“Proactive” is the keyword to this year’s legislative work for the Iowa Library Association. We need to contact our elected officials before the session, so that they are thinking of our issues before any others. Here are some suggestions.

1. Contact your Representative/Senator and congratulate them on their win in the election. (Use the back of the ILA Legislative Agenda as your stationery.) List ways you can help them, such as using your meeting rooms when at home, helping them with local reference questions through email when they are in Des Moines, and remind them we look forward to working on the Iowa Library Association agenda with them this session. The ILA 2007 Legislative Agenda and a list of legislators can be found in the Legislative section of the ILA website.

2. Invite your Representative/Senator to visit your library. (Use your library stationery.) Ask them to read a story, visit with local economic leaders, meet with your Teen groups, attend a board meeting. Provide them with a comprehensive list of your services and point out how increases in Enrich Iowa/State Library/LSA monies would benefit their hometown library. Sign them up for a library card!

3. Contact the Iowa Legislative Leadership and the Governor, especially if they are from your area. (Use the back of the ILA Legislative Agenda again as your stationery.) Congratulate them, and tell them how much you are looking forward to working with them. Remind them you will see them on March 28 at ILA’s legislative day. A list of Legislative Leaders will be posted on the ILA website when the leaders have been chosen.

Repeated positive exposure to our message and interests equals success in lobbying for our issues. Let’s let them hear from us, loud and clear!

Debra Tobias
Governmental Affairs Committee
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Here in Eastern Iowa, I have been following the story of the Science Center of Cedar Rapids with interest. The Center is a nonprofit that is over a $1 million in debt and ready to close its doors soon if funding is not secured. There is speculation in the press about how the situation got so bad and what can be done about it. Many opinions are being shared in hindsight, including that they should have taken an opportunity a couple of years ago to join with another Cedar Rapids nonprofit, that there were leadership issues, that there wasn’t a long term plan, and that an employee who embezzled money only added to an already tenuous financial position. This situation has caused me to pause and reflect with pride on the health and stability of the Iowa Library Association.

The Association membership is up from what it was five years ago, thanks largely to the addition of the teacher librarians as they became a subdivision of ILA. We have a new strategic plan that calls for building membership. Hopefully, we can recruit and retain new and returning members and continue to grow our membership base. The best recruiting tool is each one of you – when your membership form arrives in 2007 please encourage a colleague to join and, if you’re part of a public library, make sure at least one of your trustees is a member of ILA.

Financially, we are in a very stable position – thanks to continual efforts to hold costs down, maximize revenue and seek gifts. From a financial aspect, we had a successful conference this year, clearing more than $30,000 (conference expenses are not all in yet, but will be near the budgeted amount of $76,000). Conference revenue is a major part of our income. The other major source of revenue is dues – in 2006 we received just over $73,000 in dues. Overall, annual revenue and expenses are each just under $220,000 a year. This is larger than the annual budget of many of the libraries in Iowa. The ILA Foundation contributes vital support. The Association has about $200,000 in invested funds that serves as a healthy reserve to see us through a temporary downturn. Many nonprofits would envy our financial position, but maintaining it does not just happen. Each new expense must be carefully considered in light of other budget priorities. The Finance Committee, the Executive Board, and the Executive Director take their financial oversight very seriously.

I have learned many things in my years serving on the Executive Board and as an officer of the Association. Some of the most important are about the operations of ILA. It is obvious that dedicated people have worked and continue to work to keep the organization healthy and thriving. You are in good hands.

Susan Craig
ILA President
2007 Legislative Agenda

Dynamic libraries of all types – public, academic, school and special - are essential to meeting Iowans’ need for a world-class educational system and information-driven economic development. To preserve and strengthen Iowa’s unique library system, the Iowa Library Association calls on the General Assembly to meet the following goals in 2007:

Invest in the Leadership of the State Library of Iowa

The State Library of Iowa provides leadership for Iowa libraries. It manages the Enrich Iowa program of state aid for libraries, sets statewide library standards and makes discounted online resources available to libraries in every county. Returning the State Library budget to FY2001 levels (14.9% increase) would permit the Library to:

• Purchase more online materials, such as repair manuals and test preparation guides, which Iowa citizens could use to learn new skills or start small businesses.
• Update the book collection and databases in the State Law Library, State Data Center, and the Library’s medical collection, all of which provide information to businesses and citizens across the state.
• Support statewide and local initiatives to save Iowa’s past by digitizing unique local historical materials.

Strengthen the Library Service Areas’ Vital Support to Public Libraries

Working in or managing even the smallest library requires special knowledge and skills. The librarians of Iowa’s seven Library Service Areas (LSAs) train librarians, advise directors, and assist with new technology. Funding the LSAs at FY2001 levels (15.5% increase) would:

• Provide more on-site training and assistance by LSA specialists for local libraries.
• Allow LSAs to teach more local librarians the computer skills they need to access online information for their library users.

Improve State Aid to Public Libraries

Enrich Iowa is the three part program that improves library services throughout the state. With increased investment:

• Direct State Aid would help public libraries provide additional library materials, technology, and programming for Iowa’s citizens.
• Open Access would reimburse libraries for a greater portion of their expenses to participate in Iowa’s very popular statewide library card program.
• Access Plus would share more of the real cost of Iowa’s extensive interlibrary loan system which provides all Iowans access to the materials of the state’s best libraries.

Preserve Hometown Governance in Iowa Public Libraries

Iowa public libraries are responsive and responsible to their communities. Local control is essential to protecting the ability of library boards to reflect the needs of Iowa hometowns.

• Maintain support for the local decision making of Iowa’s public library boards.
• Avoid costly, one-size-fits-all mandates for Iowa’s diverse public libraries.

The Iowa Library Association is the organized voice of the Iowa library community. ILA has 1400 members across the state working to support Iowa’s 543 public libraries, 79 academic libraries, 1500 school libraries, 65 special libraries, as well as the State Library of Iowa and 7 Library Service Areas.
IT’S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN!
ILA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

ILA has helped you this last year by stepping up and getting the teacher librarian language changed in the Iowa Code and by getting more money for Enrich Iowa, the State Library and the LSAs. The ILA Annual Conference offered great educational and networking opportunities. Your continued support is definitely needed as we approach the New Year with a new legislature and governor. One easy way to do this is by renewing your ILA membership!

You can help ILA save money by renewing your membership online. If you renew by January 1, ILA will not need to mail you a printed membership renewal form. If you pay via credit card, your card will not be charged until after January 1. You will receive an online receipt. An invoice will be generated if you need to pay via check.

To renew your ILA membership online, visit iowalibraryassociation.org. The first time that you enter the “Members Only” section, it will ask for your user name and password. Your username is your first and last name with no spaces and the password is ILA. The system will force you to change the password so be sure to make note of your new password.

Again, your continued support is necessary for ILA to be the vital organization it is. Renew today!

LaWanda Roudebush
Chair, Membership Committee

APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE FOR A NEW TRAVELING EXHIBIT

The ALA Public Programs Office, in collaboration with the Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary, Philadelphia, Pa., is now accepting grant applications from public, academic and special libraries wishing to host the traveling exhibition, “Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World.”

Applications are available online at www.ala.org/publicprograms and must be received by February 9, 2007.

One copy of the 1,000-square-foot traveling exhibit will circulate to 20 public and academic library sites beginning in November 2007. Libraries selected for the tour will host the exhibit for a six-week period.

Participating libraries are expected to present at least two free public programs featuring a lecture or discussion by a qualified scholar on exhibition themes. All showings of the exhibition will be free and open to the public. The exhibition will consist of six sections of colorful, freestanding photo-panels incorporating representations of artifacts from the original Franklin exhibition, and a new text written by the curator.

Exhibition content is arranged in thematic sections showing Franklin in the Boston of his youth, Franklin’s family and personal life, as well as the years when he built his business as Philadelphia’s premier printer.

The exhibit also looks at Franklin’s commitment to public service, his interests in medicine and public health, and his work in science and philosophy. Franklin’s political career in England, France and the United States, and his contributions to the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and other major documents are the subjects of the final two sections of the exhibit.

Please see www.ala.org/publicprograms for complete information, including guidelines and application. If you require a copy of the application by mail, please contact publicprograms@ala.org.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

The 2006 Iowa Library Association Silent Auction and Raffle raised $8,631.

An enormous thank you to all who contributed to and bid at the 2006 Iowa Library Association Foundation Silent Auction. 226 marvelous items were contributed by exhibitors, library vendors, library staff members, friends groups and local Council Bluffs businesses and garnered $6,059 for the ILA Foundation. The raffle raised $2,572. Ticket buyers had two options — a handcrafted quilt by Karen Burns or an Axim PDA donated by Dell.

All the proceeds from the ILA Foundation auction and raffle go toward the work of the Foundation. The Foundation supports speakers at the ILA Annual Conference, scholarships and continuing education for librarians and librarians-to-be.

The Iowa Library Association Foundation would like to extend a special thanks to all the exhibitors and library vendors who contributed to another very successful auction.

JANUARY CALENDAR

11  Conference Planning Committee - Coralville
19-24  ALA Midwinter - Seattle, WA
26  Executive Board Meeting - ILA Office

ILA OFFICE CLOSED
December 22 - 26 and January 16 - 25
ILA WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS

Kenya Arrants ........................................ Ames
Charlotte Baldwin ............................... Iowa City
Elizabeth Beck ..................................... Seymour
Donna Bos ........................................... Inwood
Kathleen Bottaro ............................... Sioux City
Josie Boyle........................................... Grimes
Ann Brown ....................................... Iowa Falls
Mary Carpenter ................................. Omaha, NE
Karene Christenson ............................ Council Bluffs
Randy Crawford ................................. Independence
Meryl Dicharry .................................... Iowa City
Linda Eibe .......................................... Burlington
Ken Enabnit ........................................ Clear Lake
Rachel Fleming ................................... Pella
Bonnie Forbes .................................... Correctionville
Laura Guth ......................................... Iowa City
Yuliya Halushka ................................. Coralville
Melissa Hennings ............................... Cedar Falls
Linda Hicks ......................................... Dunlap
Hope Hofland ..................................... Hospers
Stearly A. Holt .................................. Knoxville
Daryl Hunt ......................................... Waterloo
Krista Krebsbach ................................ Norwalk
Ruth Lauman ...................................... Hamburg
Jennie Legates .................................... Ames
Harriet Marr ........................................ Red Oak
Arthur Mask ........................................ Pella
Pam Massner ....................................... Mediapolis
Margo Matthies .................................... Walnut
Patty Mccarthy .................................... Iowa City
Elizabeth Mcmahon ................................ Pella
Karen Minnis ....................................... Morning Sun
Kathi Morency ...................................... Le Claire
Mary Newman .................................... Council Bluffs
Tiffany Oppelt .................................... Cedar Falls
Bob Ramsey ......................................... Lamoni
Cindy Rasmussen ............................... Knoxville
Claire Ritz......................................... Iowa City
Sheryl Rose ........................................ Spencer
Donna Schoening ................................ Silver City
Erin Sehorn-Elwell ............................. Coralville
Andrea Simental ................................. Iowa City
Trudy Stenersen ..................................... Marion
Bethany Templeton .............................. Iowa City
Janice Vander Schaaf ............................ Sanborn
Kris Wiley .......................................... Marion
Susan Winter ....................................... Hubbard
Nancy Youngbauer ................................ Eldridge

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ILA President, Susan Craig, prepares to begin the Thursday morning general session.

Keynote speaker Michael Stephens with Information Technology Forum Chair Tina Mabuce, Meredith Corporation, Des Moines.

Susan Knippel, President, Iowa Library Association Foundation (center) presented scholarships to Mikki Smith, University of Iowa (left) and Colleen Nelson, University of Northern Iowa (right).

Friday lunch speaker and author Marilynne Robinson with First Lady Christie Vilsack. Governor and Mrs. Vilsack were given a special Friends of Iowa Libraries award.

GAC Committee Chair Duncan Stewart (left) presented the Ted Anderson Advocacy Award to Senator Robert Dvorsky.

ILA President Susan Craig (left) and Local Arrangements Chair, Barbara Peterson (right).
Participants enjoy the President’s Party at Harrah’s Horseshoe Casino.

Winton Boyd, Burlington Public Library is the ILTA Outstanding Trustee Award winner. Mr. Boyd was not able to attend the conference and was presented with his award at a board meeting.

Awards Committee Chair, Katherine Martin, (left) presented the ILA Member of the Year Award to Robin Martin, Central College, Pella (right).

20 Year Member Awards were given to Dawn Hayslett, Ames Public Library (left); Lorna Van Maanen, Rock Valley Public Library (center); and Jeanette Bobeen, Sioux City Public Library (right).
The ILA Executive Board met on August 25, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. at the ILA office in West Des Moines. Members present were: President Susan Craig; Past-President Kate Martin; Vice President/President-Elect Sheryl Bissen; Directors Lorraine Borowski, Jennie Garner, Betsy Thompson, and Dale Vande Haar; and ALA Councilor Dale Ross; Also present were State Librarian Mary Wegner, Executive Director Laurie Hews, Secretary Marilyn Murphy, and Kay Elliott. Absent were John Goodin and Mary Jo Langhorne.

CALL TO ORDER

AGENDA

Craig asked that 7.c. xii. Process to evaluate and select a lobbyist, and 7.d. ACRL Spring Conference be added under New Business. Bissen asked that 8.c. Board Liaisons be added under her report. Martin asked that 7.e. Letter of understanding between Portico and ILA be added under New Business. Vande Haar moved that the agenda be approved, as amended. Motion carried.

MINUTES OF THE JUNE 9, 2006 BOARD MEETING

Borowski moved that the minutes be approved, as distributed. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR /TREASURER’S REPORT

FINANCIAL REPORT - The Balance Sheet for July 31, 2006, the Budget vs. Actual sheet for January through July 2006, the Profit & Loss sheet for July 2006, and the Subdivision Fund Account sheet for July 31, 2006 were distributed in the Board packets. Hews stated that the April and May balance sheets had been revised because the auditor had suggested a change in the way the Foundation’s contribution for the computer was reflected on the balance sheet.

MEMBERSHIP COUNT – Hews stated that the Association has 27 fewer members than last year, but that income is up.

BUILDING MANAGEMENT – Hews stated that the owner of the building is taking on the management of the property.

ALA REPORT – Hews stated that Mike Wright needs to conduct meetings related to his Law for Librarians training; Craig will contact him. She also reported that ALA is looking for young librarians who might want to attend a leadership institute.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

CORRESPONDENCE – Craig reported that correspondence included a thank-you from Craig for the flowers, a letter from Dee Crowner reporting that she would not be renewing her membership, and an email from Michael May about setting up a video roundtable.

CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE – Craig reported that the post-conferences for school librarians will be held at Council Bluffs Public Library. Both gubernatorial candidates have been invited to Thursday’s lunch. Garner moved that a free registration be granted to the chair of the Local Arrangements Committee. Motion carried. Bissen distributed a draft of a “Shop ILA” brochure that will be placed in conference packets and reminded Board members that a member of the Board or of the Finance Committee needs to be present at the Shop ILA booth when it is open. Social events will include a Wednesday night reception at the Council Bluffs Public Library, a Thursday night banquet and social, and a casual meal for the Executive Board and the Conference Planning Committee on Tuesday evening as the president’s guests. There will be no Executive Board meeting at the conference. Craig reported that twenty more rooms have been booked at Harrah’s. Board members were encouraged to talk to ten people each about donating to the silent auction.

AD HOC LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – Craig reported that the Leadership Institute was excellent.

ALL-IOWA READS – Craig reported that the 2007 book will be announced at the conference on Friday.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA – Wegner asked that the percentage in the second paragraph be changed to 14.9%. Martin suggested changing the beginning of the first sentence to read “Dynamic libraries of all types – public, academic, school, and special – are essential…” She also suggested ending the second sentence with the phrase “in 2007.” Vande Haar moved approval of the legislative agenda, as amended by Wegner and Craig. Motion carried.

It was noted that the Board had agreed, via email, that GAC should distribute statistics with the legislative agenda.

CONFERENCE SITE CONTRACTS

DUBUQUE – The Board decided that three items needed to be negotiated: (1) a provision for post-conferences, (2) sufficient pre-conference space, and (3) room rates. Thompson moved that Hews be approved to negotiate with the Dubuque conference center/hotel and sign the contract with them after negotiations are complete. Motion carried.

DES MOINES – Hews stated that the conference will need to be held one week later than usual, in order to accommodate the convention center’s schedule. Hews will inform the Nebraska Library Association of these dates, in order to avoid a conflict of dates. Vande Haar moved that Hews be approved to proceed with negotiations with the Iowa Events Center and with the Marriott Hotel. Motion carried.

CORALVILLE – Hews stated that the Association needs to confirm conference dates for 2010 with the Coralville Conference Center, but has until six weeks after the 2007 conference to cancel without penalty.

BYLAWS COMMITTEE (May 2005 Recommendation) – Vande Haar moved approval of the revisions, as distributed, to “Financial Policies Related to Association Events.” Motion carried.
NEW BUSINESS

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS – Bissen distributed a list of committee appointments. New appointments include the following: Awards Committee – Susan Craig as chair; Johnson Brigham Plaque – Nancy Medema will chair; Conference Planning – Sheryl Bissen as chair and Tina Maduce; Local Arrangements – Alison Ames-Galstad as chair, and Ellen Hampe, Beth Bartlett, Mary Jo Langhorne, and Kara Logsdon; Bylaws – Dottie Persson will chair; Editorial – Barbara Corson; Finance – Susan Craig, Marilyn Kennett, John Lerdal, and next president-elect; GAC – Karl Colson and Deb Tobias; Intellectual Freedom – Marcia Jensen and Mary Heinzman; Membership -- Pamela Collins will chair, and Tina Mabuce, John Fritz, Suzann Holland, and Rhonda Frevert; Public Relations – Kim Kietzmann, Jean Guilikson, Holly Youngquist, Louis Alcorn, and Jet Kofoot; Strategic Planning – Nan Seamas. Elliott stated that membership on the Nominating Committee should not preclude a member from running for office. It was noted that the Leadership Development Committee is an ad hoc committee which may not exist next year. (Previous Board minutes need to be reviewed.) Vande Haar moved approval of the new committee appointments, as distributed. Motion carried.

AWARDS –

SPECIAL AWARDS TO GOVERNOR AND MRS. VILSACK – Martin stated that IASL would like to give Governor and Mrs. Vilsack a distinguished advocate award, unless ILA planned to make a similar award. Vande Haar moved that the Association award Governor and Mrs. Vilsack a special award to be managed by the Awards Committee and given at the conference. The Awards Committee should mention the following three points: (1) direct state aid to libraries, (2) teacher librarians, and (3) raising the awareness of libraries. Motion carried. Martin will respond to IASL, telling them that the Board wants to recognize the totality of the Vilsacks’ contribution. The Board suggested that the award should be a certificate and that the committee might consult with Hews, Martin, and Wegner.

UPDATE ON SUBDIVISION AWARDS – Martin distributed a packet from the Awards Committee that included an update on the Awards that have been reviewed by the committee and award proposal forms from IASL and ILA/ACRL. Vande Haar moved approval of the two new IASL awards. Motion carried. Ross moved approval of the two new ILA/ACRL awards. Motion carried.

BYLAWS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS – Proposed changes were distributed in the Board packets. ACRL BYLAWS – The proposed change was in regard to the appointment of the spring planning committee. The section was amended to read “Members shall be appointed for a period of two years, for terms January 1-December 31 except for the Spring Planning Committee which shall be appointed from July 1 to June 30.” Ross moved approval of the change. Motion carried.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE LIBRARIANS ROUNDTABLE BYLAWS – Borowski moved approval of the proposed change to Article V, Section 3. Motion carried.

ENDORSEMENT POLICY – An August 2006 revision from the Bylaws Committee was distributed. Ross moved approval of the revisions, except for the last paragraph in section number 2, which should continue to include the phrase “on a legislative matter.” Motion carried.

AWARDS COMMITTEE PAGE – Two proposed changes to the section on Subdivision Awards were distributed. Vande Haar moved approval of the changes. Motion carried.

GENERAL SUBDIVISION PAGES – Ross moved approval of the changes, as distributed. Motion carried.

GENERAL ASSOCIATION POLICIES – The Board decided to send this revision back to the Bylaws Committee for suggested wording for item number 4.

GUIDELINES FOR ILA PUBLICATIONS PAGE – Bissen moved approval of the following revised Press Release paragraph: “Press releases (other than those pertaining to meetings) must be approved by the ILA Executive Board or its designee(s).” Motion carried.

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE PAGE – Vande Haar moved approval of the addition of point #7: “Fulfill all duties specified in ‘ILA Website Policies” and the addition of the phrase “and ‘ILA Website Policies” to point #4. Motion carried.

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE PAGE – Bissen moved approval of the change of item #6 to read “Follow the Policies and Procedures for the Evaluation and Selection of the ILA Lobbyist” and a change in item #7 to start with the word “Conduct.” Motion carried.

PROCESS TO EVALUATE AND SELECT A LOBBYIST – A proposed manual page titled “Fair and equitable process to govern the appointment of ILA lobbyist” was distributed. The Board recommended taking “(GAC)” out of item 1.b. The Board also recommended changing the first sentence of 1.a. to read “Review periodically and prepare a final performance report.” Ross moved approval of the revised document. Motion carried. It was suggested that this page be placed in the Manual after the GAC page.

ALA COUNCILOR ELECTION – Distributed were four proposed changes: (1) Bylaws Article V -Executive Board, (2) Bylaws Article VI – Nominations and Elections, (3) Manual page for ALA Councilor, and (4) Manual change for Nominating Committee. Vande Haar moved acceptance of all four proposals. Motion carried.

ELECTRONIC VOTING – The Bylaws Committee has asked the Board for input on this topic. Craig deferred this item to the September meeting.

ACRL SPRING CONFERENCE – The ILA/ACRL Spring Conference is scheduled for March 23, 2007 in Grinnell. Vande Haar moved approval of this conference. Motion carried.

LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN PORTICO AND ILA – Martin distributed a letter of understanding from Portico, an electronic archiving service. Martin will further investigate the possibility of an understanding between ILA and Portico.

Minutes continued on page 10
VICE-PRESIDENT’S REPORT
IOWA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION – Bissen distributed forms for the silent auction. She noted that two items will be raffled off this year. Applications for scholarships have been distributed to UNI and the Univ. of Iowa. They are reminding everyone to pay off their 115th anniversary pledges.
NOMINATING COMMITTEE – They are seeking a candidate for the Foundation Board.
BOARD LIAISONS – Bissen asked Board members to contact her if they wanted to change their liaison assignments for 2007.

PAST PRESIDENT’S REPORT
AWARDS COMMITTEE – Their work had previously been discussed.
FINANCE COMMITTEE – Martin reported that they will be meeting on September 6, 2006.
PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – Martin reported that Hews has hired an assistant – Rosemary Wilson.

ALA COUNCILOR’S REPORT
IOWA LIBRARY TRUSTEES ASSOCIATION – Ross reported that they are hoping to build membership; their goal is at least one trustee per library. They want to provide training for trustees. They are considering a name change to something like Iowa Library Trustees and Advocates and are seeking the Board’s input.
INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM COMMITTEE – Ross reported that they are working on a program for the conference.
ALA – Ross reported that many states are seeing legislation called the Tax Payers’ Bill of Rights, designed to put limits on money spent for services. The ALA dues increase passed, but the vote was very close; ALA will be looking into a graduated dues structure. Iowa’s progress on teacher librarians got a standing ovation in Council. The NCES has moved libraries into “instructional services.” NCLIS will probably be moved into the Institute for Museum and Library Services. The Council passed a resolution in support of federal libraries.

STATE LIBRARY REPORT – Wegner reported that the funding issue between Burlington and surrounding towns has not yet been resolved. The Gates-funded workshops have been completed and 292 public librarians were in attendance. The State Library is working on offering electronic learning. The Teacher Librarian Committee will be meeting to develop recommendations to go to the State Board of Education. Craig thanked Wegner for the State Library’s support of the leadership institute.

EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORTS
BYLAWS AND ORGANIZATION MANUAL COMMITTEE – The Bylaws Committee did not take action on the issue of dues for ILTA. In regard to IASL, the Bylaws Committee determined that Craig’s interpretation of committee appointments was correct. The Electronic Mailing List Guidelines will be placed in the Manual.
MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE – There was some discussion of offering free conference registrations, but the Board did not get to vote on it in time for this year’s conference. The Board suggested offering this incentive in 2007.
STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE – Thompson reported that they encourage use of the strategic plan as committees and subdivisions do their planning at the annual planning meeting.
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE – Vande Haar reported that they had drafted the legislative agenda and had met with representatives of both gubernatorial candidates.

STORYTELLERS ROUNDTABLE – Vande Haar stated that they are preparing for the conference.
IOWA LIBRARY FRIENDS ASSOCIATION – Vande Haar reported that they are having five regional workshops in September.
LOCAL HISTORY AND GENEALOGY – Borowski reported that they are hoping to bring a speaker to the conference next year.
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY FORUM – Borowski reported that they are planning a pre-conference.
IOWA SMALL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION – Garner reported that they will be meeting in October.
SUPPORT PERSONNEL – Garner reported that they are doing an after-the-move concurrent session at the conference.

Awards Committee

Minutes continued from page 9

Sheryl Bissen, ILA Vice President and Wes Ehrke, CAE, Iowa Gaming Association at the Annual Planning Meeting. Wes was the featured speaker.
The first-ever encyclopedia of the American Midwest captured in all its variety, from the Sears Tower and the streets of Detroit to the Dakota reservations and the corn fields of Iowa.

Presented are portraits of the region’s twelve states, their geography and people: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin, followed by entries on society and culture, community and social life, economy and technology, and public life.

Celebrating a place of ideas and innovations, reforms and revivals, and social and physical extremes, the Midwest emerges in these pages as a place of great complexity, signal importance, and continual fascination.

cloth $75.00
The 2006 Johnson Brigham Plaque was awarded to Michael Carey at the ILA Annual Conference Thursday evening banquet. The plaque is awarded every two or three years to an Iowa writer who has made an outstanding contribution to literature. Although the award specifically recognized Michael Carey’s most recent book of poems, *The Holy Ground*, he has made outstanding contributions to literature in Iowa not only in his writing, but also in his work as a teacher of poetry and literature and as a regional publisher.

In accepting the Johnson Brigham Plaque, Michael Carey spoke eloquently about the importance of such recognition for writers, especially poets. He shared two poems, one of which he selected in honor of Carrie Falk, an employee at the Shenandoah Public Library. Ms. Falk has been of great help to him securing interlibrary loan books to support his recent work translating Irish and Spanish texts into English.

Michael Carey lives and farms on his wife’s family farm between Farragut and Shenandoah in southwest Iowa. Raised an Irish Catholic in New Jersey, he is a graduate of Lafayette College and the Writers’ Workshop at the University of Iowa. He is author of five books of poetry: *The Noise the Earth Makes*, *Honest Effort*, *Nishnabotna*, *Carpenter of Song*, and *The Holy Ground*. Other works include: *Saints and Scholars*, translations of early medieval monastic Irish spiritual writing; *Voices on the Landscape: Contemporary Iowa Poets* (editor); the teaching manual *Poetry: Starting from Scratch*; and two plays: *A Song In The Wilderness* and *Dear Iowa* (co-author). His work has been widely published in literary magazines across the United States, Great Britain and Ireland including: *The Iowa Review*, *The North American Review*, *Sou’wester*, *Nimrod*, *The Laurel Review*, *Poet & Critic*, *The Christian Century*, *The Poetry Ireland Review* (Dublin), *Cyphers* (Dublin), and *The Honest Ulsterman* (Belfast).

In 1997 Mr. Carey received the Iowa Council of Teachers of English Friend of Literacy Award for his work with young writers in the schools. He is past President of the Omaha Chapter of the Irish American Cultural Institute and founder and editor of both Loess Hills Books and Carrauntoohil Books, which feature the best in regional fine arts writing.

In February 2001 he founded, and continues to host, “Voices from the Prairie,” a weekly radio program sponsored by Humanities Iowa, KUNI Public Radio and KMA Broadcasting that features Iowa poetry. The show is syndicated to radio stations all across Iowa. Most winters Mr. Carey travels the Midwest as a visiting poet-in-residence. In the summer he teaches at the University of Iowa’s Summer Writing Festival.

*Roy Kenagy*
Chair, Johnson Brigham Plaque Committee