



Illinois Heartland Library System

MEMO TO: IHLS Executive Committee
FROM: Leslie M. Bednar
DATE: April 12, 2022
RE: FY2023 Board Meetings

As gathering restrictions ease it may be time to consider what in-person meetings look like in the new post-COVID landscape. We would like to discuss options for returning to in-person board meetings and how to optimize board director participation. Here is some information that may aid in that conversation.

IHLS Bylaws

Article IV, Section 11, Meetings states:

- a minimum of nine regular meetings per year with date, time and location determined at the July board meeting (historically we have established those dates at the May board meeting)
- all board and committee meetings are conducted in full compliance of the [Open Meetings Act](#) (5 ILCS 120/1 et seq.) and the [IHLS Policy on Meetings via Electronic Means](#)

IHLS Member Libraries

We reached out to several member libraries regarding their return to in-person meetings and this is what we learned:

- Carbondale Public Library is now meeting in person
- Decatur Public Library board is now meeting in person
- Effingham Public Library is now meeting in person
- Six Mile Regional Library District is now meeting in person

Additionally, Diana Sussman (Director, Carbondale Public Library) offered this regarding the challenges of hybrid meetings: Here is the response from Diana Sussman:

We were meeting virtually, but we are going back to in-person this month. We had a couple of in-person meetings last year, and some members attended by Zoom because they could not come. That said, doing a hybrid meeting is difficult. Attendees on Zoom had a hard time hearing us. We finally figured out what equipment would work best, so we think we are well-equipped to do hybrid now, as needed.

Regional and Statewide Organizations

As per the Open Meetings Act, specifically 5 ILCS 120.7, meeting attendance by means other than a physical presence does not apply to Illinois library systems with a service area over 4,500 miles and State advisory boards who do not have the authority to make binding

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recommendations or determinations, we can share with you the approach taken by our sister library system RAILS (Reaching Across Illinois Library System):

--RAILS offers in-person at Burr Ridge, Coal Valley and East Peoria system locations. All others may attend via Zoom.

We reached out to a state advisory board and hope to have their reply to share at our meeting.

We are happy to look at additional agencies in this category to provide a more comprehensive picture if you prefer.

Thank you. I look forward to our conversation next week.