



**ILLINOIS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**

Because Libraries Matter

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**Amy Runkle Selected as 2025 Recipient of the Illinois Library Association Small and Rural Libraries Forum Annual Conference Grant**

The Illinois Library Association (ILA) announces Amy Runkle, Director of the Franklin Grove Public Library in Franklin Grove, Illinois as one of two recipients for the 2025 Illinois Library Association Small and Rural Libraries Forum (SARL) Annual Conference Grant. Sponsored by Fast Forward Libraries, the grant has been established to offset the registration cost for small and rural library workers who would not otherwise be able to attend the ILA Annual Conference.

Amy Runkle is the current Director of the Franklin Grove Public Library. She began working for the library in 2009 as a multifaceted assistant. Her key responsibilities were patron services, programming, bookkeeping, and technology. In 2022, the opportunity arose for her to apply for the Director's position. As a dedicated community volunteer, she saw this as a great opportunity to fulfill this role, and offer more programs and community assistance within the village. She is passionate about supporting community needs with engaging programs, resources, and literacy initiatives.

"Looking at the lineup of programs on the schedule, there are so many topics that could help with our small town library, and the ever-growing needs/changes in the world. Understanding the importance of so many different topics listed will not only be beneficial to myself, but also to my staff and our community. I am an all-in-one Director, from working the desk, maintaining the website, advertising on social media, as well as acting as bookkeeper, maintenance lady, etc. Attending ILA would be an amazing experience for me to grow!"

In her free time, she enjoys hiking, gardening, reading, spending time with family and friends, and going to the beach. Her educational background is in accounting, but hopes to one day continue on to receive her Master's degree in Library and Information Science.

Runkle will be recognized at an awards ceremony at the 2025 ILA Conference on October 14, 2025, in Rosemont, Illinois.

#### About the Illinois Library Association

The Illinois Library Association (ILA) is a professional membership organization that represents Illinois libraries and the millions who depend on them. Founded in 1896, it is the third-largest state library association and serves as a chapter within the American Library Association. ILA is comprised of 2,000 personal and more than 500 institutional members, made up of public, academic, school, and special libraries, as well as librarians, library staff, trustees, students, and library vendors.

