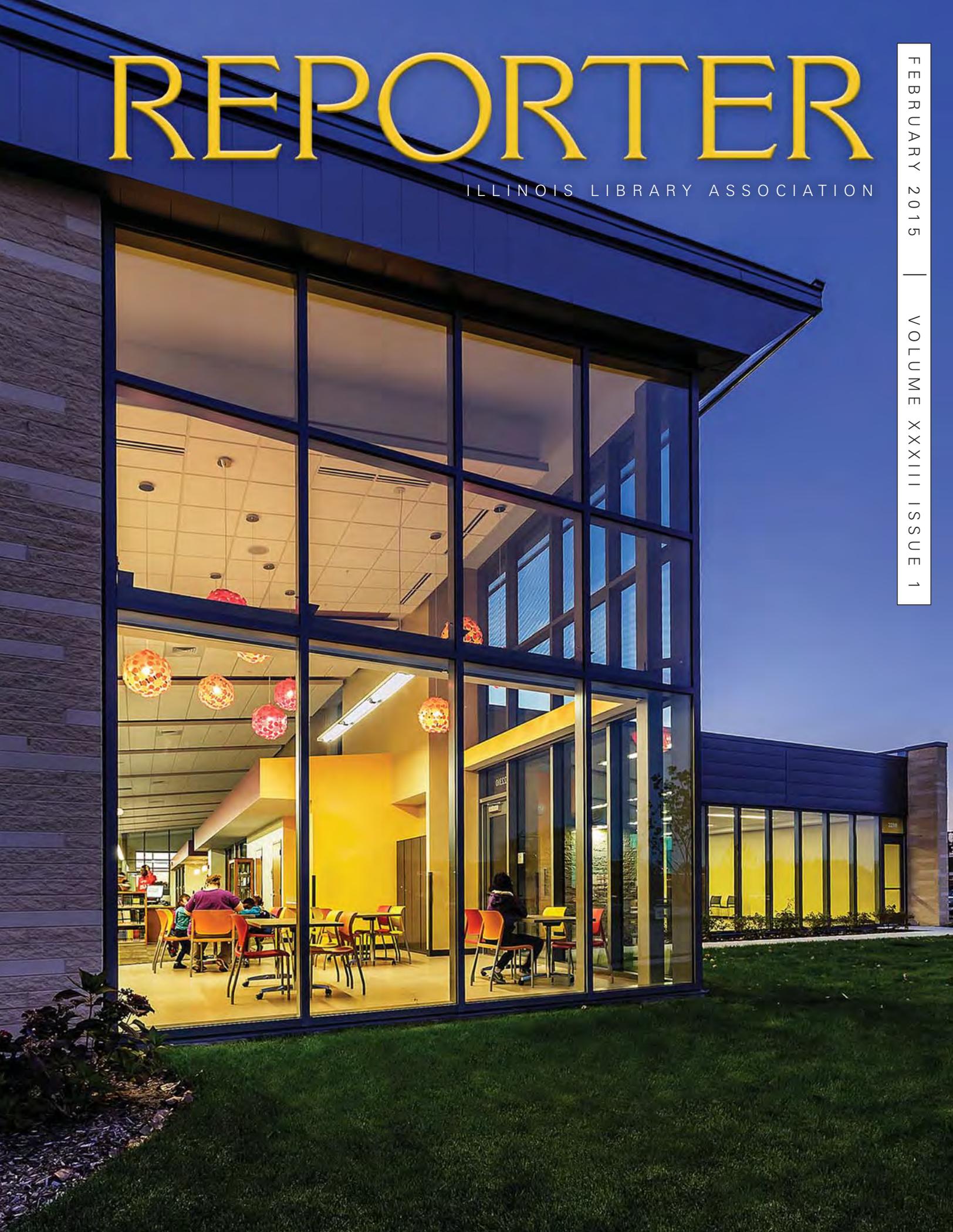


REPORTER

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.



ON THE COVER

The Richton Park Library District's new building is more than double the size of the old one, and that's just the beginning of the story. It is a clean, well-lighted space for much more than books and one of six outstanding examples of Illinois' library architecture in 2014. Take a tour of each of these new library buildings or renovations in the article that begins on page 4.

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 3,200 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 Strategic Advocacy Group for legislative advocacy. ILA is a 501(c) (3) charitable and educational organization.

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See ILA calendar for submission deadlines for the *ILA Reporter*. Copy should be submitted by e-mail to ila@ila.org. You are encouraged to include digital or film photos (black/white or color) and graphics (on disk or camera-ready) with your articles, which will be included on a space-available basis.

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New Library Buildings 2014

We heard from nineteen libraries when we sent out a query for this eighteenth annual issue highlighting new library buildings, renovations, or additions.

Six libraries were selected as outstanding examples of the variety, innovation, and creativity going into buildings and facilities that are delighting their patrons, but all nineteen showcase the value of well-designed spaces.

The projects were designed by six different architectural firms from Chicago, Elgin, Milwaukee, Peoria, and St. Louis, and built from one end of the state to the other. Four are in the Reaching Across Illinois Library System (RAILS) and two in the Illinois Heartland Library System (IHLS). Five public libraries and one academic library serve communities that range in size from 2,910 to over a million.

El Paso Public Library built a 10,000-square-foot addition to a 3,200-square-foot 1906 Carnegie library that serves a town of just under 3,000 people. The words of seventeen-year-old Nathan Schertz, speaking at the library's grand opening, best captures the significance of these projects.

"I just had to stop coming when I was confined to a wheelchair several years ago. As we come around this library today we see these improvements that have happened, and riding in the elevator with Grandma...it really meant a lot. As I go through high school and after school, now I have the opportunity to come and study and use the materials that have become available. I, personally, would like to thank everyone who made this possible and made this a reality for me and my family and the City of El Paso. I thank you from the bottom of my heart."

Please send suggestions for future library features to ILA, 33 W. Grand Ave., Suite 401, Chicago, IL 60654-6799; phone: 312-644-1896; fax: 312-644-1899; e-mail: doyle@ila.org.

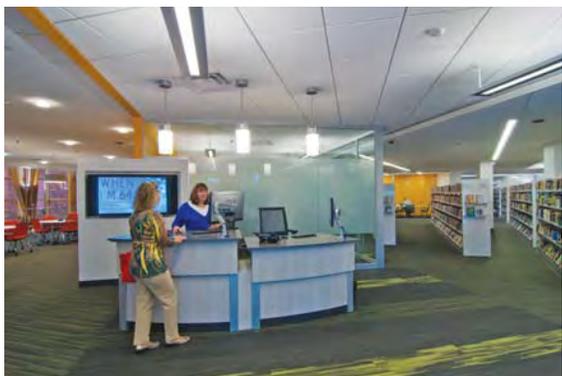
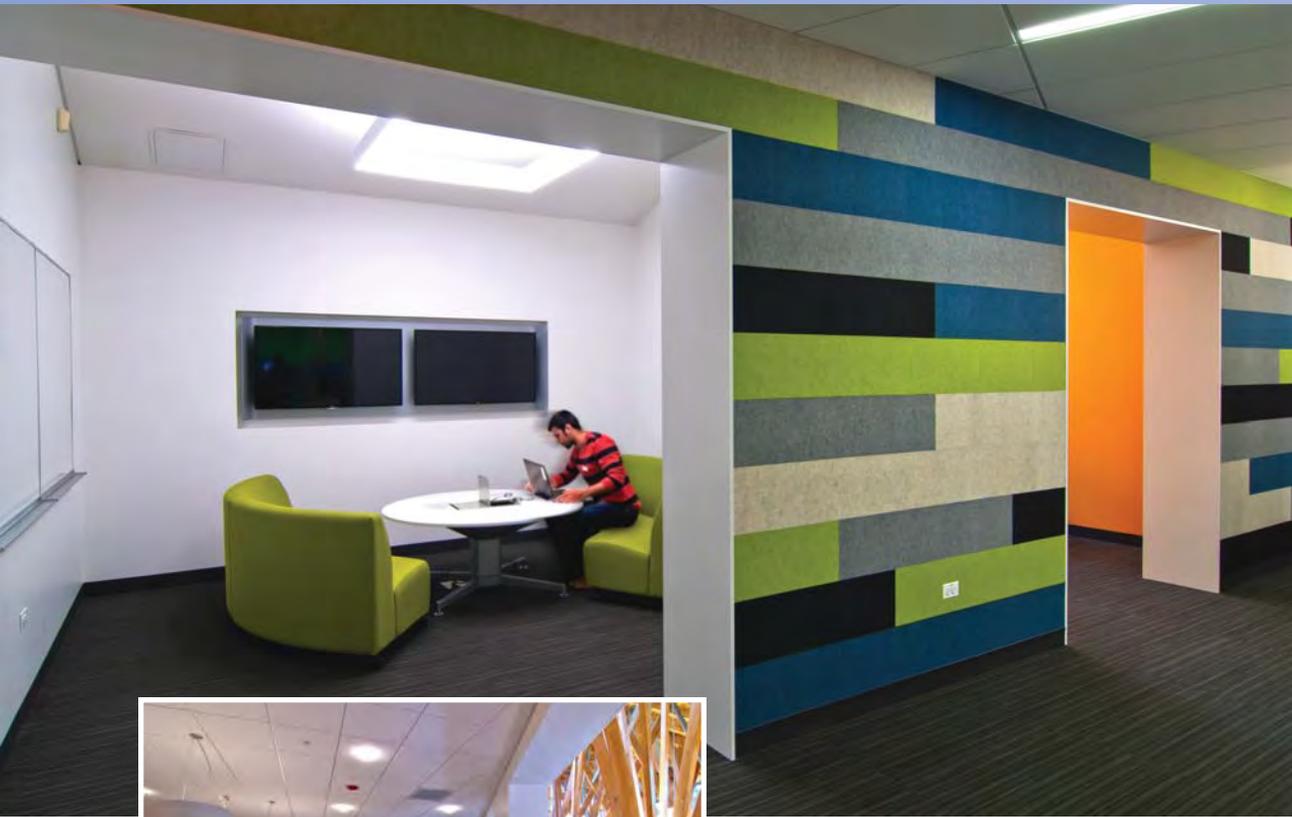
Barrington Area Library



Architect:	Engberg Anderson Architects, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Type of project:	Interior renovation
Total cost:	\$8.5 million
Service population:	44,157
Library system:	RAILS
Library director:	Detlev Pansch

What people are saying:

“The new Barrington Area Library is amazing! I am so impressed with all the improvements they’ve made. In particular, my hat’s off to the IT visionaries who have packed the place with useful, practical technology and made it accessible to all and easy to use. They even have every cord and adapter imaginable, so no matter what kind of laptop or device you come in with, they’ve got you covered. I’ve never seen a public facility so well equipped and organized.”



Case-Halstead Public Library, Carlyle



Architect:	Arcturis, St. Louis, Missouri
Type of project:	New construction
Total cost:	\$4 million
Service population:	3,300
Library system:	IHLS
Library director:	Christine Gerrish

What people are saying:

“This is really a state-of-the-art facility that’s going to last Carlyle and the community a really long time.”



Photo credit: Matthew McFarland

College of DuPage Library



Architect:	Loebl Schlossman & Hackl (LSH), Chicago
Type of project:	Interior renovation
Total cost:	\$32 million
Service population:	28,000 students; 1,015,000 eligible for library use through the Community College District
Library system:	RAILS
Library director:	Ellen Sutton

What people are saying:

“The renovation of the College of DuPage Library involved the reconfiguration of most of the library’s interior, resulting in a beautiful, flexible space that is much more efficient and meets the needs of current and future library users. The space truly reflects the changing ways today’s students study and learn. Since opening our doors after the final phase of renovation, student use has increased phenomenally, with most seats filled during the busy times of the term. The library is now a really vibrant place.”



El Paso Public Library



Architect:	apaceDesign Architects and Engineers, Peoria
Type of project:	10,000-square-foot addition
Total cost:	\$2.1 million
Service population:	2,910
Library system:	RAILS
Library director:	Carla Skare

What people are saying:

“It is kind of a haven. When I don’t know what to do with myself, I’ll go to the library and just nose around, you know, and all of a sudden I’ll notice this book that I’ve been wanting to read for years but I forgot the author or whatever. I think the library will always be there. I’m so proud of El Paso that they did this!”



Richton Park Public Library District



Architect:	Dewberry
Type of project:	New construction
Total cost:	\$6 million
Service population:	13,646
Library system:	RAILS
Library director:	Kelley D. Nichols-Brown

What people are saying:

“The Richton Park Library District reminds me of one of my favorite books, *Make Lemonade*, by Virginia Euwer Wolff. Despite all of our challenges—an old building with space and budgetary constraints—we managed to become one of the best libraries in the south suburbs of Chicago. The talented staff would make the sour lemonade so sweet by selecting the best titles and doing awesome, innovative programming (average 60 per month), that the patrons were okay with the old, small, 8,250-square-foot facility. However after forty years, the board finally decided that the residents deserved a premier library and the public was convinced to stop making lemonade and contribute funds toward a store-bought carton of Country Time Lemonade—an 18,468-square-foot library. Awww... so sweet and refreshing!”



Six Mile Regional Library District, Granite City



Architect:	Trivers Associates, St. Louis, Missouri
Type of project:	Interior renovation
Total cost:	\$4.2 million
Service population:	43,757
Library system:	IHLS
Library director:	Tina Hubert

What people are saying:

**“I knew you were doing something big,
I had no idea it was going to be like this!”**



Kickstarting Your Library and Your Community: You Can Do It!

Three-and-a-half years ago, I decided that I wanted to contribute more to the larger conversation in our profession, so I started a podcast, called *Circulating Ideas*, where I interview librarians of all types to share the innovative work they're doing to keep libraries vibrant in the 21st century. One of the main goals of the podcast is to build a sense of community among librarians. When I wanted to expand that community, I turned to a great community-focused site, Kickstarter...which could also be an excellent addition to your library's fund-raising toolbox.

HOW IT WORKS

Kickstarter is fueled by crowdfunding, the act of pooling small amounts of money to create a larger project. It's not the world of venture capitalists pouring millions into a service or a product; it's everyday people working together for a greater whole. Kickstarter is the largest crowdfunding website, but hardly the only one; the most prominent alternative is Indiegogo. You may have heard about Kickstarter campaigns raising millions of dollars, but the donations come in small amounts from a large number of people; the average pledge on Kickstarter is twenty-five dollars. LeVar Burton's Kickstarter campaign to revive *Reading Rainbow* raised over five million dollars, but half the people who contributed pledged less than fifty dollars each. All of those people worked together to make something happen; they became a community.

Building communities lies at the core of what libraries are all about. In his book *The Atlas of New Librarianship* (MIT Press, 2011), David Lankes states that "the mission of librarians is to improve society through facilitating knowledge creation in their communities." That's a lot for us to live up to, but before we can facilitate knowledge creation in our communities, we have to connect with them. So, what can we learn from crowdfunding sites about connecting with our communities?

I ran my Kickstarter campaign in the spring of 2013 to fund improvements to my podcast, and it was a great way to allow my community of listeners to connect with me and help me in a direct way. Over the summer, the Kickstarter home page had featured "library projects," so it's obviously a good-sized subcategory and one the site supports.

DO IT YOURSELF

Due to tax rules and regulations, your library may not be able to use Kickstarter directly but, you can work with your Friends group or other local entrepreneurs or artists to fund particular projects, or like me, you may have a personal project in mind,



outside of your normal work duties. To start a Kickstarter project, create an account and set up a project page with a financial goal in mind and a distinct time period in which to reach that goal (usually thirty days). This goal amount should cover the costs of your project, including any taxes and fees you'll need to pay throughout the project—some of those fees will include the 5 percent that goes to Kickstarter and another 5 percent to Amazon for processing credit card payments.

Backers donate money in small or large increments in exchange for rewards, anything from one dollar on up, but their credit cards are not actually charged until the campaign is successfully completed. You need to do your homework. If you're offering a t-shirt as a reward, be sure you've covered the cost of purchasing the shirt and mailing fees if the backer is not local. The backer can also choose to pledge without receiving a reward.

You need a clear, concise marketing message to express why backers should support your project. Kickstarters fund specific projects, not ongoing operations costs. What is your end goal? What is the purpose of your project? You need to offer creative, relevant rewards to entice people to back your campaign. Most of all, you need to think everything through to try to spot any weaknesses in your project. Don't overpromise and under-deliver.

WHO ELSE HAS DONE IT?

Libraries of all types can benefit from crowdfunding campaigns. The most common types of library-related Kickstarters are for Little Free Libraries, the neighborhood book collections that double as art projects and relaxed book-lending libraries. Public libraries are sometimes affiliated with these but they're usually neighborhood organized.

Kickstarter is a great way to procure funding for building libraries. Several private organizations, such as Librii and Library for All, created projects to build libraries in the developing world, using new technologies to introduce students of all ages to opportunities to further educate themselves. In the United States, charter and private schools used Kickstarter to fund new and remodel old libraries. Young Scholars' Academy for Discovery in Brooklyn, New York, collected \$4,770 to upgrade their library with new materials and computers, while REALM Charter School in Berkeley, California, used Kickstarter as a class project for the students to design their own library space, raising over \$75,000.

Your library Friends group or other community organizations can be instrumental when planning a crowdfunding project. Northlake Public Library had a community member who dreamed up a campaign to promote the graphic novel collection at the library by purchasing a Hulk statue to attract attention. They didn't meet their \$30,000 goal, but raised enough awareness for a Hulk statue to be donated. They then used the money raised to purchase graphic novels and technology tools like iPads, Cintiq tablets, and a MakerBot 3D printer to allow community members to create their own graphic novels and other creative projects.

Finally, there are innovative thinkers like Jason Griffey. In 2012 Griffey created LibraryBox, an open-source wireless file server, as a way to create inexpensive, low-powered digital distribution. LibraryBox is a fork of the PirateBox project, specifically geared toward libraries and education. When he wanted to move forward with a 2.0 version, he used Kickstarter to raise both awareness and funds to pay for hardware and development costs, including hiring a second developer. The campaign raised ten times the initial goal and allowed Griffey to move full time into development of the project. "It proved to me that there was a market for what I did," Griffey told me. "It gave proof to my theories about LibraryBox in a real way."

Kickstarter can prove your worth, garner support from your community, and create all new communities. Kickstarter and libraries go well together because libraries are already crowdfunded. Whether you're a public library being funded by tax dollars or an academic library being funded through the school, you're being funded by your community. And by being a part of your community, by working with your community, you can make great things happen.

LINKS TO PROJECTS MENTIONED

Circulating Ideas

<https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/stevethomas/circulating-ideas-the-librarian-interview-podcast>

Librii: New Model Library in Africa

<https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/248645035/librii-new-model-library-in-africa>

Library for All

<https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/1692978335/library-for-all-a-digital-library-for-the-developi?ref=video>

Library Development at YSA Elementary School

<https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/1615033139/library-development-at-ysa-elementary-school>

X-SPACE

<https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/1903209704/xspace-a-library-designed-and-built-by-its-student?ref=video>

Northlake Public Library

<http://igg.me/at/hulksmash/x>

LibraryBox

<https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/griffey/librarybox-20?ref=video>

Steve Thomas is a public librarian in the suburbs of Atlanta and produces the Circulating Ideas podcast. You can e-mail him at mail@circulatingideas.com or find him on Twitter @stevelibrarian.



Fear Not: Best Practices for Dealing with FOIA Requests

Illinois libraries have seen an upsurge in requests made under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) in recent months. Just seeing those four letters in the subject line of an e-mail can make an administrator's heart start racing as panic sets in. FOIA requests do not have to be traumatizing experiences. With a little preparation, responding can be painless.

In a presentation designed to address multiple elements of the dreaded FOIA request process, the ILA Public Policy Committee and ILA Advocacy Committee combined efforts in a session at the 2014 ILA Annual Conference: "Keep Calm and Carry On: Responding to FOIA Requests." Speakers presented tips on legal aspects of FOIA, what to do when you get a request, and personal stories about how FOIA impacted them.

Ten tips for dealing with FOIA from a legal perspective referenced court cases that established guidelines for future problems. Julie Tappendorf from Ancel Glink emphasized that FOIA relies on a presumption of openness and that it is best to err on the side of releasing documents rather than trying to find an exemption in the law. Every library is advised to have a record retention policy. Posting regularly requested documents on your library's website allows for easier access and saves time. The ILA-sponsored and recently passed House Bill (HB) 3796 allows for libraries to refer requesters to Internet documents rather than duplicating and mailing the information.

WHEN IS ENOUGH "ENOUGH"?

The terminology in the Freedom of Information Act is often vague and can cause confusion about what is actually required. For example, Tappendorf stated that the only case ruled in favor of the public body in a question of whether a request was "unduly burdensome" was a request to the Illinois Attorney General's office that would have forced staff to search 9,000 records for the information. All other cases have been ruled in favor of the requester, which leaves FOIA officers to wonder what exactly constitutes an "unduly burdensome" request.

Assistant Attorney General from the Public Access Bureau, Timothy O'Brien, addressed this in a workshop on "How to Handle Frequent Filers," presented by LACONI last fall. As a general rule of thumb, he recommends asking if the burden of the request exceeds the public interest. Extensive searches for records that cannot be found immediately are not considered burdensome. Looking for a requested record in your office filing cabinet is not enough; records must be tracked down whether they are under spider webs in the attic or in the trunk of your board president's car. Even records held by other agents, such as contractors, may be the library's responsibility.

[continued on page 22]



“Looking for a requested record in your office filing cabinet is not enough; records must be tracked down whether they are under spider webs in the attic or in the trunk of your board president’s car.”

However when a request is truly a nuisance request, like one received by the Orland Park Public Library that asked if the library had documentation on why a board member dressed in red like Mrs. Claus every month (see “Internet Controversy Costs Orland Library \$125,000 in Legal Bills,” *Chicago Tribune*, September 2, 2014), it can be addressed with a statement such as: “There are no records responsive to that request.”

There are also two provisions in FOIA that may help a library deal with “frequent filers.” These include the “recurrent requester” and “voluminous request” provisions. When a requester or request falls under one or both of these provisions, a library has additional time to respond to the request and more flexibility to impose fees for the records. The recurrent requester provision was adopted in 2011, and the voluminous request provision was recently enacted with the passage of ILA-sponsored HB 3796, referenced above.

BE PREPARED...AND FORWARD WITH CARE!

Every public body needs a FOIA policy and set of procedures in place to help staff respond promptly and appropriately. Public bodies are legally required to appoint at least one FOIA officer, with no limit as to how many officers there may be. No matter how small the library, two or more officers who are able to respond to requests is the best practice, in case one is unavailable.

A FOIA request may be given to any staff or board member, so it is crucial to train everyone on basic procedures. FOIA requests are “received” when they are delivered, whether to the board secretary’s e-mail or handed to the circulation clerk in a handwritten note. The following day counts as day one in the allotted five-business-day response time. Holidays do not count and Illinois legal holidays are defined in the statutes (205 ILCS 630/17). For example, if a FOIA request is made on the Friday before Memorial Day, and Memorial Day is a state holiday, the clock does not start until the day after the Memorial Day holiday, which is Tuesday.

The process for forwarding a request can be critical. For example at a Chicago suburban library, a police officer asked a circulation staff member for footage from the security cameras for a specific date and time, and requested that the footage be saved to a DVD. The staff member forwarded the request to Information Technology, who then forwarded it on to the director and FOIA officer. The library then contacted its attorney to make sure the amount of footage being requested was not excessive. The attorney asked the library to have the police officer sign a FOIA form so there would be a paper trail. The Information Technology department pulled the footage requested and saved it to a DVD for the officer.

Though resolved successfully in this instance, without clear procedures outlining who needs to see the request first, the five-day-deadline can be a challenge. Designating an e-mail account specifically for FOIA requests is recommended, and automatic forwarding from that account to FOIA officers is suggested.

Distributing information is our business, so FOIA requests don’t need to be terrifying. Libraries don’t fear a patron with a reference question, and we should not fear a FOIA requester who is trying to find information. Having a plan and policy in place before you receive a request will provide the smoothest experience possible for both the library and requester. For more information on how to prepare for FOIA, check out the ILA Best Practices Committee’s handout at <http://bit.ly/ilafolia>. 

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Illinois Library Association

Nominations for all ILA Awards are due May 15, 2015.

Board Wars and Power Plays: Resolving and Avoiding Them

On most library boards, members generally get along quite well with each other. They discuss and work out their differences in a civil and professional way. On some boards, though, members regularly fight each other before, during, and after meetings—creating a “board wars” environment. You can’t change the composition of your board, but you can institute practices to head some of these problems off before they turn your boardroom into a war zone.

START WITH AN AGENDA

The first battle is often over the agenda. Because Illinois law requires that the agenda include all items that will require a vote and that it be posted and distributed prior to the meeting, whoever controls the agenda—usually the board president—wields considerable power. Battles may occur when other board members find they cannot get their proposals placed on the agenda.

Options for dealing with this include a policy that allows members of the board (in addition to the board president) to have items placed on the agenda. The policy can spell out limits on the number of items that may be added to each meeting, or place other restrictions. Such policies ensure that board members can bring an issue to the board for public discussion, with no assurance of passage or approval, but allowing a variety of voices to be heard.

In the absence of such a policy, board members may resort to calling a special meeting. For library districts, state law allows either the board president or a minimum of four trustees to call a special meeting. While there is no similar language in the public library statute, some boards adopt a policy to define the procedure for calling special meetings. In practice, whoever calls the special meeting controls the agenda, which can be an important tool.

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES 101

Board members have to be able to raise issues, participate in discussions or debate, make motions, and ultimately vote on matters on the agenda. These issues are generally covered by the parliamentary procedures that govern how meetings are conducted. Some library boards have adopted *Robert’s Rules of Order* (DaCapo Press, 2011), others have enacted their own local meeting procedures. When enforced consistently and fairly, these procedures can help to reduce battles.

Parliamentary procedures provide definitive rules for board member conduct so the business of the library can proceed. They do not have to complicate your life, they can simplify it. If you choose to develop your own local procedures, there are a few ground rules to consider: the rules cannot conflict with the Open Meetings Act; they cannot suppress the ability of board members to make motions or express their views on agenda items presented for final action; finally, they cannot provide the president with the authority to eliminate all debate on agenda matters or refuse to recognize a particular board member.

A board already at war might consider establishing a few practical, local rules, as follows:

- To address a situation where board members frequently interrupt other members, a board might establish a rule that members can only speak when recognized by the chair of the meeting.
- Where a board member has taken over debate on a particular agenda item and refuses to allow any other member to speak or give the floor back to the chair, a board member might move to “call the question,” bringing the item to a vote. This procedural tactic only works if there is already a motion and second on the floor. Another tactic is for a member to call “point of order,” reminding the chair to take control of the meeting.

- To establish reasonable limits on discussion of agenda items, a board might adopt a rule that each board member has three minutes to present his or her position; another rule could provide that no member is permitted to speak a second time on an item until all other members have had an opportunity to speak. For these procedures to be effective, the limitations must be enforced fairly and equally.
- The order in which the roll is called for a vote can create conflict on a warring board, if members are waiting to see who votes which way. Some boards alternate a roll call from left to right, and then right to left, or establish another order. Consistency in enforcing this procedure can eliminate unnecessary arguments.
- Because the board president is the presiding officer at board meetings, he or she may be called upon to make decisions regarding the flow of the legislative process. The president's authority is not unlimited, however, and his or her decisions are subject to appeal. For example, if the president refuses to recognize a board member or fails to call a matter to a vote after the question has been called, a motion can be made to "appeal the decision of the chair." The president is required to accept the motion, and if seconded, a vote needs to take place on whether the presiding officer is, in the opinion of the board, in the wrong. If the secretary refuses to call the roll, one of the members can call the roll and, if the motion is successful, the president is required to honor the vote.

MINUTE BY MINUTE

If there is already conflict on the board, it is not uncommon for disputes about the form and content of the minutes to arise. Some members want to make sure their remarks have been accurately recorded. Others who wish they had made snappier or more pertinent remarks at the last meeting may want the minutes to be changed to reflect their retroactive brilliance.

Problems relating to minutes often boil down to who prepares them and who approves them. The secretary is generally responsible for preparing the minutes, but approval belongs to a majority of the board. If a board member cannot convince a majority of the board to include his or her changes, the only recourse is a written letter expressing disagreement. The letter becomes a public record, but will only be adopted as part of the minutes if a majority of the board agrees.

OPEN AND CLOSED

The Open Meetings Act authorizes library boards to go into closed session to discuss certain statutorily identified matters, such as pending litigation or employee discipline. Board members should be free to discuss these matters without concern that their discussions will be shared outside of the closed session. Leaking the content of these closed sessions can be harmful—consider the negative impact to the library's position in defending a lawsuit if its litigation strategies are shared with the opposing party. Although the Open Meetings Act does not contain penalties for violating the confidentiality of a closed session, a library board can adopt its own policy banning this conduct. Penalties for violating the policy might include a fine or public censure of a member. In some cases, a library board might have to seek a court-ordered injunction to prevent future disclosures.

In board wars, the ultimate winners and losers are not determined by points scored during meetings. Effective boards need to find a way to get past individual differences and disagreements and act in the interests of the people and the community they serve. ■



Library Jobline of Illinois



<http://www.ila.org/jobline>

Positions for Librarians and Support Staff

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Spring 2015 ILA Advocacy and Continuing Education Events

Don't miss any of these opportunities to learn and connect with colleagues, elected officials, and improve your library in 2015!

For complete registration forms and information, see the December 2014 *ILA Reporter* or visit the ILA website.



Illinois Library Association

LEGISLATIVE MEET-UPS FEBRUARY 13, 16, AND 20

Register at
<http://www.ila.org/ila-events/2015-library-legislative-meet-ups>

LIBRARY TRUSTEE WORKSHOPS FEBRUARY 14

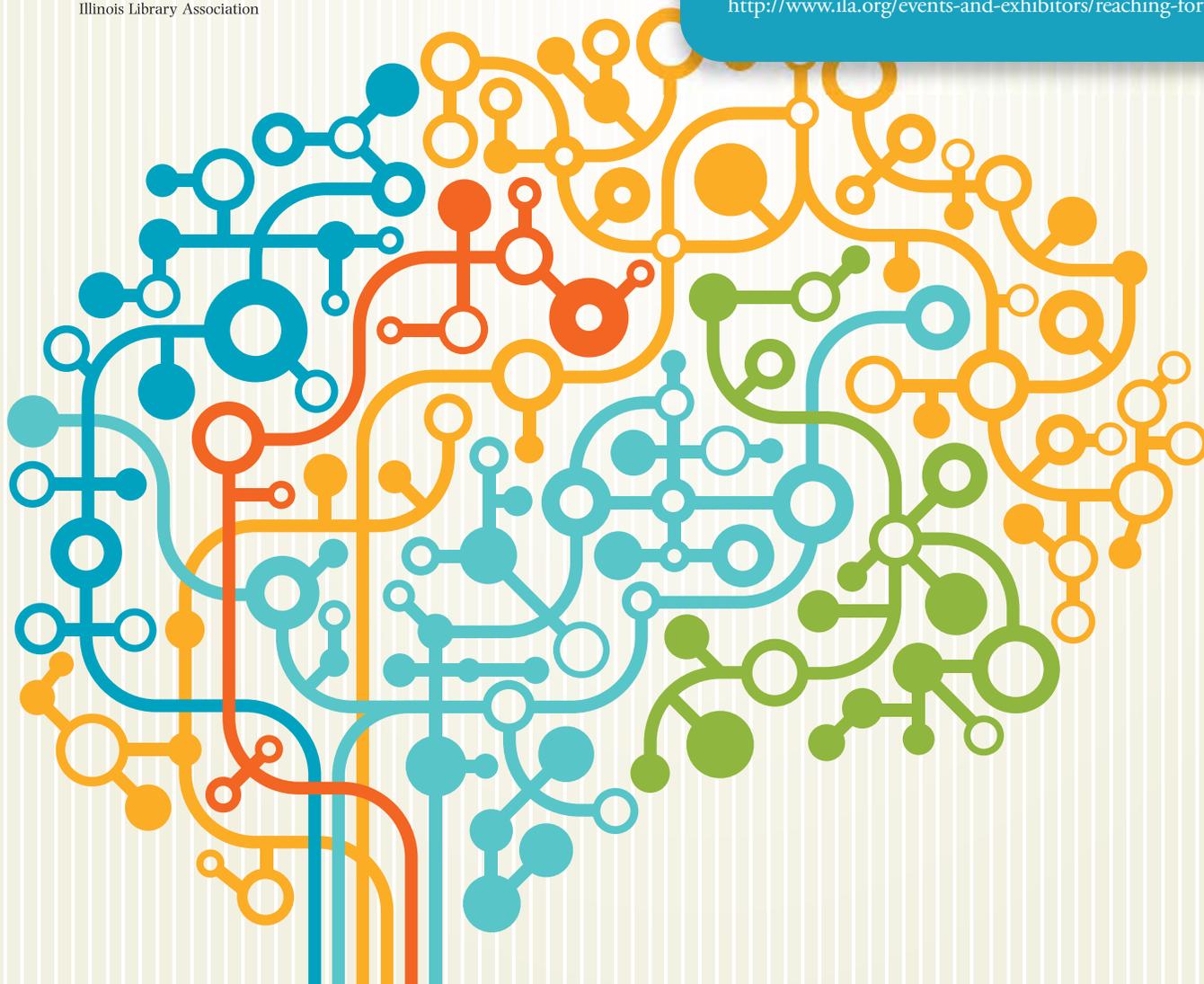
Register at
<http://www.ila.org/events-and-exhibitors/trustee-workshop>

NATIONAL LIBRARY LEGISLATIVE DAY MAY 5

Register at
<http://www.ila.org/ila-events/national-library-legislative-day>

REACHING FORWARD MAY 8

Register at
<http://www.ila.org/events-and-exhibitors/reaching-forward-2012>



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.

PERSONAL MEMBERS

Gregory Berger, Arlington Heights Memorial Library
Sandra Dunbar, Heyl, Royster, Voelker and Allen, Peoria
Amy Ingalls, New Lenox Public Library District
Megan Jaskowiak, Bradley University, Peoria
Michael Kelly, Arlington Heights Memorial Library
Dennis Krieb, Lewis & Clark Community College, Godfrey
Kristen Lawson, St. Charles Public Library District
Karen Smith-Cox, Lovington Grade School, Sullivan
Brittany I. Staszak, St. Charles Public Library District

STUDENT MEMBERS

Samantha Eichelberger, University of Illinois
at Urbana-Champaign
Anjelica Rufus-Barnes, Dominican University GSLIS,
River Forest

TRUSTEE MEMBERS

Adrienne Ives, Golden Prairie Public Library District,
Bloomington
Mark Kurzat Kowski, Eisenhower Public Library District,
Harwood Heights
Pete Magnelli, Eisenhower Public Library District,
Harwood Heights

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

ILA CANDIDATES FOR 2015

The ILA Nominating Committee has announced the candidates for election in the spring of 2015.

President-Elect candidates

(three-year term beginning July 1, 2015 — June 30, 2018)

Pattie Piotrowski, Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago

April Becker, Hanson Professional Services, Springfield

Board of Directors (three-year term beginning July 1, 2015 — June 30, 2018). A candidate from each pairing will be elected in accordance with the ILA bylaws as amended at the 1998 ILA Annual Conference; a total of four directors will be elected to serve three-year terms on the ILA Executive Board.

Director-at-Large:

Sandra Dunbar, Heyl, Royster, Voelker and Allen, Peoria

Nancy Maloney, Deere & Company, Moline

Director-at-Large:

Christine Barr, Fabyan Elementary School, Geneva

Karen Smith-Cox, Lovington CUSD 305, Sullivan

Director-at-Large:

Richard Kong, Skokie Public Library

Georgia Bouda, Bloomington Public Library

Director-at-Large:

Dennis Krieb, Lewis & Clark Community College, Godfrey

Jennifer Paliatka, Elmhurst College

ALA Councilor:

Allen Lanham, Eastern Illinois University, Charleston

Megan Jaskowiak, Bradley University, Peoria

Any ILA member wishing to be added to the ballot by petition may call the ILA office for information. Nominations by petition for an elective office shall be proposed in writing by at least one hundred (100) personal members of the association and delivered to the executive office by March 1, 2015.

Candidates for director nominated by petition shall be added to the slate and placed in the paired candidate group that most clearly matches the affiliations of the petitioner as determined by the nominating committee. Petition candidates for vice president/president-elect will be added to the presidential slate as requested. The polls will open electronically April 1, 2015.

In addition, paper ballots will be sent to persons requesting one. The return deadline is thirty (30) days after the ballot is postmarked. The electronic polls will close April 30.

Serving on the nominating committee are Halle Cox, Jeanne Hamilton, John Moranski, Jane Paula Plass, Matthew Suddarth, Susan Swords Steffen, and Su Erickson, chair.





◀ MY TURN ▶

| Dennis Rossow, Ela Area Public Library District, Lake Zurich &

Karl Stach, Alpha Park Public Library District |

Voices of Two Trustees

Rossow: Libraries are more vital than ever. As information available to each of us becomes more abundant yet dispersed, fractured, and partisan, libraries protect the sacred right of our freedom to information by making available to all citizens information without censure or revision.

This vital role of our libraries is one of two important lessons I've learned as a library trustee. As a trustee I'm helping to ensure an educated citizenry by protecting the right of free speech. My library carries books I'd never read because the viewpoints in these books are diametrically opposed to what I believe in my personal life. But I remember that the same holds true for those who would oppose my views, and in our current partisan political climate, only libraries can completely safeguard both sides of the debate. I'm honored to play a small part in the defense of this dialogue.

What I've also learned as a trustee is that we are more than administrators of a budget. Vital to the role of a trustee is to represent not only the interests of current taxpayers but the interests of current and future library patrons. In my first term as a trustee, our library director and her staff had a vision of a revitalized popular collections area that would open the floor space and encourage patrons to linger and enjoy the area as a "third space." Of course this involved spending money, and in 2008 this was not a popular idea. But by a slim margin, the board passed the plan because of the passionate and unfailing support of trustees who could see the future space and its importance to the library's desire to provide patrons a more comfortable and encouraging environment. Walking through the doors of the library today, patrons are greeted with an open and natural space that invites them to stay.

This aspect of the trustee's role requires the willingness to take a long view of the future, trust your library professionals, and support their vision when possible, then work not just for a stable balance sheet for today, but for a vital library that serves as the center of its community for generations to come. This involves risk at some level, but the rewards include leaving a legacy to future citizens of a vibrant, living place where all citizens can find their voice.

Stach: A few years after I retired, I became a library trustee for a large, heavily rural district located in southwestern Peoria and southeastern Fulton counties. I sought to become a library trustee because I believed that my education and my work and life experiences would benefit my library. However, during the four years that I've been a trustee, I've learned that I had significant ignorance regarding the priorities and operating principles associated with overseeing library resources.

I brought with me experiences from a career in manufacturing and from being a board member of my local public television station. In both of these, revenue generation is an ongoing priority. In manufacturing, revenue must exceed expenses to insure a company's growth and longevity. In public television, only a small portion of revenue is from tax dollars. A public television organization must work continuously to insure that revenue is sufficient to keep its doors open and its programming flowing over the airwaves. Keeping stakeholders happy and controlling cost are key elements to success in both of these environments.

It became evident to me quite early in my term as a library trustee that my library has different operating principles and priorities from organizations that do not rely on tax dollars as a primary revenue source. My library does not have any significant ongoing revenue other than tax dollars. My library levies the maximum amount allowed and budgets based on the revenue that the levy is expected to generate. The priority seems to focus on keeping our patrons happy with little consideration given to what our voters and taxpayers may expect. Some may argue that patrons, voters, and taxpayers are one and the same, but that is frequently not the case; in our district, many of our voters and taxpayers are not patrons. Our voters and taxpayers generally support our library, but they expect their tax dollars to be levied based on defined operational needs, not inflated to the highest level allowed by the law. It is difficult to believe that our taxpayers would complain if our library's levy was lowered.

I continue to believe that a primary responsibility of a public library trustee is to represent voters and taxpayers, and that a public library should work continuously to derive a meaningful portion of its revenue from sources other than tax dollars. My advocacy for these things will continue as a part of my service as a library trustee. ■

What does your library offer?



Cedarburg Public Library
Cedarburg, WI

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