



220 W. 23rd Ave.
Coal Valley, IL 61240
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PrairieCat Administrative Council Brief January 7, 2026

Membership update

- There has been some interest among the Union List membership regarding upgrading. Annawan-Alba, Bureau Valley CUSD, Forreston Public Library. Herscher CUSD is interested in becoming an ILL barcode library.
- PrairieCat has had 11 new directors at member libraries in the last quarter, mostly due to retirements. The next New Directors Welcome will be March 10th.
- PrairieCat wrapped up the mobile app implementation project with a survey. Overall, the feedback was very positive, and people were satisfied with the project implementation.
- PrairieCat will then begin working on the account portal account linking switch, which has been moved to February.

Administrative issues

- Review and discussion, draft FY2027 budget and fees
Two versions of the proposed budget for FY27 were presented. The first includes a 3% staff salary increase (COLA) and 1% merit increase for all staff. The second removes the COLA increase from the director's salary but retains the merit increase of 1%.
- Both budgets show an increase to the library fee and hosting fee of 3% increase over last year. Reserves were calculated at approximately 2% of expenditure. Coulter highlighted that these budgets include a remote PUG Day, and a significant increase to insurance.
- On instruction from the Administrative Council, PrairieCat will present a budget with a 1% reserve savings instead of 2% at the upcoming Delegates Assembly meeting.
- The Council voted to approve the closed meeting minutes from the last 18 months remain closed.
- The sunsetting of Encore will happen on July 1, 2026. Communications to the membership about this will go out at the end of March or beginning of April.
- The Council agreed to offer the sale of the remaining old laptops to the staff and any remaining post for sale on the RAILS website.
- The Council agreed with the January Delegates Assembly agenda as presented.
- The Council agreed to add North Suburban as a Delegates Assembly meeting location for FY27.

Ad Hoc Committee updates

- The Finance Committee met on Dec 18, 2025, and discussed the draft FY27 budget.



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Next meeting - Friday, February 6, 2026, at the Reddick Public Library District