

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

Library Love at the 2019 Legislative Meet-ups

2019 saw another banner year for ILA's Library Legislative Meet-up events, which took place in eight locations around the state from February 1 through March 1. A write-up and attendance figures chart (showing increased participation among attendees and legislators alike!) are available on p.24-25. Among the hot-topic discussions about library funding, property taxes, library trustee qualifications, and more, the cheery book-art centerpieces created by the local coordinating team at the Metro East meet-up in Edwardsville exemplified the positive tone of this year's series.

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 five 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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See ILA calendar for submission deadlines for the *ILA Reporter*. Copy should be submitted by email to ila@ila.org. You are encouraged to include press-ready digital photos (300 p.p.i.) and graphics with your articles, which will be included on a space-available basis.

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Welcoming New Library Trustees

With library trustee elections around the corner, libraries are thinking about how they are going to onboard new trustees. When a new trustee joins the board, whether through an election or appointment, having a plan for the trustee's orientation is critical to helping them become acclimated to the library and other board members. The orientation sets the stage for what a library can expect from a board member in the future and provides a library director an opportunity to align the new trustee with the library's philosophies.

After the election or appointment, the director and board president should call the trustee to welcome them to the board. Follow up with a welcome letter that includes some basic information. Here is a sample of what a letter might look like:

“At the end of the day, directors and staff need to remember that new trustees need to be onboarded just as staff do.”

Dear,

Welcome again. Congratulations on your appointment/election to the library board. I look forward to working with you. Enclosed in this packet are some library goodies, board member and key library staff contact information as well as information on completing the Freedom of Information Act and Open Meetings Act training which is required by all new elected officials and must be completed within 60 days of being sworn in.

You will be receiving more information during the orientation, but, before that happens, I want to share some basic information that you will hopefully find helpful.

Board meetings are typically on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:30PM in the meeting room. My administrative assistant will send out a request for agenda items at the beginning of each month. If you have anything that you would like added to the agenda, you can let her know, and we will include it on the agenda.

The board packet typically goes out the Friday before the board meeting. It is emailed out to all trustees and posted on the website. There are times when information is not included in the board packet online as it pertains to items that will be discussed in a closed session. Another item that is always emailed is the minutes from the previous month's meeting. They are then posted on the website after the board has approved them.

If you have any questions or want to discuss anything in the board packet or anything else, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. My administrative assistant will be in touch to schedule a convenient time to do your orientation.

I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,
Your Library Director

[continued on page 6]



KATE HALL + KATHY PARKER

**THE
PUBLIC
LIBRARY
DIRECTOR'S
TOOLKIT**

After the director has welcomed the new trustee, invite the trustee in for an orientation. Providing an orientation every election cycle for all trustees can also help current board members stay up to date on information. At the orientation, provide each new board member with a binder or digital copies of important information. Here is a sample of what you can include in the binder:

1. General library information
 - a. Contact information
 - b. Mission statement
 - c. Organizational chart
2. Board of trustees' names and phone numbers
3. Key staff contact information
4. Calendars
 - a. Board meeting dates
 - b. Holiday schedule
 - c. Annual calendar of actions to be taken at board meetings
5. Director's reports (past six months)
6. Minutes (past six months)
7. Financial reports (past six months)
8. Annual library budget
9. Board bylaws
10. General library policies
11. Any other large-scale projects
(master plans, capital improvement plans, etc.)
12. Additional resources from your local library system or association

Creating an agenda for the actual meeting helps you stay on track and cover all the salient details. Here is a sample agenda:

- I. Welcome
- II. Duties and role of the board versus duties and role of the director
- III. Library structures in your state
 - A. Your state library
 - B. Library system (if applicable)
 - C. Funding and your state libraries
- IV. Important policies and laws
 - A. State laws (varies by state)
 - B. Personnel
 - C. Unattended children
 - D. Circulation
 - E. Bylaws
- V. Budget
 - A. Review of prior month's treasurer's report
 - B. Review of different reserve accounts
- VI. Library tour
- VII. Strategic plan review

The orientation usually takes about two to three hours. The trustee should leave with a good knowledge of how the library runs, how the board meetings run, and any projects that the library is currently working on. This will help bring the new trustee up to speed at their first meeting.

Once the orientation is complete, the training is not done. Offer trustees to attend local continuing education opportunities like ILA's Trustee Forum Workshops or Trustee Day during the ILA Annual Conference.

Like any job, it takes about a year to learn. But unlike an employee, trustees are only attending meetings once a month. Directors should review their agendas each month and identify common items like the levy and budgets and reach out to new trustees during the initial year to offer additional information.

At the end of the day, directors and staff need to remember that new trustees need to be onboarded just as staff do. Welcoming them into the library and making sure they have the information and background they need to succeed will help create a committed and engaged board.

Adapted from *The Public Library Director's Toolkit* by Kate Hall and Kathy Parker, ALA Editions, 2019. ISBN 978-0-8389-1859-3. Available at the ALA Store, www.alastore.ala.org. 

A View from the Trustee Forum Workshop Springfield

I spent an inspiring day on March 9, 2019 at the Illinois State Library in Springfield with a room full of library heroes at the Illinois Library Association Trustee Forum. The Trustee Forum typically holds a workshop every year in Oak Brook, but it has been five years since an additional event has been held in central Illinois. These dedicated library advocates gave up a Saturday to spend the day learning more about their roles and responsibilities as leaders of their libraries. There were trustees who joined their board just a few months ago, as well as trustees with more than ten years of dedicated service. Many traveled an hour (or more) to attend the program.

We were welcomed by Jay Kasten, president of the Trustee Forum Executive Board, and Greg McCormick, director of the Illinois State Library. Cyndi Robinson, deputy director of ILA, greeted each attendee as they arrived. Illinois Heartland Library System associate director Ellen Popit, board member Sandy West, and membership coordinator Anna Yackle also joined us for the day. We all came to listen to Amanda Standerfer from Fast Forward Libraries share information about the duties of trustees (care, loyalty and obedience), and outline ten specific trustee roles and responsibilities. Amanda also provided an excellent list of library and nonprofit resources. ILA's legislative consultant, Derek Blaida, updated all of us on the activities taking place across the street at the State Capitol.

There were opportunities to network and share stories with other trustees before the program, at lunch, and during the afternoon Q-and-A session. I learned about a trustee serving on a library board without a physical library building that contracts with another library for services. I listened to the challenges faced by a trustee serving at a library that does not have a library director. I heard about a community where most people did not even know there was a library in their town, but whose patrons are now starting to attend (and love!) the programs being offered at the library. Another trustee asked me about executive session procedures, as their board never goes into a closed session. Many of the trustees I met serve communities of less than 10,000 people with few staff members and limited budgets.

I learned so much from these amazing men and women. These true library rock stars face many challenges, but believe strongly in the benefits a library can offer all of us. They find creative solutions that help their libraries provide needed services, and generously volunteer their time and talents to help make a positive impact on the library serving their community. I invite you to join me next year for the second annual Illinois Trustee Forum in Springfield!

Kathy Caudill is the president-elect of the Illinois Library Trustees Forum Executive Board. She has served for 16 years as a trustee at the Ela Area Public Library District in Lake Zurich, Illinois, a suburb northwest of Chicago. 

“I wanted to drop a note to tell you how much I enjoyed Saturday’s workshop. It was very informative and I walked away with increased knowledge that will make me a better board member. The conversations before the meeting and at lunch were excellent too. I got so much out of the day. I hope to attend more of these in the future!”

—Amanda Emmerich, Effingham Public Library Board of Directors

Partners in Technology: Growing Technology Skills and Creating Learners of the Future

At the Normal Public Library you are sure to hear small voices reading and playing, but you might also see robots zooming across pathways, DIY computer and tablet kits being built, or kids who are experiencing new lands through virtual reality. These are the tell tale signs that our technology mentor program Partners in Technology is in full swing. This new, innovative program enables our public (and even our staff members) to reevaluate the role public libraries play as a bridge connecting children and teens with cutting edge technological resources.

Our library has been fortunate enough to be able to offer a bevy of successful technology programs in the past, from classroom-style drop-in programs to larger hands-on events, but our patrons wanted more. More technology resources, more classes led by tech professionals, more robust programming that covers a wide array of tech fields and keeps pace with the ever-changing landscape of modern devices. In response to this desire we submitted a grant proposal to join the American Library Association (ALA) and Google in their Libraries Ready to Code initiative. Through a lengthy submission process we were accepted as one of thirty libraries nationwide that would start programs, create content, develop strategies, and collaborate with other libraries, professionals, and educators to devise recurring programs that lay a strong technological foundation on which young minds can build.

As a jumping off point our library was awarded a \$25,000 grant to develop a program or programs that would highlight computer science and computational thinking skills. Modeled after an established NPL reading program, Partners in Reading, we decided to start Partners in Technology. The Partners in Technology program pairs children and teens wishing to learn computer science and computational thinking concepts with local technology professionals, hobbyists, and college students studying in technology fields. Pairs meet for 60 minutes each week over an 8-week season and work on projects that marry the child's interest and the mentor's expertise. Our pilot season in January 2018 was conducted with 14 pairs of technology professionals and students, but has since grown with our current season consisting of 25 pairs.

In the past, we have provided technology programming for the beginner user, but now we have a program specifically designed to help children and teens reach beyond the basics and see themselves as programmers and designers of future technologies. As a bonus, since this program takes place at the library and is free to all participants it encourages access and sparks imagination in all children, no matter their economic situation. Children and teens then get to take their projects a step further with one-on-one expert instruction and ample time to experiment with the technology of their choice. These recurring learning experiences have already created computational learners and creators, as well as social connections that will last beyond the end of the program and benefit both student and mentor for years to come.



I mention the mentors in this context because we heard from the majority of our adult mentors that they learned as much as the students did. By design, this program invites mentors to view tech resources through their partners' eyes and approach them as new learners themselves. We also learned that many of our mentors had never visited our library before, and that they were surprised to find a public library with "such a twenty-first century approach" to tech literacy. Our mentors were clearly positively impacted by the Partners in Technology pilot program, as many of them returned in January 2019 for our current season.

There have been challenges, including small numbers of mentor registration, having more children interested than mentors available, and mentors that were confused about how to get started. However, our team of librarians has risen to meet these different challenges through collaborating, brainstorming, and thinking outside the proverbial box. One such change was the choice to allow college students to become mentors instead of limiting participation solely to tech professionals. This not only saw a significant rise in mentor registration, but also gives children and teens real-life examples of the people who are studying fields that they may have not considered or even heard of until that point. When one mentor explained that they were studying cybersecurity, their partner responded, "I didn't even know you could do that!"

We also heard from a few mentors that they felt stuck after a few weeks with their partner. To combat this, we have developed some example learning tracts for teams to explore. These are available online and provide resources to free or open-source programs that allow students to track their progress from week to week. These learning tracts are used as a starting place for our mentors, who will then provide context or give real-world examples of how this lesson can be applied in a broader sense. Our ultimate goal is to provide a program that is continually evolving and growing to meet the needs of our participants.

The Libraries Ready to Code project and the Partners in Technology program allowed us to re-think our role as a technology resource, provided a way for us to meet a desire of our community, helped us reach out to professionals in our community, and gave us a sustainably growing program. Participating in the Libraries Ready to Code project and developing the Partners in Technology program has gifted our community with technology resources, access, and a mentorship program that is truly unique. Partners in Technology will continue to grow, creating lasting relationships and technology professionals of the future. And, just maybe, create a new generation of library users who are not surprised that their local library has modern, innovative resources. **ILA**

People Working in the Library, but not for the Library: Challenge and Opportunity on Campus

An unusual thing happened to me several months ago. I was at a university luncheon, talking to some very nice strangers about their work. I finally asked them what building they worked in. “The library!” exclaimed one. It felt like a crushing blow. I realized that have no idea who all works in the library, my library, the place I’ve worked for nearly 14 years.

These people worked in the library, but not for the library, bringing up questions such as: How to create a resource that brings all these groups together? Or even one that just lists who works where so we know each other’s names? Can communication in our library among these somewhat disparate groups be improved somehow? Several months before this incident, staff members at the circulation desk were asked where a particular person in the library was located, and the patron was upset when the staff did not recognize the name: “But they work in the library! How do you not know them?”

Our library is a medium-sized academic library, but our main building, Founders Memorial, is the largest building on campus. It is probably for this reason alone that so many other university resources have taken up office there. In 314,000 square feet,

we currently house 21 librarians, 46 supportive professional staff/staff members, and 50-75 student workers. Besides the office and workspace needed for all these people, the building over the years has become home to the student ID office, the information technology help desk, printing services, a writing center branch, a tutoring branch, a test-proctoring branch, a university computer lab, the Digital Convergence Lab, and a name-brand coffee shop.

Even casual observation reveals that our library is not abnormal in this regard: Gail Hiedeman, dean of Greenville University’s library reports that their building over the years has become home to Student Success, IT, student housing, the Dean of Students, faculty offices, the President’s office and Vice President of Academic Affairs’ office, and Center for Teaching and Learning. In addition, Anne Giffey, the public services librarian at Monmouth College, states that her institution is also getting ready to add college offices into the building—the Registrar and College Center, plus others. A review of library literature supports this observation: In the article “New Neighbors in the ‘Hood: The Changing Face of Library Space,” Cathy Tijerino and Janie Branham, both academic librarians in Louisiana, write about the accretion of university offices and services within their library.

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student
career
success
starts here!



Northern Illinois
University



FOUNDER'S MEMORIAL
LIBRARY



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While communication is important between and among these different resources in the library, much more should be considered. For example, there is the impact on the library space itself when these other offices and services move in. While Tijerino and Branham state that there are various articles that discuss the reorganization of library space, those articles tend to focus on using that space to encompass new features such as collaborative learning centers, information commons, and similar concepts—but there are very few sources that discuss this other loss of library space (14). And yet, this appropriation of space is quite common. A survey created by the authors found that 86.67% of respondents reported having non-library offices and services in their libraries (15). Such services run the gamut: cafés to computer labs to writing centers, to university services such as admissions, first year experience, and others. The authors attribute to this rise in the sharing of *library spaces* to factors such as the declining number of in-person library users over time while the number of Internet users has increased, that many colleges and universities are low on both space and finances, and that many libraries are typically located in the center of their campuses (14).

Rather, what becomes evident is that this subject speaks to the larger issues of library space, of library as place, and of community. The concept of the library as a “third place” refers to libraries having symbolic value within the culture, and being a place that is not the home and is not the workplace. How does this meaning change as outside services come in to the library? It is tempting to worry about the library becoming “less library,” especially if these other services have taken away precious departmental, office, or collection space. For example, if a library needs to take on a large weeding project in order to accommodate university service space, it may seem like confirmation that the traditional role of the library is losing value—what James K. Elmborg calls a “common anxiety about the changing nature of library space” (339). Elmborg also refers to “the possible loss of the absolute identity embodied in libraries as conceptual constructions” (345). But there is the flip side of this coin, too: our users may start to see the library as more relevant than before with these bonus features, and also library services and collections receive more exposure via increased traffic. For instance, Tijerino and Branham write that of the libraries that they surveyed, the impact on operations that was most often noted was “increased gate counts” (17).

“I see that good communication will help lead to the larger sense of community.”



Of course, external factors can impact how library communities are evolving—sometimes libraries are given limited decision-making power over what services and offices are transferred in to their buildings. Tijerino and Branham declare that only 21.43% of their respondents reported that their libraries initiated the decision to move other amenities into their buildings. They also cite the “lack of communication among departments prior to the move” as being a potential source of conflict (18). Finally, Elmborg explains that if libraries do not collaborate with those using the library (including outside services/departments), then the library risks losing its essential meaning (346).

The blending of the library with external services is an interesting evolution in libraries, and while it appears to be common, there is no real blueprint for how to effectively proceed to building a new community. In response to my listserv question on the issue, Giffney indicated that her library was preparing for the new services coming in to the building by updating signage and directories, while Heideman wrote that her library approached such changes by ensuring that Circulation student workers are well trained and by providing a building directory. But every institution is different and they each need to figure out how to form their own communities. As for how I plan to approach this issue in my own library, I see that good communication will help lead to the larger sense of community—I need to think more about how to achieve that. It is a project that is not only useful for the staff, or even for the users coming in, but I now have a better understanding that this is really important. Successfully finding a way to communicate effectively with every entity in the library will help us form a comprehensive community, which, in turn, will define who we are for our users.

Elmborg, James K. “Libraries as the Spaces Between Us: Recognizing and Valuing the Third Space.” *Reference & User Services Quarterly* 50, no. 4 (2011): 338–50.

Giffney, Anne. <AGIFFEY@monmouthcollege.edu> “What relationships does your library have w/in community?” 13 January 2019, <PubServ-ig> (7 January 2019).

Gail Hiedeman. <Gail.Heideman@greenville.edu> “What relationships does your library have w/in community?” 8 January 2019, <PubServ-ig> (7 January 2019).

Tijerino, Cathy and Janie Branham. “New Neighbors in the Hood: The Changing Face of Library Space.” *Louisiana Libraries* 76, no. 3 (2014): 14–18.

ILA

A Library, a Non-Profit, and a Village

Imagine a hometown Easter parade: A local school's marching band comes rum-pa-pum-ing down the street. The Easter Bunny is riding shotgun with the fire chief, who is waving out the window. The parade includes children who decorate and ride their bikes, walkers wearing Easter bonnets, a convertible full of clowns, a local motorcycle club, a few decorated vehicles (including the library's van wafting bubbles from the open gate), a couple of walking mascots, and the police department escorts. The fire trucks' sirens roar as they lead the parade down the streets to the library grounds where the four egg hunts and other festivities are waiting.

The looks of anticipation on the children's faces as they line the large grassy field filled with colorful eggs is captivating. Several volunteers guard the eggs on the field and keep the eager children behind the boundary cones. Vendors decorate tables adorned with prizes, large chocolate bunnies, Easter baskets, and informational brochures. Families stroll about enjoying the activities, talking with their neighbors, and visiting with the vendors. The local police department hustles to cook and serve 500 free hot dogs, chips, and drinks. There is a craft booth set up for the children and the sound of their hammering threads through the hum of the crowd.

Back at the egg field, the announcer gives last minute instructions and the countdown is on. With the drop of a hand, a swarm of children run to fill their baskets. The eggs disappear from the field in moments and the children sit down in the field or retreat to their waiting parents and grandparents to check their eggs for candy and winning tickets before heading over to the vendor tables to gather their prizes. There are four egg hunts, one for each age group of 2–3 years, 4–6 years, 7–10 years, and 11–14 years. The egg hunts take place 20 minutes apart—enough time to enjoy the rest of the activities while volunteers prepare the field for the next hunt. The roaming Easter Bunny receives hugs from children and high-fives from parents as families pose for pictures. The volunteer with the ticket bucket stays busy signing up children for the special bike raffle.

When the last egg is plucked from the field and the last of the prizes claimed, the families crowd into the library's pavilion and fill the picnic tables out on the lawn. Thank-yous are announced and the sponsors receive a round of applause. Library staff members draw the names of the four bicycle winners, who line up with big smiles and new bicycles for the annual picture. One last round of applause erupts before the crowd disperses. It is a beautiful day filled with lasting memories.

This is the true story of a library, a non-profit, and a village of 2,635 and how they came together to create a community tradition that now boasts 6,000 candy filled Easter eggs at the annual Community Easter Parade and Egg Hunts.

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The story begins in 2010. After the financial recession of 2008, the village was struggling with 40% of its residents living at or below the poverty level. The village was about 74% Hispanic and the majority of this populace had migrated from Mexico. Most of the adult immigrants had 4th-6th grade education levels and spoke only Spanish. The high school graduation rate was 50% because parents encouraged their children to drop out of school and get jobs to help support the family. Ninety-five percent of the children received free or reduced lunches at school. The village was doing the best they could with the resources they had but they were stretched thin and challenged with language barriers, educational barriers, and cultural differences.

The first egg hunt was part of a weekly story time and hosted by two library staff members. The library prepared about 200 Easter eggs. Some eggs had small prizes stuffed inside; most had a couple pieces of candy. It was the best the library could do with a small programming budget and a few donations. The eggs were placed out on the library's lawn. With a simple countdown, the small multi-age group of children quickly gathered up the eggs. The families were invited inside the library to finish the celebration with cookies and punch. The smiles on the children's faces as they checked their eggs for prizes were all the staff needed to see before planning to repeat the program the following year.

That same year, on the other side of the village, was a similar Easter event held by a local non-profit group that hoped to bring a little joy to the community they loved to serve. Like the library, they were aware of the lack of resources in the village and they just wanted to see some smiles on the children's faces. Easter seemed like the perfect time to give back to this community.

The library and the non-profit were guided by the village's motto, "City of Good Neighbors," to make things better for residents. It was a simple phone call from the library to the non-profit that started the idea to combine the Easter events into one community event. Another phone call to the village was made and the library, the non-profit, and the village scheduled a meeting. Each organization discussed its needs and goals and a plan began to unfold.

The library's goal was to welcome all families to the library so they could read, self educate, and make connections to resources and technology. The library was seeking ways to reach out beyond the brick and mortar of the building and find ways to become a part of the village. The library agreed to host the event, providing access to drinking fountains and bathrooms, a large field, a playground, and a pavilion area. The library staff would also go out into the business community to seek donations, support, and volunteers.

The non-profit is a group of local businesses and services with a shared goal to bring resources to the Hispanic community. They needed a way to reach families in this word-of-mouth village and to gain trust of the residents. The non-profit's members agreed to be vendors for the community event. Each vendor would donate 200 candy-filled eggs. Inside the eggs the vendors put some winning tickets for larger prizes so the children and families would come to their vendor table to receive their prizes. During the participants' table visits the vendors would introduce themselves, supply brochures explaining services available, and answer questions while passing out the prizes. Vendors would bring their own tent, table, and chairs. Some would march in the parade or bring a mascot to participate in the fun. Some spoke Spanish while others brought interpreters.

The village's goal was to bring their families together. The thought of a community event with a hometown parade and egg hunts on the lawn at the library was a wonderful addition to their efforts. The village agreed to allow the support of the fire and police departments to assist with a parade. The fire chief became the parade chairman. The parade would begin at Village Hall and end at the library. The police department also agreed to provide hot dogs, chips, and drinks. The street department would deliver picnic tables, trash cans, and cones to help mark the egg field.

The next year the library, the non-profit, and the village hosted their first Community Easter Parade and Egg Hunts. It was proudly advertised on the library and Village Hall marquees. Each year the event has grown and grown into what it is today: from 200 eggs to more than 6,000 eggs; from a couple dozen children to hundreds of children; from a few vendors to over twenty vendors; from 150 free hot dogs, chips, and drinks to 500. Almost 1,000 participants attended the most recent event. Some of the oldest children who attended the first community event are now bringing their children back so they too can enjoy this tradition. The parents share their memories as they prepare their child for the countdown to the egg hunt.

So, who are the library, the non-profit, and the village? It doesn't really matter. It also doesn't need to be an Easter event, either; this approach is suitable to any sort of public celebration or event. What matters is that this could be any library, non-profit, and municipality; the ones profiled here chose to ponder the possibilities of working together rather than be daunted by differences. They created the warmth of tradition and instilled a sense of pride and unity in a community. In the end, they received more than they could have imagined. ■



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www.ReachingForward.net

Soon to Be Famous Illinois Author Project Leads the Way to National and International Competition

Since 2013, the Soon to Be Famous Illinois Author Project (STBF) has partnered with more than one hundred Illinois libraries and librarians, given hundreds of self-published authors new opportunities to get their works read (and evaluated by librarians!), built a relationship with BiblioBoard to increase our reach and power, expanded to other states, and more. The result has been increased exposure for self-published authors, new reading experiences for library patrons, and new opportunities for the public, authors, writers' groups, readers, and even librarians to interact in new and different ways with their libraries. This is the power of libraries.

And how that power has grown! Illinois libraries have enthusiastically supported the project from the start, and the success of the STBF model caught nationwide attention.

"The goal of the Indie Author Project to foster communities of local authorship while providing patrons with access to a growing collection of diverse and exciting new literary voices really reflects and reaffirms BiblioBoard's primary mission."

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

In alignment with the multi-state Indie Author Project, STBF will expand to include winners in both adult and young adult fiction this year. Also, seeking new ways to support indie authors who are still in the manuscript stage of their work, the STBF committee added a manuscript contest to its initiatives in 2018. The group put out the call and received 35 unpublished manuscripts. At this writing, 18 manuscripts have moved on to the semi-final judging round. The winner will be announced on the afternoon of April 16 at a livestreamed event just before the Digital Public Library of America conference in Chicago, April 17–19, 2019. The stream can be accessed at soontobefamous.info. The author of the winning manuscript will receive professional editing and cover design, self-publishing guidance from the STBF committee and past winners, and automatic entry into the 2020 Soon to Be Famous Illinois Author Project contest with semi-finalist status. "Piloting the manuscript project was really appealing for the STBF committee because it was a new and different way to reach out to local authors," committee member Kate Buckson said.

[continued on page 20]

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SO HOW DID ALL THIS COME ABOUT?

Partnerships with BiblioBoard and *Library Journal* opened up all kinds of possibilities. When BiblioBoard began working with Reaching Across Illinois Library System (RAILS), it became evident that its mission was closely aligned with the STBF committee's efforts to encourage and support indie authors and bring the best self-published titles to readers. For those of us who remember the challenges of the first year of the contest, struggling with the logistics of getting actual physical books from authors to judges—in the middle of winter, no less—the BiblioBoard customizable submission pages and capacity to allow judges simultaneous, easy access to all entries was exactly what was needed to make this project practical and much easier to replicate. The stage was set for the Indie Author Project to grow.

Library Journal began working with BiblioBoard in 2014 with the inception of SELF-e, BiblioBoard's eBook discovery program for connecting self-published authors with public libraries and their patrons. With STBF as a model, the two partners collaborated on several indie author contests and initiatives by leveraging the trusted vetting process used by *Library Journal* with BiblioBoard software. By 2018, the indie author contest that had existed only in Illinois spread to eight states—Illinois, California, Missouri, Minnesota, Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky and Wisconsin. The movement continues to grow with North Carolina, Florida, Texas, Louisiana, and the first international location, Ontario, Canada jumping on board this year.

When asked about working with the STBF committee, Emily Gooding of BiblioBoard commented, "The goal of the Indie Author Project to foster communities of local authorship while providing patrons with access to a growing collection of diverse and exciting new literary voices really reflects and reaffirms BiblioBoard's primary mission....The Soon to Be Famous team has been an incredible ally from the start in helping us to further that mission."

WHAT'S NEXT?

The possibilities are enormous! With more states running indie author contests every year, not to mention participation outside the United States, imagine how many talented yet undiscovered authors can be connected with readers in the future. The manuscript contest is also ripe for replication, and additional ideas about school classroom short story projects are being considered as well. And if you are attending DPLAfest2019 hosted at Chicago Public Library this April, please drop by the program, "The Indie Tidal Wave," as STBF is proud to be part of this giant surge.

Learn More

Visit the STBF website at soontobefamous.info.

Do you want to bring new titles to your readers? Are you looking for ways to support writers in your community? Talk to us. Contact the STBF team at info@soontobefamous.info.

Current members of the STBF team include:

- Eva Baggilli, Chicago Ridge Public Library
- Kate Buckson, LaGrange Park Public Library
- Jeffrey Fisher, Fountaindale Public Library
- Denise Raleigh, Gail Borden Public Library
- Julie Stam, Eisenhower Public Library
- Lucy Tarabour, Clarendon Hills Public Library
- Sue Wilsey, Helen Plum Memorial Library
- Nikki Zimmermann, Reaching Across Illinois Library System

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Soon to Be Famous Illinois Author Project now open for 2019!

Nominations accepted April 1 - May 31, 2019
from self-published Illinois authors of adult
and young adult fiction

Now open to
YA authors!
2 categories!
2 winners!

Illinois librarians needed for judging
adult and young adult indie fiction

Tune in April 16, 3 p.m.
to see who wins the
multistate Indie Author
Project. Could it be
Illinois' Heather Bentley?

Watch the live announcement
and inquire about judging at
soontobefamous.info.



2018 STBF winner:
Sweetest Heartbreak
by Heather Bentley



soon to
be famous™

Illinois Author Project

ILA Welcomes New Members

On behalf of the ILA community, Executive Board, and staff we would like to welcome our recent new members. We hope as a member of ILA you contribute, grow, and thrive within the library profession and the ILA community; and support ILA's continuing efforts to create and promote the highest quality library services for all people in Illinois.

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PERSONAL MEMBERS

Jennifer Begich, Dominican University, River Forest
Eti Berland, Lincolnwood Public Library District
Devin de Lima, Fremont Public Library District, Mundelein
Nora Durbin, Riverside Public Library
Rebecca Eaton, Carl Sandburg College Library, Galesburg
Korey Flynn, Woodridge Public Library
Steve Kline, Riverside Public Library
Mary Malach, Messenger Public Library of North Aurora
Robert Mitalieri, Sandwich
Zachary Newell, Eastern Illinois University, Charleston
Fred Park, Indian Trails Public Library District, Wheeling

RETIRED LIBRARY MEMBERS

Patricia Meloy, Marengo

STUDENT MEMBERS

Annette Bellino, Poplar Creek Public Library District,
Streamwood
Sara Marcus, Chicago
Carol Ng-He, Arlington Heights Memorial Library

TRUSTEE MEMBERS

Brian Bandy, West Sangamon Public Library District,
New Berlin
Stacy Bond, Six Mile Regional Library District, Granite City
Jason Laureys, Wauconda Area Public Library District
Melissa Soliday, Worth Public Library
Julie Willaredt, Six Mile Regional Library District, Granite City

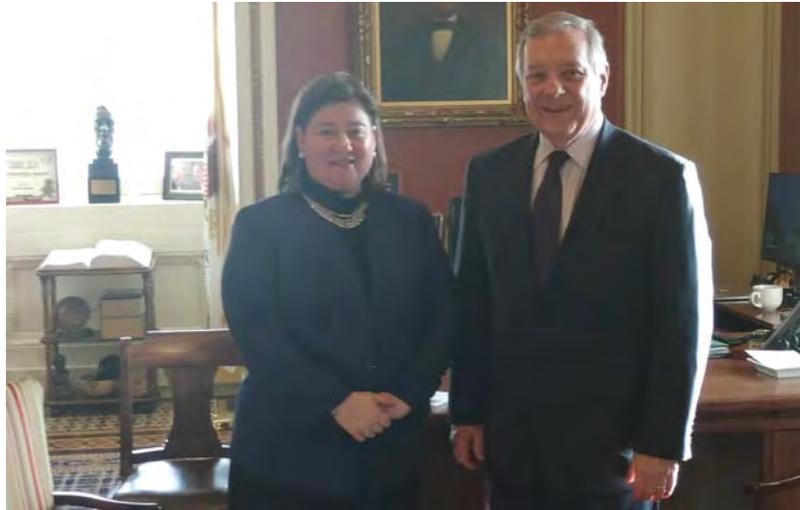
INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS

Riverton Village Library, Riverton

2019 ALA Fly-In Days

On February 25–26, 2019, ILA Executive Director Diane Foote traveled to Washington, D.C. to participate in ALA's Fly-In Days, which the association conducted in place of its traditional National Library Legislative Day each May because the ALA Annual Conference will be taking place in Washington this June. Fly-In Days included one day of advocacy training for library advocates from all 50 states, and one day of strategically selected legislator visits on Capitol Hill. The keynote speaker for the training day was Mignon Clybourn, a former FCC commissioner who spoke on net neutrality; her takeaway is that ultimately a legislative solution will be needed to resolve the debate over what kind of net neutrality rules need to be in place. ILA met with staff in the offices of newly elected Representative Lauren Underwood (IL-14), Representative Cheri Bustos (IL-17), Representative Rodney Davis (IL-13), Representative Danny K. Davis (IL-7), and Senator Tammy Duckworth; and, along with Michael Dowling of ALA's Office for Chapter Relations and Gavin Baker of ALA's Washington Office, with Senator Durbin himself.

The top priority for the visits was library funding; in particular, thanking our legislators for passing the Museum and Library Services Act of 2018, which reauthorizes the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the funding it administers for the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA). Following passage, legislators are urged to fully appropriate LSTA at the authorized level of \$232 million, an increase of nearly \$50 million.



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2019 Legislative Meet-ups by the Numbers



Photo Credit (Above): Emily Klay



Photo Credit (Four Above): Aleksandra Terlik

Legislative Breakfast, South Suburban, Tinley Park, February 1, 2019

2019 Attendees: 60	Legislators: 9 (7 elected, 2 staff) out of 38 or 24%
2018 Attendees: 75	Legislators: 10 (7 elected, 3 staff) out of 38 or 26%
2017 Attendees: 82	Legislators: 10 (7 elected, 3 staff) out of 38 or 26%
2016 Attendees: 66	Legislators: 11 (8 elected, 3 staff) out of 40 or 28%
2015 Attendees: 48	Legislators: 7 (3 elected, 4 staff) out of 40 or 18%
2014 Attendees: 37	Legislators: 4 out of 42 or 9% (Lockport)

Legislative Lunch, Chicago, February 1, 2019

2019 Attendees: 48	Legislators: 3 (all elected) out of 28 or 11%
2018 Attendees: 38	Legislators: 7 (3 elected, 4 staff) out of 27 or 26%
2017 Attendees: 75	Legislators: 4 (2 elected, 2 staff) out of 28 or 14%

Legislative Breakfast, Central Illinois, Bloomington, February 4, 2019

2019 Attendees: 52	Legislators: 11 (9 elected, 2 staff) out of 19 or 58%
2018 Attendees: 45	Legislators: 7 (4 elected, 3 staff) out of 19 or 37%
2017 Attendees: 50	Legislators: 3 (2 elected, 1 staff) out of 18 or 17%
2016 Attendees: 51	Legislators: 4 (3 elected, 1 staff) out of 22 or 18%

The 2016 and 2017 events were lunches; 2018 was the first breakfast.

Legislative Lunch, Western Illinois, Galesburg, February 4, 2019

2019 Attendees: 21	Legislators: 7 (6 elected, 1 staff) out of 19 or 27%
2018 Attendees: 27	Legislators: 5 (3 elected, 2 staff) out of 19 or 25%

Legislative Breakfast, Metro East, Edwardsville, February 8, 2019

2019 Attendees: 59	Legislators: 8 (6 elected, 2 staff) out of 15 or 53%
2018 Attendees: 59	Legislators: 6 (5 elected, 1 staff) out of 15 or 40%
2017 Attendees: 63	Legislators: 3 (1 elected, 2 staff) out of 17 or 18%
2016 Attendees: 58	Legislators: 5 (2 elected, 3 staff) out of 16 or 31%
2015 Attendees: 59	Legislators: 6 (3 elected, 3 staff) out of 16 or 38%
2014 Attendees: 54	Legislators: 5 out of 17 or 29%



Photo Credit (This Page): Emily Klay

Legislative Lunch, Southern Illinois, Effingham, February 8, 2019

2019 Attendees: 29	Legislators: 6 (4 elected, 2 staff) out of 10 or 60%
2018 Attendees: 35	Legislators: 5 (3 elected, 2 staff) out of 10 or 50%
2017 Attendees: 34	Legislators: 4 (3 elected, 1 staff) out of 8 or 5 (Mt. Vernon)

Legislative Breakfast, North Suburban, Buffalo Grove, February 18, 2019

2019 Attendees: 146	Legislators: 19 (15 elected, 4 staff) out of 41 or 46%
2018 Attendees: 131	Legislators: 12 (9 elected, 3 staff) out of 41 or 29%
2017 Attendees: 141	Legislators: 14 (9 elected, 5 staff) out of 41 or 34%
2016 Attendees: 138	Legislators: 10 (8 elected, 2 staff) out of 41 or 24%
2015 Attendees: 124	Legislators: 17 (13 elected, 4 staff) out of 41 or 41%
2014 Attendees: 156	Legislators: 13 out of 47 or 27%
2013 Attendees: 150	Legislators: 17 out of 50 or 34%
2012 Attendees: 145	Legislators: 20 out of 50 or 40%
2011 Attendees: 147	Legislators: 23 out of 50 or 46%

This was the 29th North Suburban Library Legislative Breakfast.

Legislative Lunch, West Suburban, Oak Brook, March 1, 2019

2019 Attendees: 113	Legislators: 12 (10 elected, 2 staff) out of 27 or 45%
2018 Attendees: 66	Legislators: 13 (11 elected, 2 staff) out of 25 or 52%
2017 Attendees: 85	Legislators: 10 (9 elected, 1 staff) out of 28 or 36%
2016 Attendees: 105	Legislators: 13 (11 elected, 2 staff) out of 29 or 45%
2015 Attendees: 76	Legislators: 17 (13 elected, 4 staff) out of 29 or 59%
2014 Attendees: 85	Legislators: 13 out of 29 or 45%





ILA ALERT

News and Information from the Illinois Library Association



HIGHLIGHTS

- Increased Coverage and Limits
- More Control
- Decreased Cost
- Return on Surplus
- Safety and Training Programs
- Fully Transparent

MEMBER TESTIMONIAL

"Because of my association with LIRA, I am a more sophisticated professional and steward for the library and community. I've learned more than I had in almost 30 years working in libraries about safeguarding community assets as a direct result of my involvement with LIRA. Hopefully, additional Illinois libraries will come to understand LIRA is more than insurance; it's a community pulling for each other, contributing to a greater good, and ensuring all are stronger, safer, smarter, and better as a result."

– Tina Hubert, Six Mile Public Library

For additional information visit www.lirapool.com

Enhanced Speaker Lineups Enliven Library Legislative Meet-up Events



Photo Credit (This Page): Emily Klay

Organizers of ILA's annual series of Library Legislative Meet-up events got creative this year, not only featuring the typical presentations from an ILA President, Vice President/President-Elect, or Past President and legislative briefs from ILA's legislative consultant about state priorities and ILA's executive director about federal priorities, but also showcasing exciting area library initiatives, trustees, and patrons; capping off with a short video sponsored by the Reaching Across Illinois Library System, "Dreams Take Flight at the Library."

Meet-ups were held from February 1 through March 1 at eight locations across the state: South Suburban at the Tinley Park Public Library, Chicago, Central Illinois at the Bloomington Marriott Hotel and Conference Center, Western Illinois at the Galesburg Public Library, Metro East at the Sunset Hills Country Club in Edwardsville, Southern Illinois at the Effingham Public Library, North Suburban at the Arboretum Club in Buffalo Grove, and West Suburban at the Oak Brook Marriott.

At most of the meet-ups, perennial concerns over potential property tax freezes and unfunded mandates were a highlight issue, along with legislative priorities regarding standardizing library trustee qualifications across both district and municipal libraries and securing the ability of libraries to participate in pursuing performance contracting as a means of procurement in the Local Government Energy Conservation Act.

The top priority on the federal level was funding for libraries; in particular, thanks to our legislators for passing the Museum and Library Services Act of 2018, which reauthorizes the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the funding it administers for the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA). Following passage, ILA urged legislators to fully appropriate LSTA at the authorized level of \$232 million, an increase of nearly \$50 million. Additional priorities include maintaining the right and responsibility of the Library of Congress to manage the Copyright Office and preserve the hiring authority of the Register of Copyright to the Librarian of Congress; and supporting strengthening of the Federal Depository Library Program.

The North Suburban event featured an entirely new line-up, with no formal discussion of legislative priorities, but rather, a sharing of area library success stories featuring first-person accounts from library patrons and a tabletop showcase of area library initiatives and projects. The new content concept was designed to introduce the large proportion of newly elected legislators to the "why" of library advocacy; why are libraries so important today? Why are we worth legislators' time and effort to support? The case was compellingly made by patrons from Indian Trails Public Library District, Skokie Public Library, Northbrook Public Library, and Palatine Public Library District, all of whom asserted the value of these libraries to their families. Other meet-ups included innovative content in addition to the traditional legislative agenda, such as remarks from the directors of the Chicago Collections Consortium and Chicago Public Library's DigitalLearn initiative at the Chicago lunch, which was held for the first time in Chicago Public Library's gorgeous Winter Garden; trustee Sarah Ruholl Sehy at the Southern Illinois luncheon at the Effingham Public Library; and RAILS board member Paul Mills speaking about the system at the West Suburban lunch in Oak Brook. Discussion was lively at all events, with legislators taking a few moments each to say a few words.

Overall, 518 librarians, library trustees, and library supporters attended the 2019 events compared to 476 in 2018, a 9% increase. Legislator participation totaled 72, a 10% increase from 65 in 2018 and continuing the steady upward trajectory from 48 in 2017. This is especially remarkable given that so many legislators in both the Illinois General Assembly and the U.S. Congress were newly elected in 2019, and did not have offices and staff schedulers in place until early in the new year. Thanks to all who attended, and special thanks to the area library volunteers who work so hard to make these worthwhile events happen. We look forward to seeing results from deepening our relationships and connections to each other.

Celebrate the accomplishments of your colleagues or yourself!

Nominations for the 2019 ILA Awards are NOW OPEN!

Nominating someone (or yourself) for an ILA Award has never been easier! Visit ila.org/about/awards to learn about all of the awards, then submit your nomination form and all supporting documentation via the ILA Web site.

No service should go unrecognized, so submit a nomination today for yourself or someone else who deserves it!



If you have any questions about the ILA Awards, please contact the ILA office at (312) 644-1896 or ila@ila.org.

The deadline for all nominations is May 15, 2019



Illinois Library Association

REACHING FORWARD / SOUTH

Reaching Forward South is coming to Carbondale May 17, 2019.

For complete details or to register please visit www.reachingforwardsouth.org

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