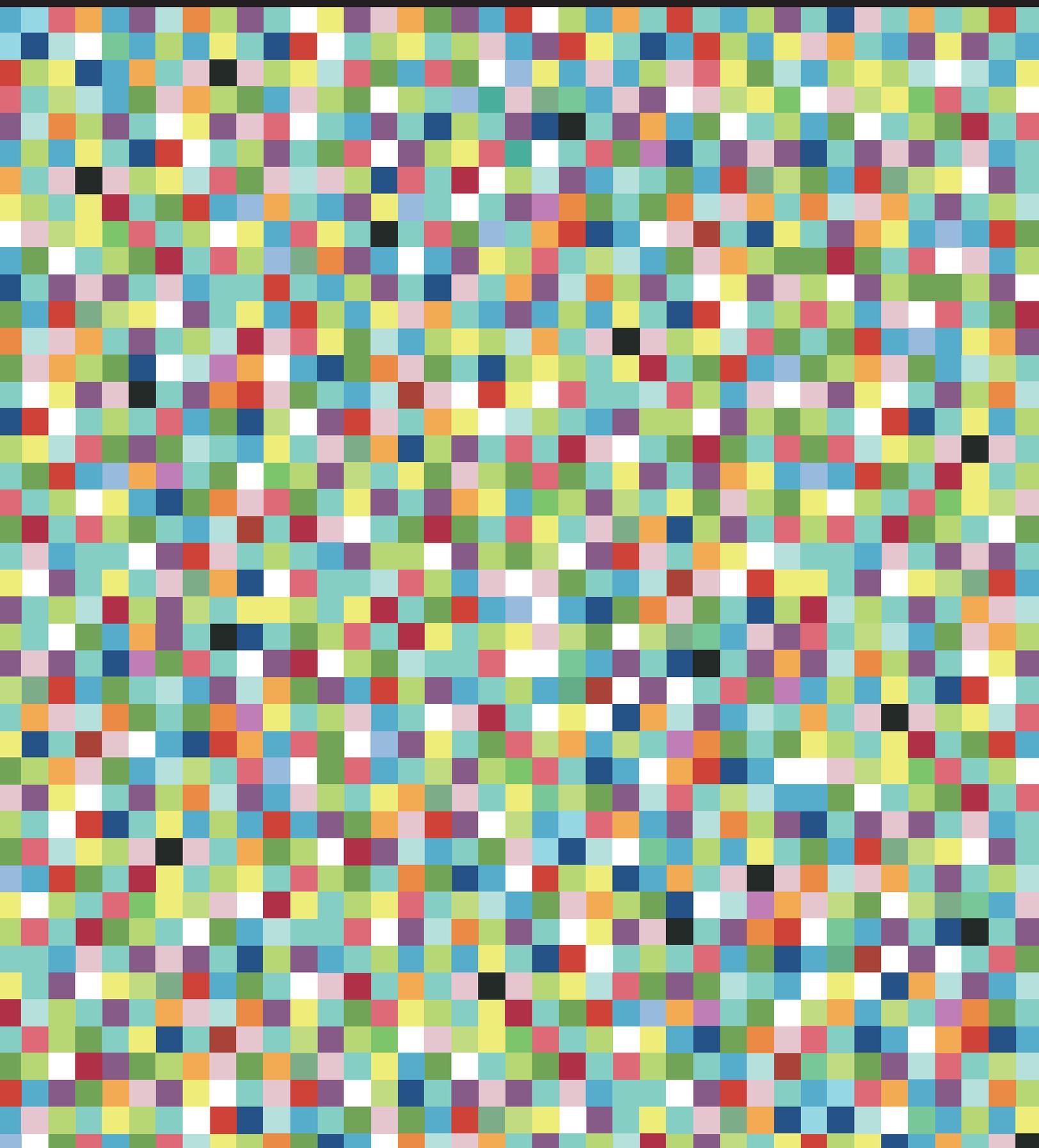
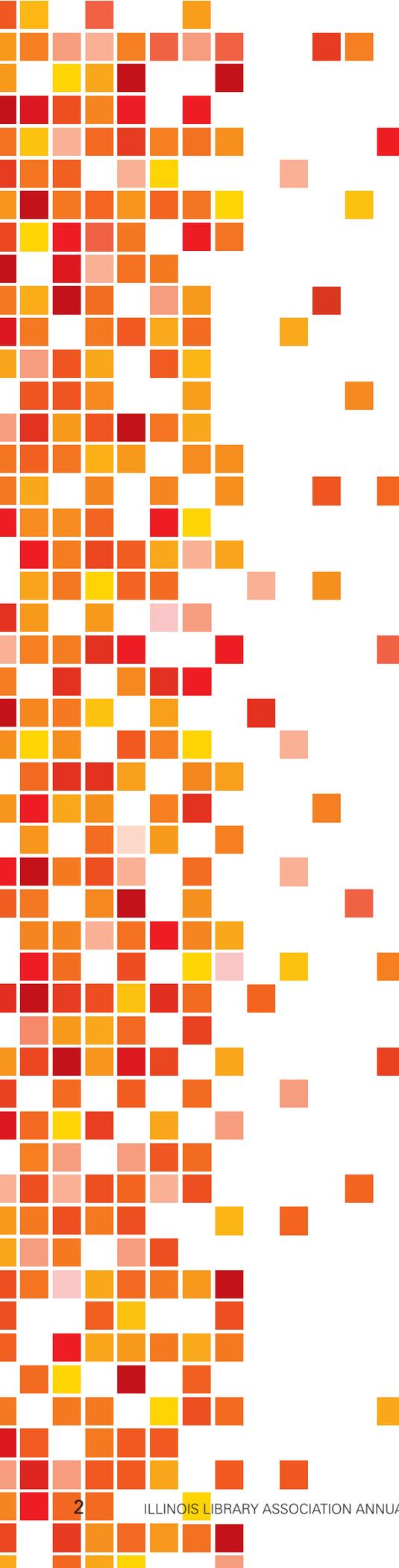


# Weaving Our Web





Dear ILA Members and Friends,

We kickstarted the year with a conference committee of fifteen enthusiastic, dynamic ILA members, who planned a great conference with the theme “Kickstarting: Connections, Creativity, Community.” I was thrilled to be able to meet and greet conference attendees, from the ribbon cutting at the exhibits opening to drawing the prize winners at the closing session. It felt great to kick off my presidential year with such a strong start.

In 2014 the ILA Executive Board adopted a new strategic goal to inspire and guide us in the next five years. Dubbed “The Big Idea,” the goal is to “increase and expand our membership and influence by 2020.” Figuring out how to make that happen led to selecting three areas of focus:

- The first was updating not only our web presence, but all of the online functions members rely on. A customized Content Management System (CMS) and redesigned websites for both ILA and iREAD® were the first steps.
- Next, we sought to provide additional support and structure for member networking. We asked for input through surveys, developed guidelines and expectations, and did some “weeding”—some member groups have sunsetted for now, and others have new communication channels to employ.
- Finally, we’re taking a close look at membership structure to make it meaningful and productive for individuals, institutions, and the association. I’m pleased to be a member of an ad hoc membership task force created by the ILA Executive Board that will begin work in September 2015 and make its recommendations by April 2016.

A big part of the presidential year is devoted to advocating for libraries by meeting with legislators in Springfield, Washington, DC, and around the state. ILA’s Legislative Meet-Ups bring library advocates and legislators together at four locations, three in surrounding Chicago suburbs and one near St. Louis for the southern part of the state. We surpassed our 2014 attendance figures and have plans to keep expanding this signature program.

Leading the Illinois delegation to Washington, DC, in May as part of the American Library Association’s National Library Legislative Day was another milestone; and in June, I had the opportunity to speak on behalf of Illinois libraries on the floor of the Senate in Springfield. With the help of ILA’s legislative counsel, Kip Kolkmeier, I was able to share some compelling testimony and give answers to some hardball questions on the impact of a proposed property tax freeze on library budgets.

Over the past two years, I’ve met librarians and library staff, trustees, legislators, and legislative aides. I’ve visited libraries and congressional offices. At the start of my term as president-elect, a few past presidents gave me some great advice. Above all, they said, have fun! It was a great mindset to have, and it has, indeed, been incredibly fun and rewarding work.

Sincerely,



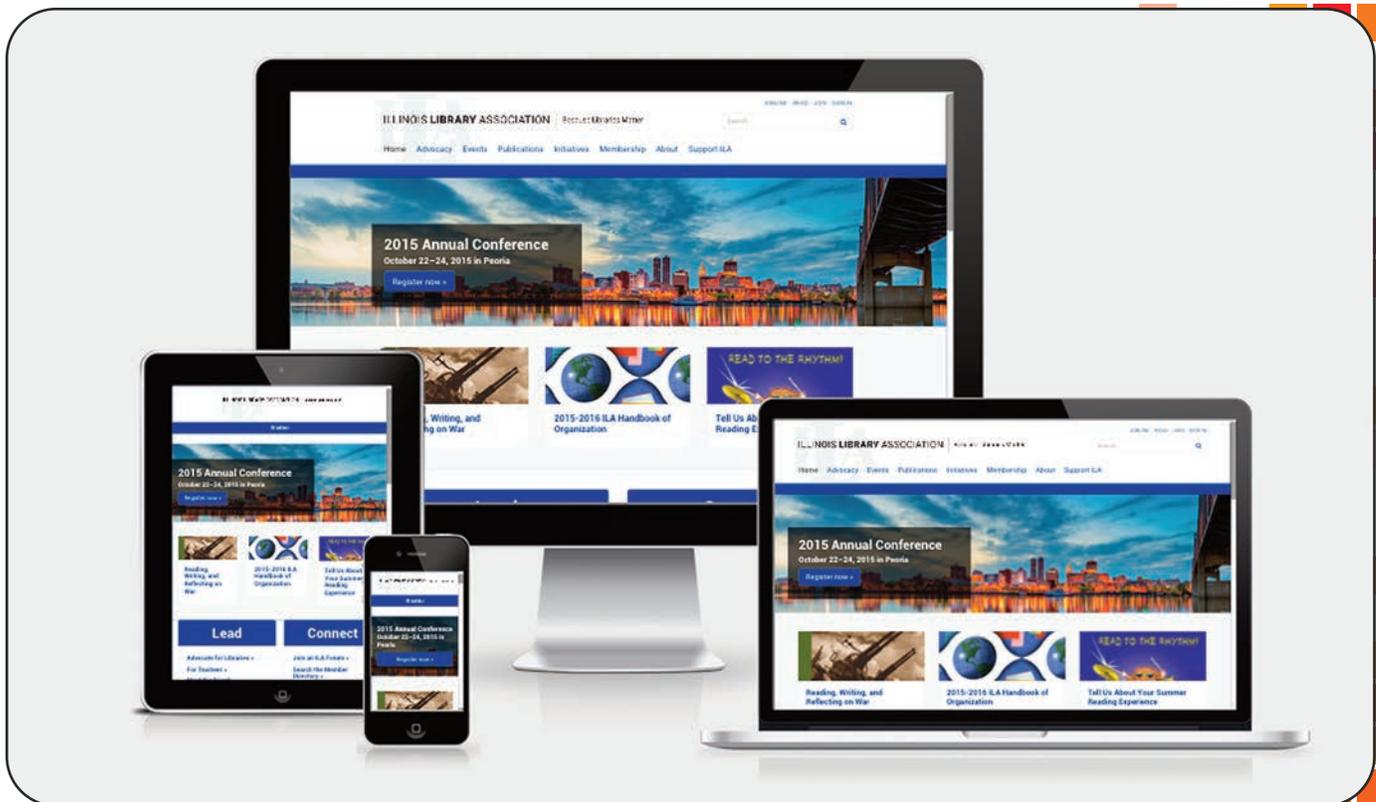
Jeannie Dilger  
ILA President, 2014–2015

## Weaving Our Web

2014–2015 was a year of major developments in ILA's web presence, and while the results are just coming into view, the behind-the-scenes work is a major investment in our future. Three new sites were launched:

- The new look for [ila.org](http://ila.org) is much more than a facelift and is the product of over a year's worth of work by Webitects and ILA staff and members. A custom database for member information, including event registration and all other transactions, was created and built from scratch, reducing the need for many hands-on manual steps by both members and staff. A proprietary CMS and content editor make the site's content more engaging, timely, and easier to navigate.
- [Librariesillinois.org](http://Librariesillinois.org) is the home for the 2015 Illinois Academic, Public, School and Special Libraries Conference — the first of its kind — to be held in October 2015. This collaboration between IACRL, ILA, ISLMA, and SLA Illinois will bring all types of libraries together. The work began more than three years ago and this year brought it all to life on its very own website.
- Finally, the new iREAD® site is scheduled to launch in time for the 2016 summer theme, Read...for the Win! The site will have a wealth of new features and a new interface that will improve both back-office functions and the user experience.

The work of the association continued on many fronts while these new developments were taking place. Our strong advocacy presence in Springfield kept libraries from feeling the brunt of any major changes from the executive/legislative gridlock that currently exists, and the 2014 ILA Annual Conference and 2015 iREAD summer reading program results are reported in the following pages. We invite you to review the year just passed, and welcome you to join us for new adventures in the one to come.



## Thundering Political Storms and Lingering Fog

As usual, ILA found itself deeply involved in public policy advocacy in both Springfield and Washington, DC. Not so typical is that the 2015 Illinois Spring legislative session never ended! Illinois State government is embroiled in perhaps the most contested struggle between the two political parties in our state's history.

Newly-elected Governor Bruce Rauner has proposed a series of changes to state statutes and the Illinois Constitution that would freeze local property taxes, reduce workers compensation costs, change state and local pension systems, limit civil tort litigation, remove major issues from union collective bargaining, modify school funding, alter the way legislative districts are drawn, and impose term limits on constitutional officers and legislators. A majority of state legislators in both chambers oppose the governor's agenda.

Instead of passing a negotiated state budget and adjourning at the end of May, the two parties reached an impasse and forced the Illinois General Assembly into the longest overtime session ever. While a comprehensive state budget was not approved, most funding for K-12 schools was enacted, and through a series of Executive Orders and court decisions, much of state government continues to function. However, a budget disaster in the coming months likely cannot be averted. The state is on a pace to spend almost \$6 billion more in fiscal 2016 than anticipated revenues of \$32 billion. Without massive spending cuts or significant tax increases, the State of Illinois will simply run out of money early in 2016.

Throughout the turmoil of the last year, ILA has continued to alert, educate, and mobilize our members on key issues. For the second year in a row, advocacy started early with four successful Legislative Meet-Ups in the winter. These events brought our members face to face with both state and federal elected officials. These events build relationships, allow us to explain our concerns to our public officials, and lay out our public policy agenda.

The dialog with elected officials continued throughout the spring as ILA took positions on a wide variety of bills and pushed for continued library, system, and school grant funding. Unfortunately, with the state budget unresolved, we cannot say with certainty what state grant funds may be available in this fiscal year.

One of the most important issues for our local public libraries is the threat of a property tax freeze. The original proposal from Governor Rauner was a permanent freeze on the property tax levy of every school district and every unit of local government. The current proposal is a two-year freeze, but even this more limited freeze could be devastating for local public libraries and schools.

This issue is of such importance to our association that ILA President Jeannie Dilger presented testimony on June 9 to the full Illinois Senate opposing property tax proposals that would limit local library and school funding. Dilger was one of only three local government representatives to address the entire Illinois Senate. Her testimony was powerful and effective.

As with any year, there were hundreds of other bills affecting our members, and there were a number of important successes. For example, the nineteenth attempt to impose statewide mandatory Internet filters was defeated. ILA also proposed, and succeeded, in enacting legislation that would encourage additional public access to governmental records on the Internet, thus making a formal Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request unnecessary. House Bill 3796 became Public Act 98-1129 when the Illinois General Assembly overrode Governor's Quinn's veto. The law limits voluminous FOIA requests and specifically allows public bodies to post records online and refer FOIA requesters to the online version. This new law, effective December 2014, is intended to reduce the number and frequency of FOIA requests designed to harass public bodies and public employees.

In this most unusual year, however, these two examples pale beside the larger unresolved issues of the budget, pension reform, limits on local property taxes, and the balance of power between employers and employees in both the private and public sectors.

Illinois library advocates also gathered in Washington, DC, for National Library Legislative Day in early May. As in past years, they made the rounds of the Illinois congressional delegation, reminding them of the importance of their support for the Institute for Museum and Library Services, which directly supports several grant programs of the Illinois State Library, among other national programs. Another of this past year's federal legislative priorities was reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, including a bipartisan amendment that requires support for school libraries.

Most years it is easy to acknowledge lessons learned and boast of goals achieved. This is not one of those years. Funding priorities and policy issues remain in a sort of political limbo. ILA members have risen to this challenge by staying focused on our core messages. We hope that we will soon be able to report more definitive and favorable news.

## Kickstarting: Learning and Leadership

The 2014 ILA Annual Conference saw librarians gather in Springfield for the first time since 2007. The beautiful landmarks of the Old State Capitol and the historic downtown set the stage for three days of exhibits, programs, speakers, and events.

The conference drew nearly 1,100 attendees and featured 131 exhibit booths, and a major uptick in sponsors, including Dewberry, LIRA, Sikich, TBS, and Trane, all at the highest Platinum level. Featured speakers included author and Detroit entrepreneur Josh Linker who opened the conference, and closing session speaker Peter Heller, journalist, adventurer, and author of two recent novels, *The Dog Stars* and *The Painter*.

Throughout the rest of the year, events for trustees, youth services librarians, and library support staff provided targeted continuing education and inspiration. The Trustee Forum workshop in Oak Brook gave a warm welcome to attendees and speakers including Britt Islay and Julie Tappendorf from Ancel Glink, Monica Harris from the Schaumburg Township District Library, ILA Legislative Consultant Kip Kolkmeier, and attorney Phil Lenzini.

ILA's first ever Youth Services Unconference was held in August at Dominican University, introducing innovations and experimentation in youth services in an informal, full-day event. At the other end of the spectrum, Reaching Forward marked its twenty-sixth year as ILA's long-standing conference for library support staff in May at the Rosemont Convention Center.

Incoming ILA leadership, including President-Elect **Pattie Piotrowski** of the Illinois Institute of Technology along with other newly elected executive board members **Christine Barr**, Fabyan Elementary School, Geneva; **Dennis Krieb**, Lewis & Clark Community College, Godfrey; **Nancy Maloney**, Deere & Company, Moline; **Richard Kong**, Skokie Public Library; and ALA Councilor **Allen Lanham**, Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, met in July at Illinois State University to kick off their year. They were joined by the rest of the executive board, committee chairs/members, and forum managers for a full day of orientation and networking. This opportunity for committees to set their agendas and get acquainted is a valuable one, as many committees conduct their meetings remotely throughout the year and welcome this day of face-to-face time.



## Programs and Initiatives: Still Reading After All These Years

Whether it's on a screen or on a page, reading is still at the center of many of our activities. From our ever-expanding summer reading program, iREAD, to the recently launched Soon to be Famous Illinois Author project, books and their readers took the stage.

The 2015 iREAD theme READ to the Rhythm engaged children, teens, and adults at libraries throughout the United States and around the world. Statewide programs in Illinois, California, Minnesota, and Virginia have all adopted iREAD, and individual libraries in many other states participate as well. And iREAD remains the official summer reading program of the U.S. Department of Defense libraries on military bases worldwide.

In its second year, the Soon to Be Famous Illinois Author project drew submissions from authors around the state, each sponsored by a local librarian. The field of forty-three entrants was narrowed to three finalists and Michael Alan Peck was named the winner for his novel, *The Commons Book 1: The Journeyman*, in an event at ILA headquarters on April 16.

Readers and National Book Award-winning writer Phil Klay gathered at libraries in Carbondale and Urbana and at the Old State Capitol in Springfield in a series of programs co-sponsored by ILA and Illinois Humanities. Klay read from his collection of short stories, *Redeployment*, documenting and commenting on his tour of duty in Iraq.

The six issues of the *ILA Reporter*—from August 2014 through June 2015—reported on orchestral librarians, storytelling, library architecture, e-book access, prison libraries, human libraries, and much more. The association's electronic newsletter, *ILA E-Newsletter*, kept members up to date on legislation, events, and library issues in the media. Advance orders for the latest edition of *Illinois Library Laws and Rules in Effect April 2015* prompted an increase in the print run to meet demand.

**"We are writers,  
but we are readers, too.  
And librarians are readers.  
You're just dying to find the book  
that you can't put down—where,  
when you're doing something else,  
you're thinking about that character  
and what happens to them next.  
So it's the validation of the reader  
that counts for everything  
as well."**

—Michael Alan Peck

## Honors, Awards, and Affinity Programs

One of the highlights of the Annual Awards Luncheon was the presentation of the Intellectual Freedom Award to the Orland Park Public Library Board of Library Trustees who held firm during a difficult series of meetings with protestors opposing the library's policies of open access to information. The trustees received a standing ovation for their efforts. The full slate of winners of the fifteen awards presents a cross section of excellence in everything from youth and reference services to advocacy and public relations.

Five new Illinois Library Luminaries—Nancy Giffillan, Lee A. Logan, Mary Dempsey, Hugh Atkinson, and Joyce Saricks—were added last year. This honor roll for Illinois librarians serves the dual purpose of recognizing outstanding voices in the library community while creating a legacy through the ILA Endowment to continue their important work.

Both the Fund for Illinois Libraries and the Libraries of Illinois Risk Agency (LIRA) make it possible for ILA institutional members to realize substantial benefits. The first allows them to receive charitable contributions without establishing their own non-profit status and the second, created in 2014, established a group self-insurance pool for property, casualty, and workers' compensation coverage for libraries.

## By the Numbers: July 2014–June 2015



**13,172**

Number of Bills Introduced in the 99<sup>th</sup> Illinois General Assembly



**9,252**

Number of Bills Introduced in the 113<sup>th</sup> U.S. Congress



**14.2%**

Percent of ILA's Budget Spent on Salaries, Payroll Taxes, and Benefits



**568 versus 427**

pages in the 2015 iREAD Resource Guide versus the 2014 Resource Guide



**9%**

ILA's Income from Membership Dues



**21.17%**

Increase in Users with the New Website



**142%**

Increase in Pageviews

## ILA Fiscal Report Year Ended June 30, 2015

### Revenue

General Operations	\$ 70,016
Membership	\$ 311,901
Conference	\$ 296,351
Publications	\$ 2,234,229
Public Policy	\$ 4,000
Awards	\$ 6,865
Endowment	\$ 10,645
Workshops/Projects	\$ 35,248
Reaching Forward	\$ 120,915
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 3,090,170</b>

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

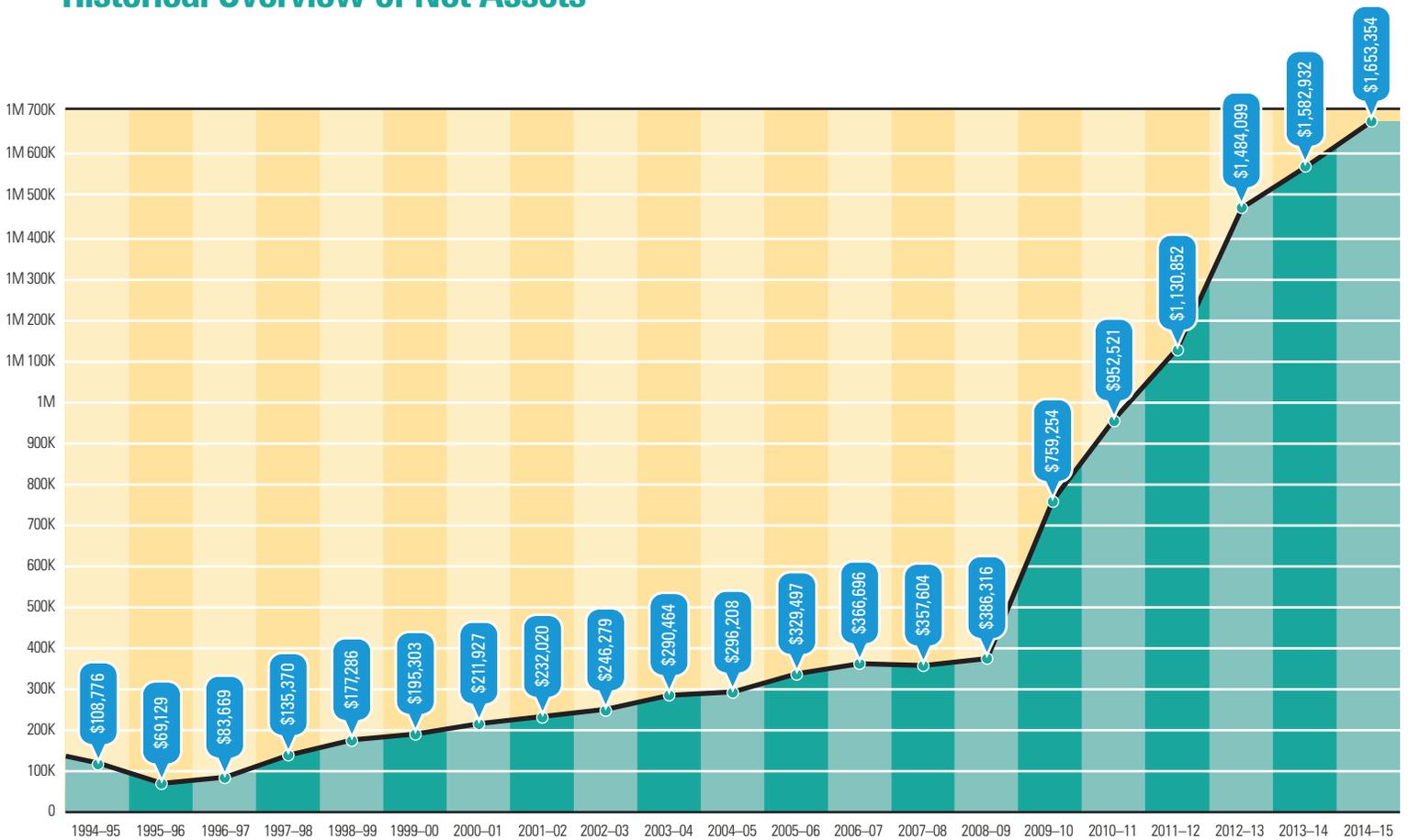
General Operations	\$ 671,053
Membership/Directory/Reporter	\$ 90,320
Conference	\$ 220,620
Board/Committee	\$ 13,826
Publications	\$ 1,790,270
Public Policy	\$ 70,174
Awards	\$ 11,036
Workshops/Projects	\$ 36,554
Forums	\$ 6,506
Reaching Forward	\$ 119,076
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 3,029,435</b>

Net Income before Gain (Loss) on Long-term Investments	\$ 60,735
<b>Gain on Long-term Investments</b>	<b>\$ 9,687</b>
Net Income	\$ 70,422
Net Assets at end of FY 2014	\$ 1,582,932
Net Assets at end of FY 2015	<b>\$ 1,653,354</b>

### Net Assets Comprise:

Unrestricted Net Assets	\$ 1,533,913
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	\$ 11,440
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Atkinson Memorial Award (\$3,042)</li> <li>• deLafayette Reid Fund for Continuing Education (\$4,283)</li> <li>• Robert R. McClarren Award Fund for Legislative Development (\$420)</li> <li>• Sylvia Murphy Williams Fund (\$3,057)</li> <li>• Legal Defense Fund (\$620)</li> <li>• Preiser Award (\$18)</li> </ul>	
Permanently Restricted Net Assets	\$ 108,001
<b>Total Net Assets at end of FY 2015</b>	<b>\$ 1,653,354</b>

## Historical Overview of Net Assets



## Cumulative Surplus

The growth in ILA’s net assets has been a conscious strategy over the past nineteen 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% 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 a new group insurance program, and also on operating with a small staff and holding overhead and other costs down.

Professional associations have typically faced declines in their traditional sources of revenue—membership, conference, and publications—over this same period, and the need for innovation and entrepreneurial efforts is as strong as ever.

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
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,584,225</b>

## 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.



## 2014–2015 Executive Board

### **President**

Jeannie Dilger, La Grange Public Library

### **Vice President/President-Elect**

Betsy Adamowski, Wheaton Public Library

### **Immediate Past President**

Su Erickson, Robert Morris University

### **Treasurer**

Leora Siegel, Chicago Botanic Garden

### **Directors**

Veronica DeFazio, Plainfield Public Library District

Jeremy Dunn, Chicago Public Library

Keshia Garnett, Chicago Public Library

Anne M. Hughes, Glen Carbon Centennial Library (retired)

Rick McCarthy, StudioGC

Rob Morrison, National Louis University

Carol E. Reid, Heartland Community College Library

Becky Robinson, Illinois School Library Media Association

Amanda E. Standerfer, The Lumpkin Family Foundation

Christina Stoll, Indian Trails Public Library District

Susan L. Westgate, Carol Stream Public Library

### **ALA Councilor**

Denise Zielinski, Joliet Public Library

### **Ex Officio**

Anne B. Craig, Illinois State Library

Robert P. Doyle, Illinois Library Association

### **2014–2015 ILA Staff**

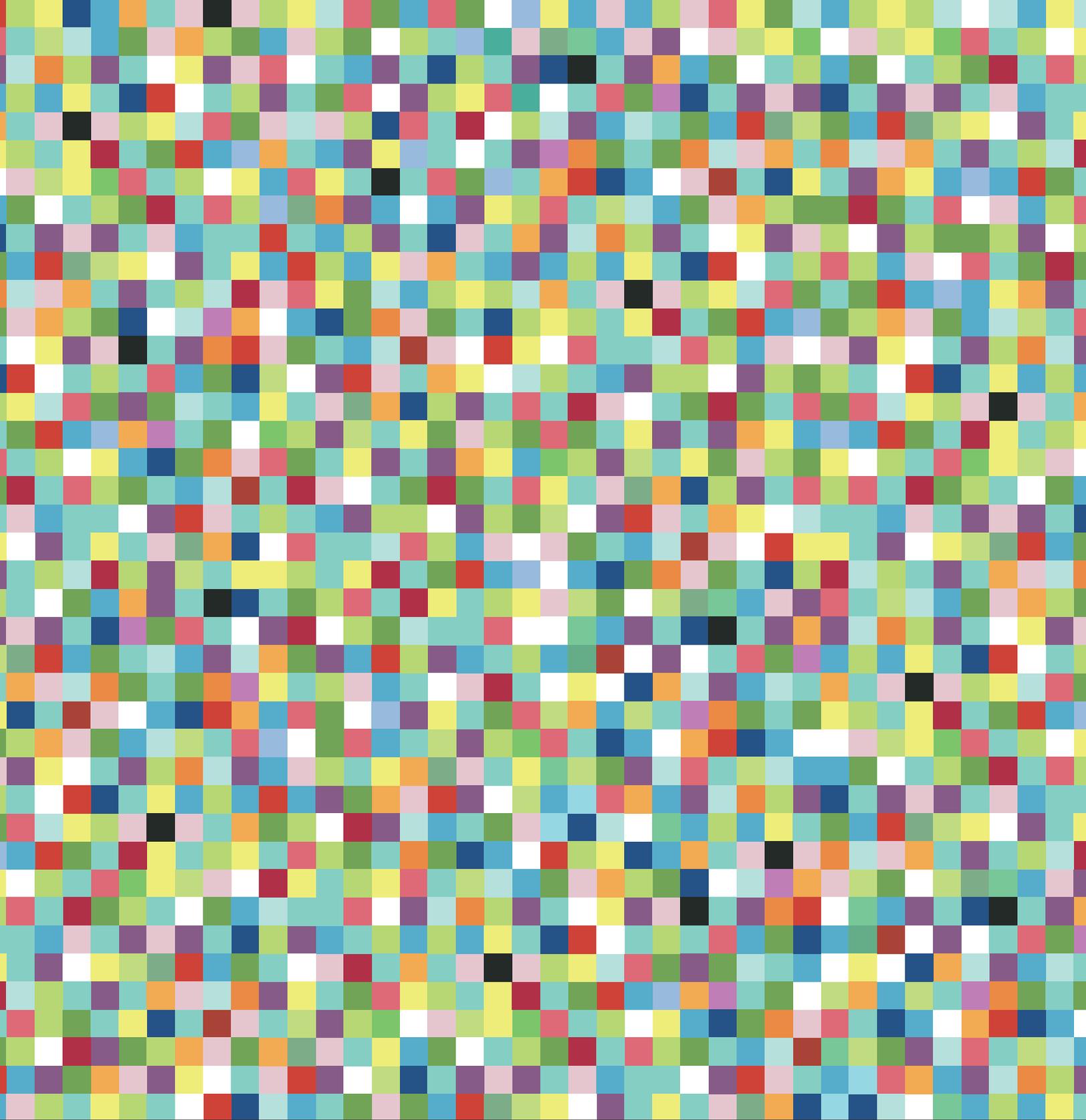
Robert P. Doyle, Executive Director

Cynthia M. Robinson, Conference and Continuing Education Manager

Tina Koleva, Member Services Manager

Linda Bostrom, Administrative Coordinator

Jon Daniels, Controller



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