource Sharing Committee due to medical reasons; We thank Beth for her service and commitment to this committee. Filapek shared the new L2 Onboarding Handout. Barb Miller, Consortial Services Supervisor, gave an overview of Find More Illinois (FMI). Harris shared that progress is fast moving for more favorable eBook pricing in Illinois with HB 5236, The Digital Library Protection Act, and advised library staff and patrons to submit witness support slips when advised by ILA. Library Resource Specialists, Maggie Thomann and Kortni Springer, gave an update on Deals & Discounts programming, including information on the new RAILS Deals & Discounts email list. Mark Hatch, Delivery and Facilities Director, gave an overview of RAILS Delivery. Committee members discussed trends within delivery service and offered insight into patron expectations of interlibrary loan.

Universal Service Committee Report - Chair Catherine Yanikoski

RAILS Board Universal Committee met on March 13th. The next meeting is scheduled for June 5th, 2026

Members reviewed the results of the recent survey of Community Colleges and action items from the 2024 Universal Service Plan. They familiarized themselves with a previous legislative effort to increase access to library services and with non-resident library card regulations.