

REPORTER

ILLINOIS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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The Illinois Library Association Reporter

is a forum for those who are improving and reinventing Illinois libraries, with articles that seek to: explore new ideas and practices from all types of libraries and library systems; examine the challenges facing the profession; and inform the library community and its supporters with news and comment about important issues. The *ILA Reporter* is produced and circulated with the purpose of enhancing and supporting the value of libraries, which provide free and equal access to information. This access is essential for an open democratic society, an informed electorate, and the advancement of knowledge for all people.



Photo credit: Fidencio Marbella

ON THE COVER

Every article in this issue focuses on some aspect of libraries collaborating with one another, and with other community organizations, to maximize what can do for the people we serve. From public and school library collaboration about summer reading, to PBS partnering with public libraries on the Great American Read, to communities coming together to support veterans, libraries have always sought to increase our impact through working with others. Here, Westchester Public Library patrons learn kayaking basics on Thatcher Glen Pond in River Forest, Illinois in a program the library conducts with the Greater Maywood Paddling Program and the Forest Preserve District of Cook County. These two paddlers are learning a lesson librarians already know well, from experience: You can get further, faster, by working together toward a common goal. Neither one would get far in this kayak without the other, or by paddling in opposite directions!

The Illinois Library Association is the voice for Illinois libraries and the millions who depend on them. It provides leadership for the development, promotion, and improvement of library services in Illinois and for the library community in order to enhance learning and ensure access to information for all. It is the eighth oldest library association in the world and the third largest state association in the United States, with members in academic, public, school, government, and special libraries. Its 3,000 members are primarily librarians and library staff, but also trustees, publishers, and other supporters.

The Illinois Library Association has four full-time staff members. It is governed by a sixteen-member executive board, made up of elected officers. The association employs the services of Blaida and Associates for legislative advocacy. ILA is a 501(c)(3) charitable and educational organization.

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Illinois Library Association

33 W. Grand Ave., Ste. 401 | Chicago, IL 60654-6799

phone: 312-644-1896 | fax: 312-644-1899

email: ila@ila.org | www.ila.org

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The Great American Read: Broadcasters and Libraries Generate a Public Celebration of Books

“While 21st century libraries offer innovative services such as 3-D printing, maker spaces, recording studios, coding programs and more, books have always been our bread and butter, and *The Great American Read* offers a unique opportunity to focus on what libraries have been built upon: the love and appreciation of reading.” —Kara Kohn, Plainfield Public Library District

For the first time, Americans are participating in a national discussion about reading and voting for the best-loved book. *The Great American Read* on PBS is all about what we love to read and why we love to read. The PBS eight-part television series, featuring host Meredith Vieira, debuted in May 2018. Demonstrating unparalleled enthusiasm for this campaign, participants cast one million votes in the month following the broadcast premiere episode. In each episode this autumn, key authors, celebrities, and notable figures in the entertainment, sports, news, and literary worlds join Vieira in lending their voices and passion to *The Great American Read*. Program episodes offer background and insights on a broad range of 100 fictional titles, authors, time periods, countries, genres, and subject matter. The list includes books from the 1600s to the present. From beloved world literature to contemporary best sellers, many categories are represented: 20th-century American classics, thrillers, young adult novels, science fiction and fantasy, adventure, historical fiction, romantic stories, and books that represent the human experience told from a diverse range of perspectives. PBS compiled the book list through an independent public opinion poll in consultation with an advisory panel of literary industry experts. There are several ways for the public to vote: on *The Great American Read* website, on Facebook and Twitter

using the hashtag #GreatReadPBS, through text messaging, and through a toll-free call. Voting continues until October 18. The campaign culminates on October 23, 2018, in a one-hour, prime time, finale episode that counts down to the top book.

Spontaneous participation in *The Great American Read* is appearing in a variety of settings and across media platforms. People from all walks of life are sharing their title recommendations and critiques through online book clubs and social media groups. Informal, friendly competitions arise as individuals check off the titles they've read from the list of the top 100 novels and compare their opinions about the books with others. Online and face-to-face conversations often touch on comparisons between a book and a film of the same title. People are extolling the benefits of *The Great American Read* in terms of bringing us together, instead of dividing us along political lines. People report that they're reading a greater number of books in genres outside of their comfort zone, and enjoying them more, by engaging with others during this campaign. They claim that adults seen reading books make better role models for children. Many people feel they are getting smarter, perhaps even raising their IQ, by participating in *The Great American Read*.

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ILLUSTRATION BY JEFFREY FLAGG

WE WANT YOU



PBS

the
GREAT
American
READ

#GreatReadPBS

LIBRARIES GETTING INVOLVED

The American Library Association (ALA), community libraries, public media stations, and partners nationwide joined together to celebrate *The Great American Read* in this multi-platform campaign organized by PBS. Two Illinois libraries submitted competitive proposals and received grant awards from ALA to conduct community programming: Peoria Public Library and Plainfield Public Library District. Staff members at these libraries share their campaign ideas in radio and television interviews and in conversation with local public media stations. With book titles such as *Atlas Shrugged* and *Siddhartha*, *The Help*, and *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, *Lonesome Dove*, and *Little Women*, there is no shortage of subject matter to discuss.

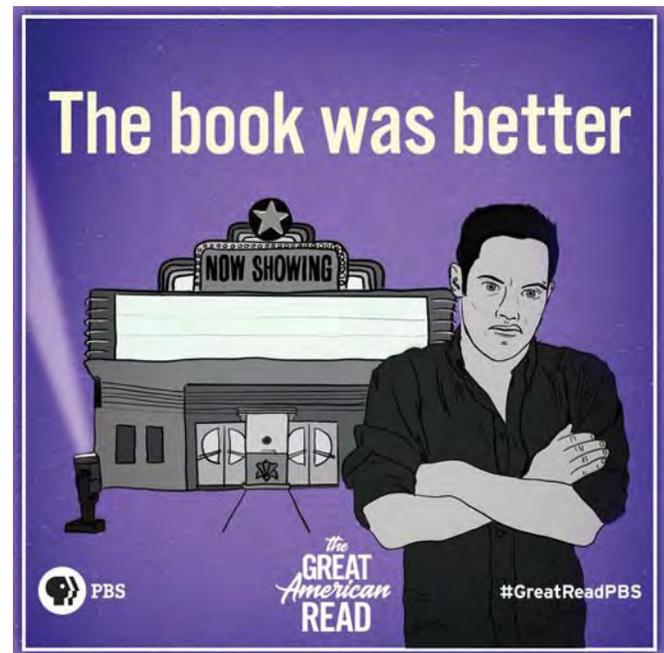
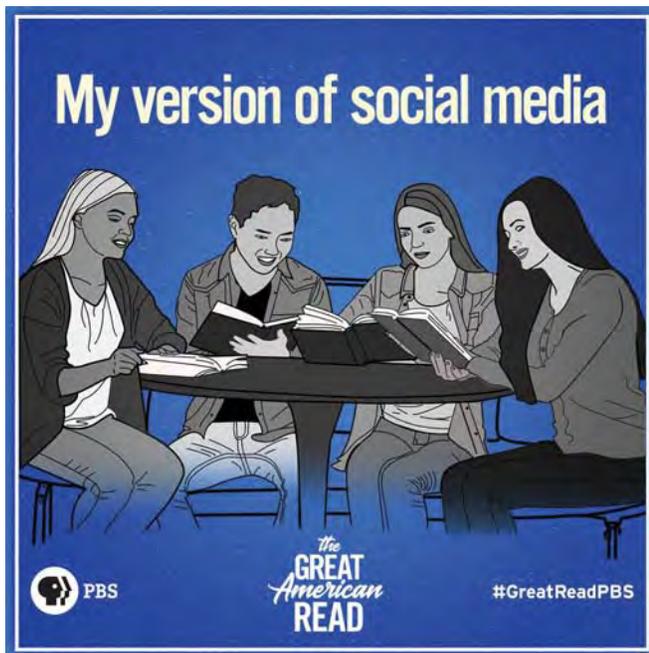
A POWER BOOST FOR LIBRARY PROGRAMS

According to Kara Kohn, head of reference and readers services at Plainfield Public Library District, *The Great American Read* offers an opportunity to focus on love of reading and appreciation for books. Public participation in *The Great American Read* is expressed through ongoing book clubs and English-language learning sessions, film screenings, parties with PBS KIDS characters, food and recipe exchanges, trivia contests, book displays, and expert writer seminars, among other activities organized and facilitated by the library. Plainfield Public Library District plans a viewing party of the live finale broadcast on PBS

in October. Staff members say *The Great American Read* provides a boost of attention to their library, which is seen as the place to find and talk about the books everyone loves. *The Great American Read* grant award from ALA provides the library with a way to strengthen its programming and community partnerships.

A SPARK OF DISCOVERY— BOOKS OLD AND NEW

Another grant award winner, Peoria Public Library, offers a variety of programs associated with *The Great American Read* in each of its five locations. A team consisting of deputy director Roberta Koscielski, manager of public relations Trisha Noack, manager of programs Alyce Jackson, and programming librarian Karla Wilkinson held an initial meeting with representatives from WTVR, the local PBS station, to map out the grant application. The combined team is excited about the opportunity to build broadcast promotion spots into the project. Using campaign materials provided by ALA and PBS, library staff members create rotating displays with books and large posters of *The Great American Read* selections. Posters are placed on easels and library visitors use heart stickers to cast their votes for favorite book titles. During the summer reading program, many heart stickers were given to such children's book favorites as *Charlotte's Web*. The summer reading program concluded with a party for more than 850 people at Peoria Riverfront Museum, where the Harry Potter book series received the top number of votes.



Book clubs and discussion groups are part of the mix for many libraries participating in *The Great American Read*. In Peoria, Dr. Melinda McBee Orzulak of Bradley University leads local discussion on the theme “Who Am I?” She comments on characters pursuing journeys of discovery in young adult novels to help readers make sense of their own lives. Another theme in *The Great American Read* addresses monsters and villains, and why we like to read about them. Colleen Karn of Methodist College explores the idea that, in literature, not all monsters are the bad guys. Using examples from the book list, Karn illustrates how monsters aren’t always the villains—often human beings are. Engagement with *The Great American Read* continues into the following year, when a group of lifelong learners will meet at the library to discuss books from the list.

INPUT AND ENTHUSIASM FROM LIBRARIES LARGE AND SMALL

WSIU Public Broadcasting, the PBS affiliate station headquartered in southernmost Illinois, offers a downloadable toolkit to encourage and support library involvement with *The Great American Read* campaign. The toolkit offers everything a library needs to engage the public with appealing images and messages about books and reading. It contains a campaign promotional fact sheet, book lists for adults and children, audiovisual recording instructions and tips, video testimonial samples, consent form, social media posts, and graphics package. The toolkit is available through library listservs and on social media, so that librarians can encourage and support book lovers in sharing their personal stories during the campaign this fall. WSIU’s library partners have an important role in developing the toolkits. Susan Tulis, associate dean of information services at Morris Library, the primary academic library on the Southern Illinois University campus, provides input to facilitate distribution of WSIU’s toolkit to libraries. Kristina Benson, director of DuQuoin Public Library, and Diana Brawley Sussman, director of Carbondale Public Library, also provide significant support as advisors and community partners with WSIU.

The response has been tremendous: Librarians jump right in, uploading video book reports from the field to WSIU, which are shared on the public television and radio broadcast channels, online, and on social media such as Facebook and Twitter. Miriam Richardson, assistant librarian at Eldorado Memorial Library District, shares her love for the children’s title *Echo* by Pam Muñoz Ryan, which Miriam enjoys on audiobook. WSIU records short book reports from children in Eldorado’s summer reading program. Other libraries connect with WSIU staff to help spread the word about *The Great American Read*.

- The cornerstone of library involvement with *The Great American Read* is the Library Toolkit, which can be downloaded along with one designed for teachers at www.wsiu.org/greatreadpbs.
- Vote! And encourage patrons to do so, at www.pbs.org/the-great-american-read/vote/.
- To access more free resources for teaching and learning, visit www.pbslearningmedia.org and enter the search term “The Great American Read” to review digital results for all grade levels and subject areas that align standards-based learning curricula with the top books.
- PBS Digital Studios offers an amusing online video series, “It’s Lit,” to expand upon the philosophy, history, and psychology behind the top books. This video library is accessed through *The Great American Read* website. Videos cover topics including the evolution of young adult genre in literature and how sci-fi is a mirror of society.
- Get social! Libraries throughout Illinois can connect with *The Great American Read* on Facebook, Instagram, and Pinterest. You can also watch the original digital series on YouTube and Facebook Watch. Use #GreatReadPBS.

Libraries today offer maker spaces, access to technology, and circulation of items well beyond books, but books, reading, and literature remain a cornerstone of library services and are an aspect of librarianship firmly ensconced in the public psyche. *The Great American Read* provides a broad-based, accessible way for libraries to celebrate their legacy of literacy and reading, to engage long-time library users, and attract new patrons of all ages. **ILA**

Keep Your Bundt Pans— We've Got Kayaks!

In recent years, the “library of things” movement has gained a lot of traction in Illinois libraries. This movement refers to libraries loaning items well outside the traditional realm of books and audiovisual materials. Popular collections now include toys and games, camping equipment, and fishing gear, along with neckties and other fashion accessories. And, perhaps most notably, it includes specialized cooking equipment and novelty bakeware. Whether due to retro kitsch or genuine utility, the humble bundt pan is enjoying the limelight, if only as a hip, tongue-in-cheek reference point. The Westchester Library appreciates the broader sharing economy and has dabbled in special collections itself. But we also seriously question if such “libraries of things” are truly transformational. Are non-traditional collections really such a breakthrough, or do they only have the air of innovation? After all, there is a tradition going back decades of libraries lending “things,” such as art prints, tools, and even plants. Is lending a bundt pan significantly different than lending a book? Can these collections be taken a step further? We arrived at our affirmative answer to the latter question through the Forest Preserve District of Cook County (FPDCC) this year. Our experience partnering with the FPDCC on its Greater Maywood Paddling Program kayak gear library has convinced us that for libraries to extend their reach through truly innovative, non-traditional means they must offer their patrons more than things—they must offer experiential access.

The Westchester Library is a frequent collaborator with local organizations, and it was in the early stages of planning a spring field trip to a forest preserve facility that we learned about the Greater Maywood Paddling Program. The FPDCC had recently won a CBS EcoMedia Grant that called for environmentally friendly programs focusing on wellness. The FPDCC used grant funds to purchase a fleet of kayaks and equipment to train leaders from schools and community organizations to become proficient paddle leaders, so they, in turn, could take those they serve down the Des Plaines River on kayak trips. Recognizing the chance to offer patrons something truly special, we took the plunge.

Last spring, four library staff members with no prior kayaking experience completed many hours of hands-on training with FPDCC outdoor recreation specialists. We then began offering our own kayaking adventures in May and quickly saw that this was much more than a special program. The Westchester Library could offer our patrons a dynamic, innovative way to enrich their lives through a free kayaking experience—an experience most of them would not otherwise have.

We marketed our kayaking adventures accordingly and learned that interest exceeded our capacity to accommodate everyone. With just twelve kayaks (six solo, six tandem), open registration was not feasible. Instead, we have had to implement a lottery system to ensure equitable access for all community members. Additionally, as a key feature of our kayaking programs is to provide access to a new experience, we decided to limit these events only to those without prior kayaking experience.

Library staff used the training they received from the FPDCC as a template for teaching our patrons. We start with a one-day orientation and training class on Thatcher Glen Pond located at the Trailside Museum of Natural History in River Forest, Illinois. This class consists of hands-on, on-water practice in paddling, navigation, safety, and launching and landing in both solo and tandem kayaks. Training is followed by a six-mile, two-hour excursion down the Des Plaines River, beginning at Maywood Grove in Maywood, Illinois, and ending at Plank Road Meadow in Lyons, Illinois. These river trips are much more challenging as they are more complex. Participants must negotiate variables not present on the pond, such as currents, overpasses, and other infrastructural obstacles. They also encounter natural obstacles like shoals and fallen trees. Patrons are also responsible for keeping a careful pace to maintain their positions between staff members leading the group and those in the sweep position (at the rear of the fleet). Most critically, patrons have a key role in passing navigation signals to fellow participants behind them. After beaching their kayaks at trip's end, each patron is responsible for assisting the other paddlers to ensure that everyone comes ashore safely.



“As a key feature of our kayaking programs is to provide access to a new experience, we decided to limit these events only to those without prior kayaking experience.”

While Westchester Library has healthy attendance at our usual programs, one of the aims of our kayaking adventures is to engage new library users. Beginning with our first class on the pond, we saw the potential to reach residents not currently part of our library community. In the village newspaper, a staff kayaker’s column invited new users to come to a library program with a twist—a program in which they could be active participants rather than passive receivers. Roughly half of those active participants have been either non-cardholders or non-regular library users. Participants who are regular library users frequently reach out to friends and family within the community who are not, to join in the kayaking experience. Staff has also noticed a proportionate increase in likes, follows, and other engagements across our Facebook pages. Perhaps most notably, because these new users must come into the building to enter the kayaking lottery, sign waivers, and pick up waterway maps, they frequently browse our collection, use the public computer stations, and inquire about other upcoming programs and library services.

As effective as our kayaking initiative is in bringing new users to the library, it has been just as effective in transcending our typical demographic reach. Since we offer kayaking adventures for children, teens, adults, and families, these events draw users from as young as seven years old to empty nesters. We have also engaged a range of new users from the Latino, African American, Eastern

European, and various special needs communities. Our proudest feature of this initiative is how it levels the playing field for all participants. We have had a patron with significant physical disabilities paddle alongside a college football player. A teen with autism enjoyed very friendly conversation with a home-schooled peer while sharing a tandem kayak with his mother. Because these are experience-based programs in the context of a new activity, our kayaking events provide all participants a fair and equal chance of enjoyment and success.

Now, can “libraries of things” do all that? Or, to stick with the popular trope: Can bundt pans really help us transcend our usual institutional boundaries, reach new users, and deliver dynamic, life-enriching opportunities to a growing community of learners? Not any more than any other item unaccompanied by experience-based instruction. Our experience with the Greater Maywood Paddling Program has taught us that “things” may be a well-intentioned start in achieving the aforementioned goals. But, to be genuinely transformative, they must be made available through experiential access opportunities. It has been well worth the investment of staff time (and the not-always-comfortable process of learning something new) to take our community members beyond their everyday horizons and give them a sense that the Westchester Library is a gateway to richer, fuller lives.

■

Summer Reading, Summer Collaborating

Collaborative partnerships between libraries and community organizations offer multiple benefits to both the partners themselves and the community members they serve, including the sharing limited resources and supporting one another to meet common goals. The result can be to encourage more community members to visit the library, to bring the library's programs or collections to the patrons where they are, or accomplishing something neither partner could do alone.

PUBLIC AND SCHOOL LIBRARY COLLABORATION

One successful initiative began in 2012 when librarians in the youth services department at the Skokie Public Library recognized that pleasure reading was plummeting when students began middle school, and they decided to take action to find a way to keep students engaged when they had more leisure time over the summer.

An enthusiastic group of YA-reading librarians formed a committee to consider the options, and "Hot Summer Reads" was launched. The purpose was to craft an exciting list of books that appealed to students in sixth through eighth grade. The library would promote the list through an in-library display in close proximity to the youth services desk and call on librarians and teachers at local junior high and middle schools to help schedule booktalks from mid-April through May as the school year began to wind down. Booktalks ranged from 30 to 45 minutes, depending on the school schedule, and were offered to individual classrooms, in grade-level groups, or as a large, assembly-style program based on each school's request.

It wasn't long before team members were attempting to plow through every new and potentially interesting YA book they could get their hands on to come up with the list. To narrow the field, a set of criteria was developed which included attention-grabbing subjects, fast-moving plots, tween or teen protagonists, and mostly contemporary settings. Monthly meetings included compelling conversations and requests for additional readers to consider books of interest. After the final list of 10 titles was curated, a double-sided bookmark was produced which featured the cover of each book and a short annotation.

From its inception, Hot Summer Reads was a phenomenal success in large part due to the partnership with local schools. After each booktalk an influx of students visited the public library's youth services department to select a book or two, and books on the featured list had high checkout rates and long wait lists all summer. In 2016, a second committee was formed to develop a similar program called "Cool Summer Reads" to extend the age range served. Its mission is to highlight and promote excellent books in a wide variety of genres for children in grades three to five with a range of reading abilities and interests.

Both programs have continued to evolve over time, which has led to their continued popularity. The library-school partnership has been critical every step of the way. The most recent change was to invite students to participate in the book selection process. Toward the beginning of the school year, nomination forms and boxes were dropped off with the librarians at each of the local schools, students were encouraged to nominate books they thought should be considered, and library staff collected and reviewed their submissions to determine if they merited inclusion on the final lists.

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READING
TAKES
YOU
EVERYWHERE



LEER
TE LLEVA
A
TODOS
LADOS

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IREAD
Summer reading at its best!



School partners also use the final Hot and Cool Summer Reads lists, as a whole or in part, as recommended summer reading for students or to supplement lists created by their librarians and teachers. 2018 Hot Summer Reads can be found at <https://skokiellibrary.info/lists/1133/hot-summer-reads-2018/> and 2018 Cool Summer Reads are here: <https://skokiellibrary.info/lists/1134/cool-summer-reads-2018/>.

PUBLIC LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION COLLABORATION

Another way to work with community partners over the summer is to develop a mutually beneficial program to bring library services and collections to outside organizations so that community members who aren't able to get to the library still have access. As part of their mission to connect the community with knowledge, information, and culture, the outreach services department at Danville Public Library in East Central Illinois has taken summer reading on the road by visiting the Boys & Girls Club, YMCA, and a couple of housing projects in cooperation with Danville Housing Authority.

The children they visit often don't have transportation to the library, are uncomfortable coming to a public space like the library, or are unable to obtain a library card. For these reasons—and because they believe that access to literacy programs should extend beyond the building's walls—Danville librarians bring the summer reading program out into the community.

The Danville Public Library uses ILA's iREAD summer reading program, and uses storytimes, crafts, and games to engender a love of reading and education. At the conclusion of the program, each student receives a summer reading bag, a book, and a set of school supplies to reward them for their participation and to help them apply what they have learned over the summer in the upcoming school year.

Organizing the program involves contacting the locations to ask if they would like to participate and creating a schedule that suits everyone. They also solicit feedback so that they know what worked and what didn't in order to improve the program the following year. The program lasts through June and July with library personnel going to each location as guest presenters. Staff members from the community partner organization remain on hand to assist with crafts and discipline as needed.

Each week a theme is spotlighted and the content is adjusted to suit the age group of the participants. For instance, since iRead's summer reading theme this year was "Reading Takes You Everywhere," space travel and science fiction were the focus during one week: younger kids made toilet-paper roll rocket ships while the older kids made models of nebulae in mason jars. Another week, the kids explored an ancient Egyptian pyramid through the use of a Choose Your Own Adventure book and then wrote their names in hieroglyphs. The important thing is to make reading fun and engage the children. This year Danville librarians worked with 180 children from the ages of five to seventeen. **ILA**

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Community College Fills Summer Reading Gap: Wabash Valley College Summer Reading and Science Program

Wabash Valley College Library, located in Mt. Carmel in southeastern Illinois, has just completed a fifth Summer Reading and Science program for community children. The program has evolved through the years, but it has been a four-to-five-day program, either all in one week or spread over a four-to-five-week span. Age groups have also evolved. The program began with children in pre-K through third grade; however, it became apparent that the science-focused subject matter was better geared to a kindergarten through fourth-grade audience. Each year the focus has been on a science discipline including biology, chemistry, and physics. All science experiments and demonstrations were directly related to the children's reading time each day and both fiction and informational; reading material included both fiction and informational books. The program introduced a wide range of topics over the years, including endothermic and exothermic reactions, properties of air, animal adaptation and camouflage, properties of flight, and learning to estimate, among others. Participants also visited a dairy farm, explored the campus radio/TV station, and took part in a GPS treasure hunt.

In Wabash County, there is no free library available for county residents so, in many cases, the Wabash Valley College library serves as the public library for them. It can be difficult to promote library activities to the community; therefore, without the cooperation of our local school district and organizations such as our county health department, this program would not have reached those who really needed it. The schools (Wabash Community Unit District 348) have allowed us to bring marketing materials to them for disbursement to their students as appropriate. The health department (Wabash County Health Department) has displayed our posters and given flyers to health department users. AOK (All Our Kids Network) has also helped us to promote our programs through the many service organizations who are members. Many teachers in our area have allowed their own children to participate in the program and in doing so promoted our program. As a community college, part of our mission is to support and enrich our community and we believe programs like ours build bridges to our community. The positive feedback received each year tells us that we are reaching out appropriately to support our community children. M.C., a mom, commented, "My boys enjoyed the summer program. Their favorite part was touring the radio and TV station;" young participants agreed, with one eight-year-old saying, "It was fun! I liked the radio/TV day," and a six-year-old adding, "I liked volcano day and cupcake day."

By Sandy Craig, Wabash Valley College Library

Library Service to Those Who Serve: Resources and Programs for Veterans

Libraries act as central hubs that strive to serve the unique needs of their community. This often means partnering with other local organizations to create targeted programs and address specific populations. Libraries may work with schools, for example, to develop programs to enhance technology skills in students. A collaboration with a community center could lead to stronger support and activities geared toward area seniors. Or, as in the case of Eureka Public Library District (EPLD), a summer service project in conjunction with a regional veterans' home could have an impact on local veterans as well as the entire community.

According to EPLD's Program Coordinator Cindy O'Neill, the library's emphasis on veterans this past summer developed as a way to integrate the Illinois bicentennial and the 2018 iREAD summer reading theme, Reading Takes You Everywhere, into its own summer programming. "As I was brainstorming summer reading ideas last winter, I was really struck by the military-themed summer reading poster and challenge coin in the [iREAD] catalog, which made me think about our veterans and the bicentennial," Cindy explained. "Tying all of those elements together presented some fresh opportunities for engaging our patrons in summer reading, recognizing our veterans, and—as something new we've never tried before—adding a community service element to summer reading."

To incorporate this community service element, she reached out to Sara Colgrove and Peggy Burchard-Ballard of the Illinois Veterans' Home in Quincy, Illinois. Cindy had been researching Illinois-based organizations that served veterans, and recalled hearing about financial hardships faced by the home over the past few years. Together, the three organizers developed a strategy to engage EPLD's patrons.

The Veterans' Home was already planning on hosting a children's event in late June with the local YMCA, and wanted to add a story-time activity to the schedule. Unfortunately, the Home did not have the funds to purchase new military-themed children's books. With a combination of patron donations and book sale funds, EPLD was able to purchase and donate nine of the books on the home's target list in time for the event. These books now reside in the home's library for use by veterans and their families. Additionally, the Veterans' Home provided Cindy with a list of personal items that could be used by residents. This list was distributed to patrons at the EPLD checkout desk, in the library's newsletter and press releases, and on social media. A drop-off location was set up in the library, and donations instantly began coming in. By the end of July, approximately 360 items and \$1,020 in cash donations had been sent to the Veterans' Home.

[continued on page 16]





The EPLD also paired up with Eureka's American Legion to co-sponsor educational programs involving veterans at the library. On each "Veterans' Night," two local veterans drew a crowd of library patrons and shared their stories. At a separate event, a group of Civil War reenactors presented a program that included the story of a civil war surgeon from Eureka. Over the course of the summer, library patrons also placed stickers on a world map to indicate where they or a loved one had served. By August, the map had 142 stickers placed on every continent but Antarctica.

While programs like this have a profound impact, effectively serving veteran populations includes more than just outreach to veterans' homes. According to a 2014 survey published by the U.S. Census Bureau, nearly 730,000 military veterans reside in Illinois. This means that approximately 6 percent of Illinois residents have served in the military. The Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs also indicates a "lack of personal engagement between veterans and the community" ("Illinois Veterans: Demographics, Challenges, and Strengths") as a common challenge within the state's veteran community. Several Illinois libraries are taking steps similar to EPLD to work toward bridging this gap. One way some library employees are doing this is by involving their libraries in the Veterans History Project, an oral history initiative spearheaded by the American Folklife Center of the Library of Congress and Illinois State Library. By participating in the Veterans History Project, veterans and civilians who have contributed to a war effort are able to share their personal stories via interviews with library staff and community members. These interviews, as well as any corresponding photos, letters, or other historical documents, are then sent to the American Folklife Center, where an archival record is established in the veteran's name.

At the Gail Borden Public Library District in Elgin, a similar program called Veterans Voices connects local volunteer veterans with students. Participants in this program have the freedom to conduct conversations in as structured or as informal a manner as they'd like. In 2017, the year of the program's inception, veterans who had been recruited and trained by library staff

visited 90 Illinois School District U-46 classrooms at 17 different schools and spoke to 3,300 students and teachers. The veterans shared their experiences in the military and discussed what being a veteran, and Veterans Day, meant to them.

"The students were totally absorbed in what I had to say. It doesn't matter what job the veteran held in the military, the students are interested in hearing about it," says Dennis McClure, a veteran who participated in the program. "Every veteran has stories and experiences that are totally different from civilian life. From basic training to the food served to coping with drill sergeants to the barracks slept in, the students are interested in hearing about it."

Gail Borden also hosts Visiting Vets, an outreach program that connects local active service members with veterans in care facilities within the library district. The library provides organization-to-organization guidelines, volunteer training, scheduling, background, and library support services. The veterans provide the content, with support from Gail Borden's life enrichment liaison. Veterans that have served at different times throughout the years can then share and compare stories, offer encouragement and advice, and develop mentorships. These types of events provide opportunities for community members of all ages and backgrounds to interact, and for library staff to build relationships with area veterans and lead them toward further resources that the library has to offer.

Some library resources that help veterans the most aren't geared specifically toward veterans. For example, 7 percent of Illinois veterans are unemployed. There are a variety of reasons behind this, including readjustment challenges due to mental health struggles and gaps in training and education. Veterans may also find it difficult to translate military training into relevant civilian skills and credentials. Illinois libraries provide assistance for veterans in search of employment by offering resources such as computer literacy courses, information on VA benefits, and books and publications on reentering the workforce. Evergreen Park Public Library, for instance, offers patrons a Career

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Related Programming at ILA Annual Conference

Resource Center that includes access to career-focused tutorials, job listing sites, and a computer lab. Champaign Public Library hosts “Launch at the Library,” a business services enclave that offers appointments with business librarians and specialists, a free online course library, entrepreneurship events, a small business resource center, and more.

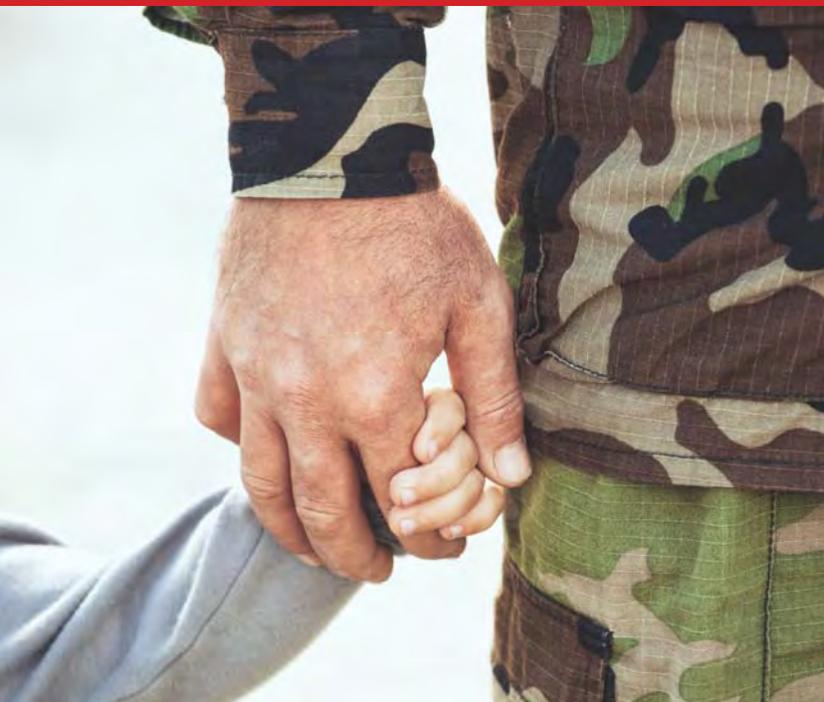
In 2017, Booth Library at Eastern Illinois University announced a somewhat more creative approach to honoring and connecting with area veterans. Inspired by a similar display held by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign the year prior, Booth hosted an exhibit called “Design of Duty” that showcased the service-themed tattoos of area veterans. The exhibit was on display at the library from January 22, 2018, until May 11, 2018, and has continued to travel among East Central Illinois libraries for temporary display. It will end its tour at Lake Land College Library in Mattoon on December 3, 2018.

Engaging and entertaining events like this can serve as a refreshing break from the “incomplete narrative of veterans as victims rather than societal assets” (“Illinois Veterans: Demographics, Challenges, & Strengths”). The truth is that while specifically developing veteran-themed programs can be a great asset for libraries and patrons, it is not always the most effective approach. Libraries most successfully serve their patrons by being aware of the diverse needs and interests that are distinct to their own respective communities. In Illinois, there are nearly 90,000 veteran-owned businesses. Forty-five percent of statewide veterans are seniors over the age of 65. Five percent are currently enrolled in college. These are all community members that fill a variety of roles in addition to “veteran.” This means that there is no single way for libraries to best address the needs of veterans without first addressing the broader needs of their districts. **ILA**

Heading to Peoria for the ILA Annual Conference on October 8-11, 2018? Don't miss these two opportunities to learn more about veterans and libraries, both on Wednesday, October 10:

- **Poster Session: Veteran Voices: Library Impact on Veterans, 12:00 p.m.-1:30 p.m., Peoria Civic Center, Exhibit Hall C, JJ Pionke, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.** This poster examines the preliminary results of a study in which veterans were asked about their reading habits and library usage as part of a larger interview project for the Library of Congress' Veteran's History Project. Preliminary results show that for the most part, veterans view themselves as citizens and use the library as parents, local community members, and students but rarely while wearing the identity of veteran. Veterans who were officers or retired after a full twenty years identified more strongly with the veteran identity.
- **Every Veteran Has a Story! Together, We Can Make Sure They Are All Heard! 1:45 p.m.-2:45 p.m., Peoria Civic Center, Room 209, Jeanne Urbanek, Illinois State Library.** The Illinois Veterans' History Project, launched by Secretary of State Jesse White in conjunction with the Library of Congress Veterans History Project, creates a permanent record of the names and stories of Illinois war veterans and civilians who served our country during wartime. The project ensures that their contributions will not be forgotten. In addition to U.S. veterans, U.S. citizen civilians who were actively involved in supporting war efforts are also invited to share their valuable experiences and memories. The Illinois State Library wants to work with libraries throughout the state to ensure that every Veteran's story is heard.

Illinois Joining Forces



Illinois Joining Forces (IJF) was launched in 2012, through an inter-governmental agreement between the Illinois Departments of Veterans' Affairs (IDVA) and Military Affairs (IDMA) as a statewide, public-private network of military and veteran-serving organizations working together to improve services for Service Members, Veterans and Their Families (SMVF). IJF offers an online clearinghouse for resources for veterans, and offers direct assistance and referrals to service providers. One of its initiatives is to create local “veteran support communities” around the state, and ILA and IJF are partnering to make sure libraries are part of these vital communities. Learn more about IJF at illinoisjoiningforces.org.

2019



LIVE

SUMMER READING

IT'S
SHOWTIME

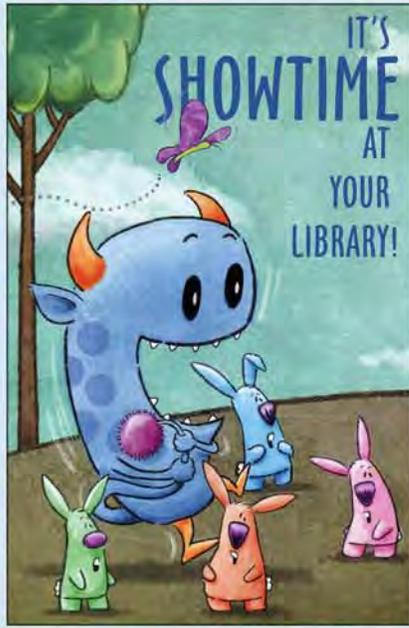
OPEN



AT YOUR LIBRARY

iREAD®

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Pre-K
KEVAN ATTEBERRY

Kevan Atteberry is an illustrator/writer living in the Seattle area. He has been drawing since he was knee-high to a crayon. He has designed and illustrated many award-winning children's books, including *Bunnies!!!* and *Puddles!!!* His biggest claim to fame is creating Clippy the paperclip helper in Microsoft Office which still annoys millions of people every day.

For more information:
kevanatteberry.com



Children
GREGG SCHIGIEL

Gregg Schigiell's worked as a penciller and assistant editor at Marvel Comics, character artist for Nickelodeon Consumer Products, and has illustrated a litany of licensed story/chapter/ coloring books. He is a regular contributor to *SpongeBob Comics*. In 2014, he self-published (under his Hatter Entertainment imprint) *Pix: One Weirdest Weekend*, the first of a series now published by Image Comics.

In addition to making comics, Gregg produces and hosts the comics-centric podcast *Stuff Said*. He likes doughnuts, enjoys comedy, and makes sure he drinks plenty of water.

For more information:
hatterentertainment.com



Teen
DENNIS PRYBER

Dennis Pryber is an artist, graphic designer, and photographer. He works regularly with the Illinois Library Association and created the 2010 and 2011 Banned Books Week campaigns for the American Library Association's Office of Intellectual Freedom. His photographic assignments documenting live music opened the door to work creating gig posters for bands including Cheap Trick, Sammy Hagar, Little Big Town, Plain White T's, Everclear and others.

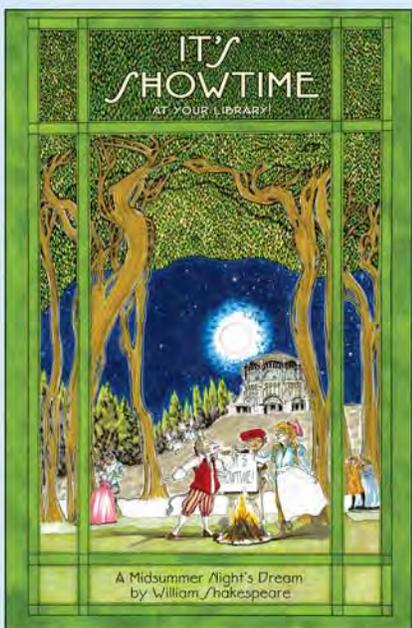
For more information: versodesigncorp.com and pryber.com.

Adult
JANET K. LEE

Janet K. Lee made her first foray into illustration in 2010, co-creating *Return of the Dapper Men* with writer Jim McCann. *Return of the Dapper Men* garnered a record-setting five Eisner nominations in 2011, and won the Eisner Award for Best New Graphic Album. Since then, she has illustrated many more books, including *Emma* and *Northanger Abbey* for Marvel Classics, and *Wonderland Alphabet* for BOOM! Archaia.

Janet lives in Nashville, Tennessee with her husband, novelist Mike Lee, son Ethan, two very sweet dogs and four very bad cats.

For more information:
j-k-lee.com



All Ages
ALEXANDER HAGE

Alexander Hage is a graphic designer and artist, specializing in print, editorial, identity, and exhibition design. He has worked with the Walker Art Center, IDEO, Equal Exchange, the State of Minnesota, the City of Minneapolis, Georgetown University, Intermedia Arts, the Design Studio for Social Intervention, and Resist, among many other clients in the arts and social justice fields.

Alexander has held artist residencies in Cambridge, MA and Mexico City. Alexander is currently based out of Intermedia Arts, in Minnesota's Twin Cities, where he grew up, and where he now lives.

For more information:
alexanderhage.com



ILA Welcomes New Members

We would love to welcome your friends and colleagues, too. By sponsoring a new member, you share the benefits of membership with others ... and help create a stronger and more effective voice to promote the highest quality library services for all people in Illinois.

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Cari Didion, Governors State University Library, New Lenox
Melanie Emerson, School of the Art Institute of Chicago
Nicole Eveland, Champaign Public Library
Jonathan Gaskill, Waukegan Public Library
Alexa Hansen, Nilcs-Maine District Library
Kristina Howard, Tinley Park Public Library
Rebecca King, Arlington Heights Memorial Library
Karrah Kuykendall, Rock Island Public Library
Karen Neal, Downers Grove Public Library
Rebecca Pfenning, Plainfield Public Library District
Heather Phillips, Plainfield Public Library District
Daniel Rice, Normal Public Library
Ariel Robinson, University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Library and Information Studies, Chicago
Jacob Roskovensky, Association of Illinois School Library Educators, Chrisman
Jason Shirley, Towanda District Library
Randi Sutter, Normal Public Library, Le Roy
Chloe Waryan, Chicago Public Library
Kathleen Weiss, Nilcs-Maine District Library
Laura Wilson, Pekin Public Library

STUDENT MEMBERS

Andrea Bliss, Hinsdale
Donna Cameron, Mascoutah
Amanda Lopez, Northbrook Public Library
Katherine Lopez, Waukegan
Teresa Moreno, Chicago
Pamela Nila, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign School of Information Sciences
Katrin Stimmer, Oak Park
Anna Yacullo, Portage, MI

TRUSTEE MEMBERS

Jamie Bulger, Glenview Public Library
Carol Schmitt, Glenview Public Library
Kathy Vega, Indian Trails Public Library District, Buffalo Grove

TRANSITION & GROWTH



Dear ILA Members and Friends,

When I began my term of service as the ILA Vice President/President-elect last year, I hoped to continue the tradition of strong leadership. Leading an organization as longstanding, stable, and successful as ILA was a tremendous opportunity to impact our state! Imagine my reaction upon learning that our dedicated, skilled, and highly valued executive director of 20 years was going to retire on my watch. Bob had fully earned his retirement, and while I was sad that I was not going to get to work with him during my presidential year, I was honored to help him and the organization during this transition. My goals became focused on the success of the organization during and after the transition.

Along with then-current President Pattie Piotrowski I quickly became occupied with leading the search for Bob's successor. What at first seemed scary and daunting became an opportunity, if a challenging one. Bob stuck with us throughout the process, continuing the expert professionalism we were so afraid to lose.

As we navigated through the transition, the opportunity to look anew at what we were doing naturally arose. We as an Executive Board looked inward, each of us completing and discussing the results of a self-evaluation instrument that asked us to consider how knowledgeable and comfortable we were with the budgets, policies, strategic plan, fundraising, etc. of the association we were responsible for leading. We opened up the strategic plan itself, which dated back to 2011, and are even now in the middle of a process to update it. We instituted an additional orientation session for new Board members to complement the information conveyed at the general orientation session in July.

Another focus this year was on equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) in Illinois librarianship. Following on the adoption of ILA's "We Are Here" statement in 2016, we updated the name of the ILA committee working in this area from the Cultural and Racial Diversity Committee to the more succinct and general Diversity Committee, accepted a report from the Diversity Study Task Force and began implementation of recommendations, further details of which are outlined in the following pages, and, following our final Executive Board meeting of the 2017-18 year, committed to EDI training for the ILA Executive Board at its September 2018 meeting.

As noted here in this Annual Report, change and transitions this year are catalysts for growth. As I head into my Immediate Past-Presidential year I look back on 2017-18 with pride and gratitude for the opportunity to serve the association at such a significant time in its history.

Sincerely,



Melissa Gardner, Palatine Public Library District
ILA President, 2017–2018

Transition

The retirement of Executive Director Robert P. Doyle and the subsequent hire of Diane Foote in November 2017 marked a seminal point in the history of the Illinois Library Association. Under Bob's stewardship, ILA launched significant initiatives including the Libraries of Illinois Risk Agency (LIRA) insurance pool and the iREAD summer reading program, and became a leader among state library associations nationwide, most notably around vigorous and successful legislative advocacy on behalf of Illinois libraries. This growth and development was possible due to Bob's astute financial management, business sense, and entrepreneurial skill, growing the association's net asset balance from approximately \$100,000 to more than \$1,800,000.

Enter Diane Foote, with experience helming another member association, the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), a division of the American Library Association (ALA); and a more recent role recruiting and forging new librarians as assistant dean at Dominican University's School of Information Studies. Diane is positioned to build on the powerful legacy of ILA and, working together with the ILA Executive Board and ILA's committee and forum leaders, to bring the association into the future. The first step is a major one: opening up ILA's current strategic plan for revision and update. In effect since 2011, the current plan enabled the association to grow into its status as "the voice for Illinois libraries and the millions who depend on them." The environment in which we operate is constantly evolving and changing, however, and so must we. This process launched in June 2017 with consultant Susan Radwan of Leading Edge Mentoring in Grand Ledge, Michigan meeting with the ILA Executive Board, and continued at the ILA orientation session in July 2017 with participation from all of ILA's committees and forums. Broad-based input continues to be sought via online and in-person focus groups throughout the fall of 2018, with the goal to have the new plan in place early in 2019.

Growth

Even before the strategic planning process has been completed, ILA has been looking to the future. In 2016, the Executive Board convened a Diversity Study Task Force, charged with studying the diversity of Illinois library professionals and presenting recommendations to the ILA Board on how ILA can assist in improving the recruitment and retention of diverse library professionals. The Task Force's report, submitted in November 2017, included recommendations focusing on expanding networking opportunities and community building targeted to members of underrepresented groups, cultural competency training for ILA members, including ALA's ethnic caucuses in booths at ILA conferences, seeking out diverse speakers for conferences and regional events; increasing financial support for continuing education; and fostering awareness of librarianship as a profession among traditionally underrepresented groups from recruitment through graduate school and beyond. To date, ILA has completed an environmental scan of the ALA ethnic affiliates with presences in Illinois and is working with these groups to involve their members in our strategic planning process; and is providing shared booth space for the groups on the exhibit floor during the 2018 ILA Annual Conference in Peoria.

On the occasion of Bob Doyle's retirement, ILA started a new restricted fund to support the association's Intellectual Freedom Award, and sought donations in his honor. Our members and supporters rallied to the cause, and we were able to collect enough funding to sponsor this award for the next five years. Bob is an internationally recognized authority on and advocate for intellectual freedom and it has always been a cornerstone of ILA legislative policy; now, we have a fund to support recognition of our peers in this area.

At ILA headquarters, the association staff is small but mighty. At the final Executive Board meeting of the year in June 2018, the Board authorized the 2018-19 annual budget to include a full-time administrative coordinator position (it had previously been part-time), and a full-time communication and engagement manager position, to complement our existing three (executive director, deputy director, and member services manager). We hope to bring both these positions to fruition and grow ILA in the years to come.

We also grew the array of Legislative Meet-ups to eight from seven the year prior (and from four in 2014), ensuring statewide coverage for the first time. Our newest event was held at the Galesburg Public Library, with a small but enthusiastic group of five elected officials or their representatives and 27 attendees, who were very pleased to have Western Illinois included in the regions we serve via this type of outreach.

In April 2018, ILA also helped to grow leadership development opportunities in Illinois by partnering with the Illinois Heartland Library System (IHLS), the Illinois State Library (ISL), and the Reaching Across Illinois Library System (RAILS) to present the Elevate Illinois Libraries Leadership Program. This one-day event for future library leaders at all levels featured Adam Goodman, consultant and director of Northwestern University's Center for Leadership, and complemented the second year of partnering to present Directors University, a four-day continuing education program for newly-minted library directors that took place in Springfield in June. ILA's Marketing Forum also added to our full complement of existing events with a one-day mini-conference on April 20, "Dynamic Marketing Techniques for Today's Libraries," which sold out in days.

The Libraries of Illinois Risk Agency (LIRA) insurance pool grew dramatically this year, both in terms of number of members and with the very first surplus distribution able to be made. Since its inception, December 31st, 2013, LIRA has provided an alternative way for Illinois libraries to purchase their property, liability, and workers compensation insurance by providing a platform to group-purchase and pool their insurance. It has grown from 24 founding members to 44 last year, to 53 today. In addition to improved coverage at a lower cost, LIRA recently announced its first surplus return to the founding members, in the amount of \$83,340. This is a result of outperforming the market and will be distributed to founding members at the ratio of their contributions into the program. This will be the first of many future surplus returns to the membership and is yet another significant benefit of participating in the program.

Far from sitting on our heels, even as we look ahead to a new strategic plan, the association continues to grow and deliver ever more to the library community in Illinois.

ILA's Advocacy Efforts

After two years without a statewide budget, it was refreshing in spring 2018 to have a budget passed by the legislature and signed by the governor, on schedule. On June 4, 2018, Governor Rauner signed into law the FY 2019 state budget, which totals \$38.5 billion, and includes \$5.5 million in LSTA funds for Illinois libraries. This is a \$130,000 increase in LSTA funds over the 2017 amount and is the highest level of such funding in five years. The 2019 fiscal year began on July 1, 2018 and the state budget, H.B. 109, took effect on that date.

In addition to urging passage of the budget bills, ILA introduced two bills this year and supported several others; our primary one passed both chambers successfully and has been signed by the Governor, as has some additional Illinois library legislation.

- Senate Bill 2638, Public Act 100-0837. Last year, the Illinois Comptroller notified units of local government that it would no longer permit government entities to file its annual audit statements prepared on the cash basis accounting method. Libraries have prepared and filed annual audit reports using the cash basis of accounting for decades. The requirement that governments must utilize the accrual method of accounting would have resulted in additional costs for libraries and all units of local government. SB 2638 states if a library's audits have been performed on the cash basis of accounting, the library can continue to do so in the future.
- Senate Bill 2450. This legislation would extend to city, village, and township libraries the same budget flexibility allowed for public library districts. Through a supermajority vote by its boards of trustees, public library districts—but not city, village, or township libraries—have the statutory authority to transfer previously appropriated funds between budget line items. As of the close of the spring 2018 session, the bill is still in progress due to concerns from other groups that passage may result in positions being cut midyear. ILA is continuing to work with these groups and our legislators on a solution.

Other Illinois Legislation

In addition to proactively suggesting and advocating for new legislation or changes to existing law, ILA also monitors, opposes, or supports other pending legislation that may affect our members.

- ILA supported House Bill 5752, Public Act 100-0833. The Broadband Advisory Council Act creates the Council, charged with developing policies promoting statewide broadband access while eliminating barriers to widespread adoption of broadband internet availability. One Council member is to be "nominated by the president of a statewide organization representing libraries." Effective January 1, 2019.
- ILA supported Senate Bill 2488, Public Act 100-0875. Eliminates the nonresident fee for individuals who own or lease property within a taxing district. Signed into law on August 14, 2018 and is effective immediately.
- ILA monitored House Bill 2222, Public Act 100-0746. This act addresses requirements for residents serving as library trustees, who must now live in the district for at least one year, and cannot be indebted to the district, at the time of nomination. Signed into law on August 10, 2018 and is effective immediately; the first election to be impacted will be the spring 2019 one.
- ILA opposed House Bill 4519. Under current state law, when a library district seeks to annex an area currently unserved by a library district, notice must be given about such annexations (typically, but not necessarily, via postings in local newspapers), and residents who object may file petitions (a "back-door" referendum) to block them. HB 4519 seeks to require a "front-door" referendum in which districts wishing to do this must first get voter approval in both areas. ILA opposed this, which was brought forth last year as well. Once again, the bill was not called for a vote.
- ILA opposed House Bills 4246, 4247, and 4248; all of which sought to limit the use of public funds for continuing education or professional development, or exhibit space. None advanced through the process by the end of the spring 2018 legislative session.

Conferences and Events

More than 1,500 people attended the ILA Annual Conference in Tinley Park, October 10-12, 2017. Three full days of programs, exhibits, and awards provided an opportunity for attendees to focus on the conference's theme of Rise Up! Co-chairs Jeannie Dilger and Sarah Sagmoen led a conference committee that put together a strong lineup of speakers, including keynote speaker Vernā Myers. The ILA Advocacy Committee presented "Effective Advocacy from a Primary Source," which featured Illinois State Senators Scott Bennett and Pat McGuire.

Along with legislative advocacy, ILA's main focus is on professional development and continuing education. In addition to the new, or increased, events noted above in the "Growth" section and the Annual Conference, other continuing education events throughout the year included the Leadership Orientation, July 20, 2017, in Bloomington-Normal featuring leadership consultant Adam Goodman; the Library Trustee Forum Workshop, February 17, 2018, in Oak Brook featuring ALA's Advocacy Bootcamp presented by Marci Merola, ALA Office for Library Advocacy and James LaRue, ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom; and Reaching Forward, May 4, 2018, in Rosemont.

Steady State

While change is constant and growth is welcomed and fostered, it is healthier to manage these things from a solid base of operations. While our revenue streams continue to diversify and grow, membership remains an essential component, as do publications and continuing education events. Earned income projects, such as the LIRA insurance pool noted above and iREAD sales outside of Illinois have become increasingly important as traditional revenue sources face pressure from tight budgets and changing environments. The Fund for Illinois Libraries continues to offer ILA institutional members who do not have their own associated foundations or friends groups a way to accept donations and apply for grants.

The iREAD summer reading program marked its 37th year of existence with the theme, Reading Takes You Everywhere! Committee chair Nikeda Webb led an effort that included art by a fantastic array of illustrators including Christian Robinson, Terri Murphy, Gene Ha, Alexander Hage, and Kyle F. Anderson. The U.S. Department of Defense continues to purchase iREAD resources and incentives for military libraries worldwide and states including California, Minnesota, and Virginia have adopted the program as well.

Contributed income to the association also continues to increase, most notably through the Illinois Library Luminaries program, which saw five new inductees in 2017–18:

Karen Stott Bersche
Peggy J. Danhof
Keith Michael Fiels
Phil Lenzini
Pam Van Kirk





Fiscal Report (Year Ended June 30, 2018)

Revenue

General Operations	\$ 44,543
Membership	\$ 300,984
Conference	\$ 418,336
iRead	\$ 2,131,775
Publications	\$ 14,816
Public Policy	\$ 2,200
Awards	\$ 12,023
Endowment	\$ 14,718
Workshops/Projects	\$ 82,004
Reaching Forward	\$ 114,385
Total Revenue	\$ 3,135,733

Expenses (reflecting allocation of staff salaries, taxes, and benefits to functional areas)

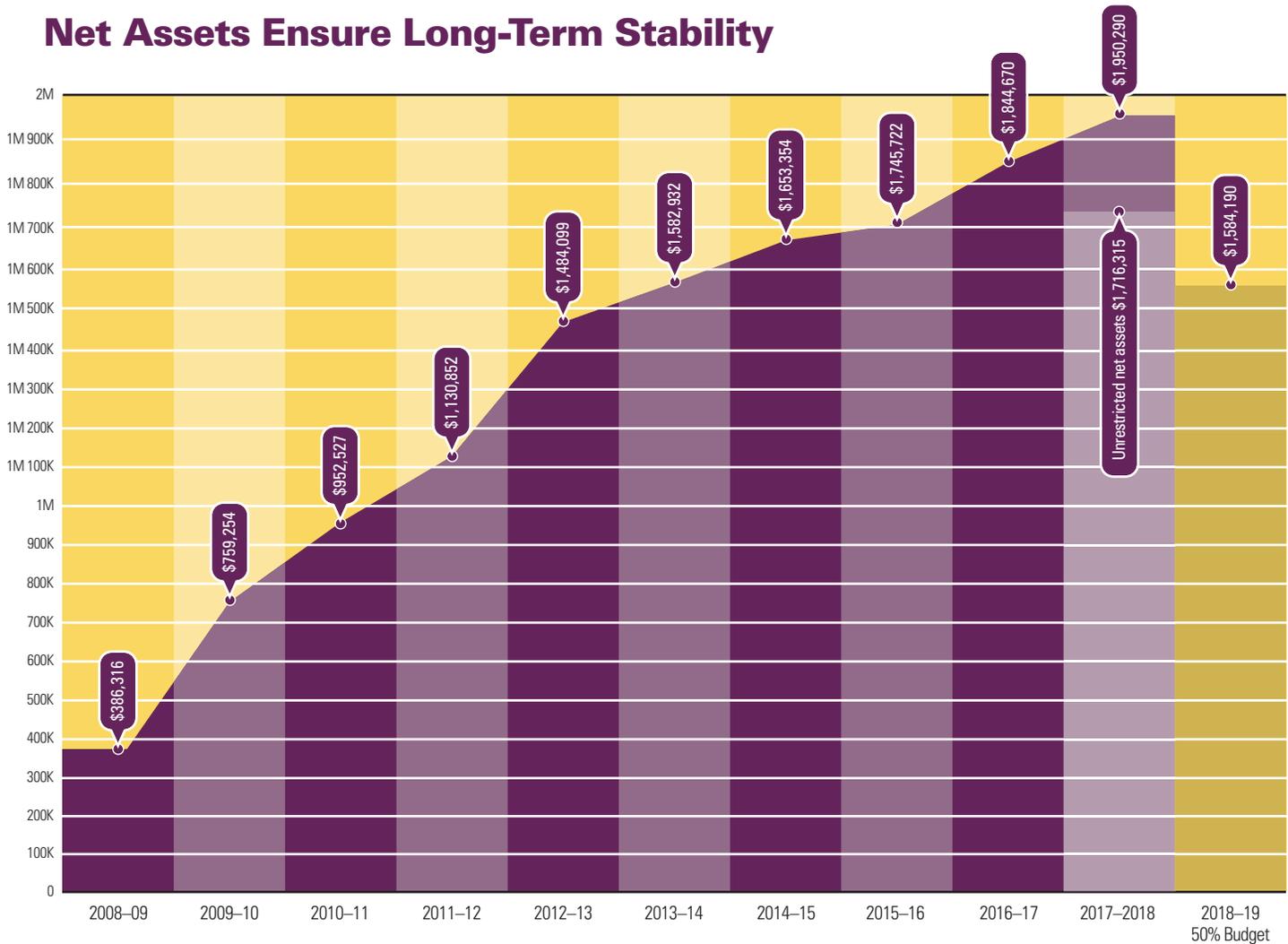
General Operations	\$ 354,713
Membership/Directory/Reporter	\$ 132,528
Conference	\$ 384,326
iRead	\$ 1,856,022
Publications	\$ 19,776
Public Policy	\$ 71,625
Awards	\$ 18,590
Workshops/Projects	\$ 111,902
Forums	\$ 5,054
Reaching Forward	\$ 108,951
Total Expenses	\$ 3,063,485

Operating Net	\$ 72,246
Other Revenue: Gain on Long-term Investments	\$ 71,839
Other Expenses: Amortization, Depreciation	\$ 38,465
Net Income	\$ 105,620
Net Assets at end of FY 2017	\$ 1,844,670
Net Assets at end of FY 2018	\$ 1,950,290

Net Assets Comprise:

Unrestricted Net Assets	\$ 1,716,315
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	\$ 63,995
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atkinson Memorial Award: \$3,453 • Robert R. McClarren Award Fund for Legislative Development: \$9,086 • Legal Defense Fund: \$745 • Preiser Award: \$116 • OCLC Users Group: \$26,029 • Valerie Wilford Fund: \$18,646 • Diversity Scholarship: \$3,065 • Intellectual Freedom Fund: \$2,855 	
Permanently Restricted Net Assets	\$ 169,980
Total Net Assets at end of FY 2017	\$ 1,950,290

Net Assets Ensure Long-Term Stability



Cumulative Surplus

The growth in ILA's net assets, particularly unrestricted net assets has been a conscious strategy over the past twenty-two years, with the goal of producing an annual budget surplus that will build up a reserve fund of unrestricted net assets equal to at least 50% of the subsequent year's budgeted expenses, according to ILA fiscal policy.

This goal has been achieved since 2013; this year, of the net assets listed in the chart above, \$1,716,315 are unrestricted. The expense budget for 2018-19 totals \$3,168,379; 50% is \$1,584,190. As ILA makes investments in programs and services, increases its programmatic portfolio, and seeks to keep costs to members as low as possible, the size of the net asset balance we seek to maintain to be in compliance with policy—and association best practice—increases each year. We do that by keeping an eye on the revenue side of the budget, not just the expense side: The strategies that have contributed to realizing these goals include a focus on earned income projects, such as summer reading and our group insurance program.

During this same period, other professional associations have faced declines in their traditional sources of revenue—membership, conference, and publications. The need for innovation and entrepreneurial efforts, while maintaining our traditional areas of support within ILA is as strong as ever.

2017-2018	\$ 105,620
2016-2017	\$ 98,948
2015-2016	\$ 92,368
2014-2015	\$ 70,422
2013-2014	\$ 98,833
2012-2013	\$ 353,247
2011-2012	\$ 178,331
2010-2011	\$ 193,267
2009-2010	\$ 372,938
2008-2009	\$ 28,712
2007-2008	\$ -9,092
2006-2007	\$ 37,199
2005-2006	\$ 33,289
2004-2005	\$ 5,744
2003-2004	\$ 44,185
2002-2003	\$ 14,259
2001-2002	\$ 20,093
2000-2001	\$ 16,624
1999-2000	\$ 18,017
1998-1999	\$ 41,916
1997-1998	\$ 51,701
1996-1997	\$ 14,540
1896-1995	\$ 69,129
Grand Total	\$ 1,950,290

Mission Statement

The Illinois Library Association is the voice for Illinois libraries and the millions who depend on them. It provides leadership for the development, promotion, and improvement of library services in Illinois and for the library community in order to enhance learning and ensure access to information for all. This access is essential for an open democratic society, an informed electorate, and the advancement of knowledge for all people. Its primary goals are:

Advocating for the Public Interest

- develop and promote strong public policy related to libraries, literacy, and lifelong learning;
- defend intellectual freedom and access to information; and
- increase public awareness of the value of libraries to society.

Promoting Excellence and Innovation

- provide outstanding programs of continuing education and leadership development;
- support the recruitment, retention, and professional development of a culturally and racially diverse workforce for libraries;
- produce high-quality publications and communications; and
- celebrate the achievement of excellence and innovation on behalf of the membership.

Managing the Present to Prepare for the Future

In order to achieve these goals, ILA will use its resources wisely and maintain a flexible structure that promotes the diverse interests and broad participation of members.

Vision Statement

The Illinois Library Association is indispensable in leading efforts in library advocacy and collaboration, and serving as a springboard to innovation and excellence in library services.

2017–2018 Executive Board

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Linda Bostrom, Administrative Coordinator



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Diane Foote'.

Diane Foote
Illinois Library Association
33 W. Grand Ave., Ste. 401
Chicago, IL 60654-6799
phone: 312-644-1896
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Hands-on adventure.



Find us in booth #400 at the ILA Show in October. We look forward to reconnecting!

Photo Credit
Northbrook Public Library

With a high level of interest and participation over the last few years, Northbrook Public Library realized they needed to consider a dedicated space for their maker programming. Their new space, The Collaborator, offers the community an appealing place to come create. Product Architecture + Design, put together this stunning, functional design to best support the library's programming goals. LFI provided the 3branch Maker Tables with butcher block top - perfect for maker activities. With headquarters in Northbrook, LFI was happy to be a part of this hometown project. See what LFI can do for your maker space!



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