



Dear ILA Members and Friends,

As I look over my remarks from the October 2016 ILA Annual Conference, I see that while my hopes and dreams for Illinois libraries haven't changed, things are not exactly the same as they were. There has been success, some marginal, some expected, but my pride in the work libraries have done in this past year is immense. Libraries took the challenges handed them by the state and continued to serve patrons, providing programs and connecting our communities; we increased our efforts and proved our value. There are issues that still need our attention, and I have every confidence that you will use every opportunity and rise to any challenge; you've proven that time and again.

Despite two years of dismal news from the state legislature, we finally have an approved state budget for the 2018 fiscal year, and even with minor cuts, libraries fared better than most. We even managed to get a few pieces of favorable legislation passed, and worked to defeat bills that would have made things worse for libraries and their patrons. Your work at the Legislative Meet-Ups that ILA holds each February/March is a large part of legislative success for libraries. At seven locations around the state, you took the message to your elected officials that libraries are essential to their communities and you enlisted them in supporting our institutions.

The other source of continuing pride in our profession stems from the reaction of libraries to threats posed to individual freedom. In addition to our conference last fall, there was another event, a national election that proved to create a sense of unbalance. In the wake of that election, many of our patrons wondered where they belonged in communities in which they previously had felt welcomed. Libraries throughout Illinois and around the country rallied with a message of inclusion, making it clear that there was one place that remained open and welcoming to all, full of tools and information that foster and contribute to learning and understanding.

The theme of this year's annual report, *We Are Here*, echoes those sentiments. Just as libraries are here for their patrons, the Illinois Library Association is here for you and its members. We have a strong and vibrant association, but it needs your leadership and participation to continue to shine. As most of you know, we are facing a major change in the coming year with the departure of longtime ILA Executive Director Bob Doyle. He has been such a part of our success, a colleague and mentor to so many of us. While it's hard to imagine ILA without Bob at the helm, he has built a strong foundation on which we can continue to share our goals and mission. I thank you all for your contributions to Illinois Libraries. I believe our path is clear, and the future is ours.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pattie Piotrowski". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pattie Piotrowski, University of Illinois Springfield

ILA President, 2016–2017



In January 2017, the Illinois Library Association (ILA) developed a simple but powerful message for its member libraries and the people who use them: No matter who you are or what you need, we are here for you. The message was released via Twitter, in the *ILA E-Newsletter*, and posted on the ILA website. Other libraries and associations, including the American Library Association, developed similar messages intended to let people know that ours is a profession and a practice based on inclusion.

This is not a new message, but it seemed time to remind ourselves of our basic values and to share those ideas more broadly.

For libraries, librarians, and library supporters, ILA is a resource for professional information on everything from library laws to best practices. We connect you to your fellow librarians, to public officials, and to trends impacting libraries and their communities. We advocate and support library values and are committed to intellectual freedom, privacy, and equitable access.

For the public, libraries are a resource for reliable and accessible information that's unbiased, fair, and available to all. Libraries help build and strengthen communities, not divide them. They provide information and access to a world of learning. Illinois residents and visitors are supported by nearly 650 public libraries, 169 college or university libraries, as well as school libraries in the 785 school districts in Illinois, and 299 special libraries that focus on particular subjects or areas of study. All are welcome at these institutions.

The work of the Illinois Library Association in the past year has been dedicated to advancing these goals and ideas. Everything from legislative advocacy to continuing education, from our partnerships in summer reading and insurance programs for libraries, from our communications strategies to get the word out, to membership recruitment and leadership development, from a dedicated administrative team to sound financial management, this is your association at work.

The (Budgetary) Elephant in the Room

Even though it happened a few days after the end of ILA's fiscal year on June 30, this annual report can't ignore the biggest legislative action of the past two years. In early July, both the Illinois House and Senate passed budget bills that were vetoed by the governor, and with bi-partisan support, overrode the vetoes. The approved budget reflects approximately \$3 billion in spending reductions from FY 2017, along with an increase in the state income tax. Republican support for the budget, specifically from downstate districts where higher education cuts had significant negative effects, may have signaled a new era of cooperation, but it's too soon to tell. Specific implications for libraries include current funding levels in most line items in the Illinois Secretary of State's budget, while higher education budgets look to be approximately 10 percent lower across the board.

ILA's Advocacy Efforts

In addition to urging passage of the budget bills, ILA introduced three bills this year and all three passed both chambers successfully.

- House Bill 373, Public Act 100-0245. This legislation amends the Illinois Local Library Act to permit a library board of trustees to submit the accurate tax levy amount required to fund its upcoming fiscal year no less than sixty days prior to when the tax levy must be certified under the Property Tax Code.
- House Bill 547, Public Act 100-0338. This legislation raises the bid advertisement dollar amount for library construction, remodeling, repairing, or building improvements from \$20,000 to \$25,000; and
- Senate Bill 2068, Public Act 100-0462. This legislation allows library boards to authorize specific, non-binding advisory questions to be placed on the ballot at the next regularly scheduled election in the city, village, incorporated town, or township in which the public library is located.

In addition to advocating for specific legislation, ILA opposes laws that are deemed detrimental to the library community. That was the case with Senate Bill 864, a proposal that would prohibit annexations without a front-door binding referendum. At a minimum, ILA's position was that the bill was unnecessary and needed to be amended to reflect population thresholds and include school and park districts as well as libraries. The bill was not called for a vote.

We Were There: Conferences, Awards, and Events

More than 1,500 people attended the ILA Annual Conference in Rosemont, October 18–20, 2016. Three full days of programs, exhibits, and awards provided an opportunity for attendees to focus on the conference's theme of Discovery, Advocacy, Leadership. Co-chairs Mary Adamowski and Jennifer Paliatka led a conference committee that put together a strong lineup of speakers and an array of resources. ILA's longtime legislative consultant Kip Kolkmeier received the Robert R. McClarren Legislative Development Award, one of the sixteen awards presented at the annual luncheon. Several of the Sylvia Murphy Williams Scholars, ILA's initiative to support diversity in the profession, attended the conference with complimentary registrations and modest stipends from the fund named for the late ILA president.

Other continuing education events throughout the year included the Leadership Orientation, July 22, 2016, in Bloomington-Normal; Library Trustee Forum Workshop, February 18, 2017, in Oak Brook; the Illinois Youth Services Institute, March 10–11, 2017, in Springfield; and Reaching Forward, May 5, 2017, in Rosemont.

Advocacy and legislative events included seven meet-ups with elected officials, held in nearly every area of the state in February and March 2017—Chicago, Tinley Park, Oak Brook, Buffalo Grove, Edwardsville, Mt. Vernon, and Bloomington-Normal—and culminating in Washington, DC, on May 2, 2017 for National Library Legislative Day.

A major new undertaking, Directors University, was launched in June 2017, in collaboration with the Illinois State Library, Reaching Across Illinois Library System (RAILS), and the Illinois Heartland Library System. Aimed at new library directors, the program attracted sixty registrants for four days of immersion training in all the things you need to know to lead your library, from finance to management to legal issues and more.

In the fourth year of the Soon to Be Famous Illinois Author awards, Daniel Rosenberg was named as the winner for his novel, *The Towers Still Stand*. Rosenberg and his fellow finalists—Annie Hansen, author of *Take the Donut*, and Karen Bedore, author of *The Bard*—were honored on April 12 when the award was announced. Committee members and one of the project founders, Denise Raleigh, hosted the event at the Gail Borden Public Library District in Elgin.

Membership and More

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 iREAD sales outside of Illinois and the LIRA insurance pool, have become increasingly important as traditional revenue sources face pressure from tight budgets and changing environments.

A revision of ILA's membership dues structure was approved by the membership at the 2016 ILA Annual Conference and implemented in January 2017. The primary intent of the restructuring was to reduce the overall number of categories and make membership dues more understandable at a glance.

The iREAD summer reading program marked its thirty-sixth year of existence with the theme, Reading by Design. Committee chair Joe Marcantonio led an effort that included art by award-winning children's book author and illustrator Mike Curato. Curato's miniature elephant, Little Elliot, was a huge hit. 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.

Another of ILA's major initiatives, launched in 2014, LIRA has reached a total of 44 members participating in this group insurance pool for property, casualty, and worker's compensation policies. The pool offers savings to member libraries which must be ILA institutional members.

Contributed income to the association also continues to increase, both through the Illinois Library Luminaries program and several dedicated gifts in 2016–2017, including these new honorees and restricted donations as follows.

2016–2017 Illinois Library Luminaries

Kiplund (Kip) R. Kolkmeier

Richard Shurman

Alexander W. Todd Jr.

Carol Iffland Todd

Mark Sorensen

Ruth W. Gregory

Carla Hayden

Becky Siegel Spratford

Kathy Parker

Dee Brennan

Robert R. McClarren Legislative Development Award, restricted donation from Kendi Kelley

Reference and User Services Forum, restricted donation from OCLC Users Group

Valerie Wilford Fund, restricted donations in memory of Valerie Wilford

Fiscal Report (Year Ended June 30, 2017)

Revenue

General Operations	\$ 71,451
Membership	\$ 303,348
Conference	\$ 401,996
Publications	\$ 2,143,870
Public Policy	\$ 4,000
Awards	\$ 64,182
Endowment	\$ 23,740
Workshops/Projects	\$ 134,318
Reaching Forward	\$ 109,230
Total Revenue	\$ 3,256,135

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

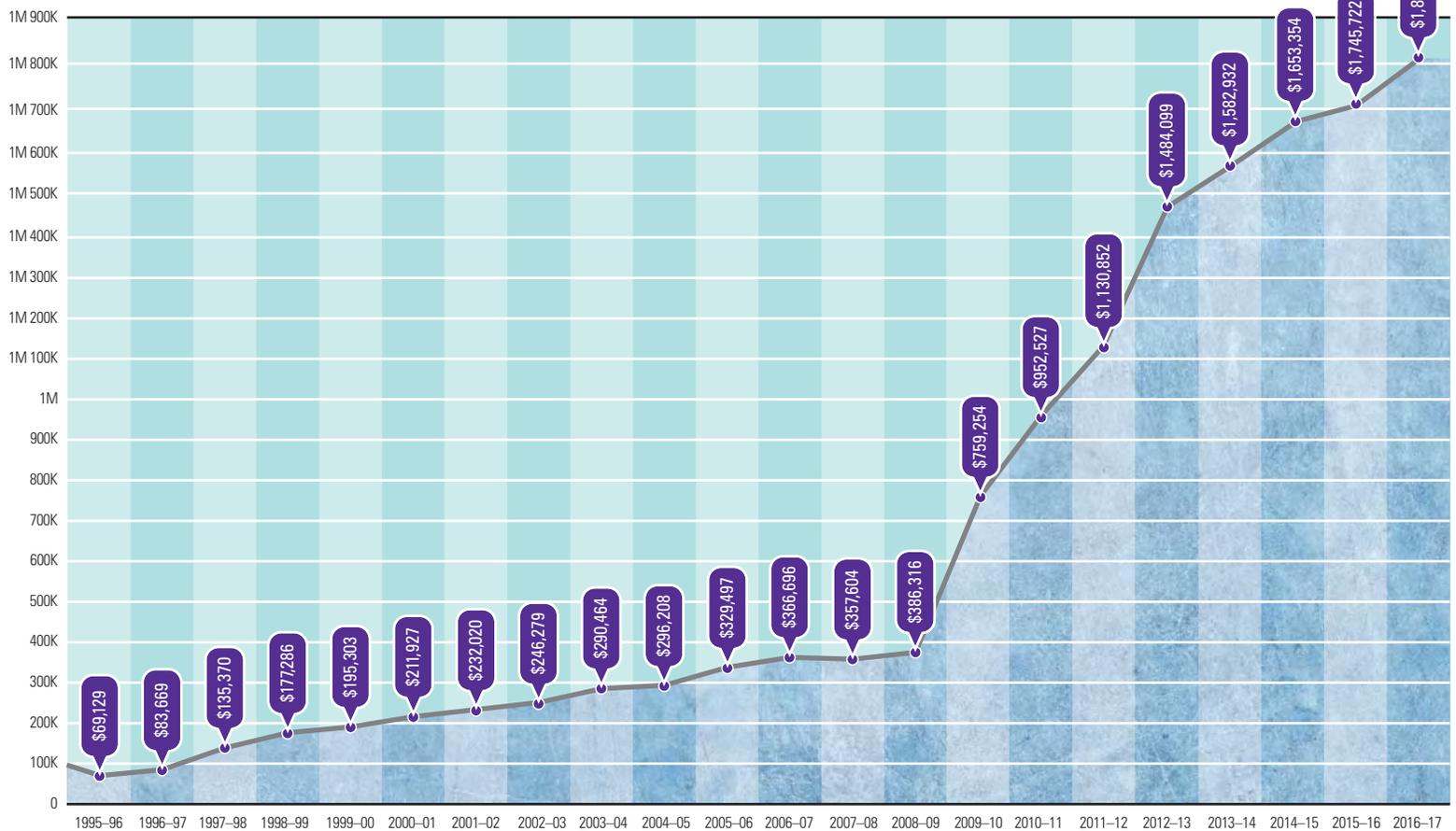
General Operations	\$ 719,822
Membership/Directory/Reporter	\$ 105,143
Conference	\$ 342,258
Board	\$ 31,938
Publications	\$ 1,741,977
Public Policy	\$ 55,609
Awards	\$ 10,609
Workshops/Projects	\$ 165,316
Forums	\$ 1,821
Reaching Forward	\$ 94,112
Total Expenses	\$ 3,268,605

Net (Loss) Before Gain on Long-term Investments	\$ (12,470)
Gain on Long-term Investments	\$ 111,418
Net Income	\$ 98,948
Net Assets at end of FY 2016	\$ 1,745,722
Net Assets at end of FY 2017	\$ 1,844,670

Net Assets Comprise:

Unrestricted Net Assets	\$ 1,626,542
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	\$ 62,815
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Atkinson Memorial Award (\$3,398)• deLafayette Reid Fund for Continuing Education (\$4,283)• Robert R. McClarren Award Fund for Legislative Development (\$9,086)• Sylvia Murphy Williams Fund (\$632)• Legal Defense Fund (\$725)• Preiser Award (\$116)• OCLC Users Group (\$26,029)• Valerie Wilford Fund (\$18,546)	
Permanently Restricted Net Assets	\$ 155,313
Total Net Assets at end of FY 2017	\$ 1,844,670

Historical Overview of Net Assets



Cumulative Surplus

The growth in ILA’s net assets has been a conscious strategy over the past twenty-one years, with the goal of producing an annual budget surplus.

From 2009 to 2013, annual budget surpluses were largely used to build an operating reserve equivalent to 50 percent of ILA’s annual budget, a directive from the executive board. Once that milestone was reached, the board redirected resources to updating and building infrastructure to support future growth and stability.

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, and also on operating with a small staff and holding overhead and other costs down.

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 within ILA is as strong as ever.

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
Total	\$1,775,541
1896–1995	\$ 69,129
Grand Total	\$1,844,670

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.

2016–2017 Executive Board

President

Pattie Piotrowski, University of Illinois Springfield

Vice President/President-Elect

Melissa Gardner, Palatine Public Library District

Immediate Past President

Betsy Adamowski, Wheaton Public Library

Treasurer

Jeremy Dunn, Chicago Public Library

Directors

Sarah Keister Armstrong, Turks Cap Consulting, Grayslake

Christine Barr, Fabyan Elementary School, Geneva

Veronica DeFazio, Plainfield Public Library District

Nanette Donohue, Champaign Public Library

Richard Kong, Skokie Public Library

Dennis Krieb, Lewis & Clark Community College, Godfrey

Jason F. Kuhl, Arlington Heights Memorial Library

Nancy Maloney, John Deere Library, Moline

Rob Morrison, National Louis University, Chicago

Brian Shepard, Indian Trails Public Library District, Wheeling

Leander Spearman, Belleville Public Library

ALA Councilor

Allen Lanham, Eastern Illinois University, Charleston

Ex Officio

Robert P. Doyle, Illinois Library Association, Chicago

Greg McCormick, Illinois State Library, Springfield

2016–2017 ILA Staff

Robert P. Doyle, Executive Director

Cynthia M. Robinson, Conference and Continuing Education Manager

Tina Koleva, Membership and Product Services Coordinator

Linda Bostrom, Administrative Coordinator



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