William (Bill) Coffee, Treasurer of the La Grange Public Library Board of Trustees and Vice President of the Reaching Across Illinois Libraries System (RAILS) Board of Trustees is the recipient of the 2014 Illinois Library Association Trustee of the Year Award.

This citation is awarded to a public library trustee for achievement, leadership, and service to libraries. The award is sponsored by Bradbury Associates/Gossage Sager Associates, in honor of Don Sager (of Gossage Sager) and Sarah Long. Bill Coffee has served as a member of the La Grange Public Library Board of Trustees for ten years, including three years as President of the Board. As President he oversaw the building of a new library, and led the search for a new director.

In addition to his involvement with the La Grange Public Library, Bill Coffee has served as a member of the Metropolitan Library System (MLS) Board and the Merger Transition Board for Reaching Across Illinois Library System. MLS trustees elected him as President of their board and he was instrumental in the merger of five separate library systems into RAILS. Mr. Coffee served as RAILS Board Secretary and Chair of the Policy Committee and is currently Vice President of RAILS and Chair of the Policy Committee.

Bill Coffee is a tireless worker and advocate for public libraries. He exemplifies excellence in library trusteeship and is a role model for all trustees.

The Trustee of the Year Award will be presented at the Illinois Library Association Annual Conference Awards Luncheon on Tuesday, October 14, 2014 at 12:00 noon at the Prairie Capital Convention Center in Springfield, Illinois.

For further information, contact the Illinois Library Association.