**Health Science Librarians of Illinois Legislative Committee Report**

**Prepared by Eric Edwards (former Chair)**

**May 29, 2015 (for HSLI Board meeting on June 22, 2015)**

1. Committee Members—Eric Edwards (previously of Benedictine University at Springfield, currently at Illinois State Library)—former Chair
2. Current Projects--I submitted my resignation from the Legislative Committee on April 29. Since I am now employed by the Illinois Secretary of State, I cannot be involved on work time, or as a representative of the State Library outside of work, with anything that would amount to “political activity”, including advocacy. I would like sincerely to thank the Board for the opportunity to serve as Co-Chair, and then Chair, of the Legislative Committee for the past three-and-a-half years. It has been my most rewarding experience as a professional librarian, and the skills and connections I have gained through my service on the Committee have enabled me to become further involved with HSLI and other professional library organizations.
3. Other Current Projects—I believe that HSLI should, if possible, continue to have a Legislative Committee, especially since advocacy on behalf of libraries is particularly crucial in the current economic climate and given the Illinois budget situation. I would recommend that the Board put out a call for volunteers, if it decides that doing so would be the appropriate course of action. If the Board does need a specific recommendation, I would like to nominate Nicole Helregel, who was one of the student interns at last year’s conference and is (currently?) pursuing a Certificate of Advanced Study at the University of Illinois’s Graduate School of Library and Information Science. Ms. Helregel was featured in the March 31 edition of *AL Direct* for her advocacy efforts to keep federal funding for the Institute of Museum and Library Services. (The article itself can be found at <http://hacklibraryschool.com/2015/03/31/reaching-out-to-politicians/>) Even though I’ve met her at just last year’s conference, it is clear that she has a knowledge of, and enthusiasm for, legislative advocacy and would be a valuable addition to the HSLI Board.
4. Board Action Items—None, unless the Board deems it necessary to act immediately on Item 3.
5. Attached Items—None

Respectfully submitted by Eric Edwards, former Committee Chair, on May 29, 2015.