Dear Members,

This year has gone by quickly, but I have to honestly say I am glad it did. I have just a few more weeks to serve as your ILA President, and after the December 9th ILA Executive Board meeting, for all practical purposes I am done with my duties and Lorraine Borowski begins hers as our new president. These past 24 months have been remarkable ones for ILA. It is safe to say that the library services reorganization – the LSAs and the State Library becoming Iowa Library Services – was the most sweeping legislation for Iowa Libraries in recent memory, and it is no stretch to say that the reorganization efforts for both library services delivery and ILA itself are unparalleled in ILA’s 121 year history. The good part is that we all lived through the process and we are moving forward, as we know we won’t have to go through all of that again.

It is my hope that even if the economy does not rebound quickly and remain strong, at least ILA and Iowa libraries of all types have been proactive in getting the message out to Iowans about how important libraries are and how we must fund them and support the services they provide Iowans in these hard times. Together we have forged a strong and unified voice concerning libraries, and with the help of our excellent lobbyists, Governmental Affairs Committee members, and your contacting local state senators and representatives to share your feelings and beliefs, we have made it through another legislative session with virtually all we have asked for; you can’t beat that.

It has been a pleasure to serve as your ILA President for two terms. I’ll still be around another year as your Immediate Past President, but with the new structure of ILA leadership, my duties are far fewer and less intense. On a practical note, be sure to renew your ILA membership, and please take the time to encourage non-member colleagues to join ILA. Our work these past 24 months proves how important it is to have a strong professional association that hears what the members say and acts upon those requests for the betterment of all. We’re a great group of people who put on excellent yearly conferences, promote leadership within our profession, and advocate for all library employees and all types of libraries. It doesn’t get any better than that! Enjoy the upcoming Holiday Season, and then we begin again in 2012 with a new ILA Executive Board to serve you.

Dale A. Vande Haar, Ph.D., MLS
ILA President
Get To Know ILA Director Louise Alcorn

“Sometimes I think we should all have colorful capes and big ‘L’s on our chests,” Louise Alcorn once remarked, “because Librarians have superpowers!” A frequent refrain, this was also the theme of her speech at the 2009 ILA Annual Conference, when she was nominated for ILA Executive Board:

“A while back, I was sitting with a group of librarian friends, shooting the breeze, and that inevitable question came up: if you could have any superpower, what would it be? Invisibility was mentioned, as was flight. I’ve always fancied telekinesis, but that’s because I want the remote control to come to me. But then I looked around the table and thought, ‘But wait! We’re a bunch of librarians. We already HAVE superpowers!’

Our power to find things is – or should be – legendary. However we have other powers that we may not even recognize ourselves. My favorite is our power to share what we know with others in our field – to share ideas, to adapt them for our needs and the needs of our patrons, and then to pass them on to our compatriots.

I love being a librarian. I love working amongst professionals whose natural instinct is to share their creativity, not hoard it. To say, ‘I have this fabulous idea – perhaps you can find it useful!’ This shared knowledge helps our patrons, our communities, and subsequently is shared again with each other, exponentially growing our superpowers. That’s far better than invisibility!

Now more than ever we need to come together and learn from each other - for our own survival, but also to remain deeply relevant for our communities. Libraries, their staffs, and the people we serve – these are my passions.”

Louise has been the Reference Technology Librarian at the West Des Moines Public Library since 1996. As she will tell you, this is a job whose focus and task list has changed half a dozen times in 15 years, thanks to changes in technology. She is deeply grateful for the serendipitous timing of her association with Iowa’s libraries. For many years Louise has further offered her talents and enthusiasm to the Iowa Library community, teaching continuing education for library staff members around the state. She jokes that her work doing web-based training for the Ontario Library Association’s Education Institute was “simply part of my dastardly plan to become Famous in Canada!”

Louise is the author of two books for the library community, published by Neal-Schuman. The first was a review of software used to manage public computers. The second discussed implementing wireless Internet service. Both of these titles reflect Louise’s abiding desire to offer practical, friendly, useful advice to her colleagues – “exercising my superpowers!” She regularly participates in both statewide and national discussions on the practical aspects of public technology, including policy, implementation challenges and training. She has presented both at the state (ILA) and national level (ALA, Internet Librarian, Computers in Libraries), and freely admits that any library conference tends to send her back to work with “tons of ideas spinning in my head, and no time to get them all implemented!”

Louise describes her life outside of libraries as either “overfull” or “outside of libraries? what’s that?” She does admit that she lives with “two cats and a mortgage”. The cats were not available for comment at press time.
Finance Committee Report

The Finance Committee met on Nov. 11, 2011, at the ILA office. The meeting began with guest speaker Michael Kaldenberg from Merrill Lynch discussing the two accounts ILA has with Merrill Lynch: a money market and the National Rural Utilities fund. Jake Zehr, TIAA-CREF representative from Ames also spoke to the committee. ILA started its TIAA-CREF account in 2001 and receives quarterly dividends and interest which are currently reinvested into the account.

The Finance Committee reviewed the ILA financial reports - membership and corporate dues were down this year compared to last year but ILA had an overall profit from this year’s Annual Conference.

Committee members drafted a 2012 budget for the Executive Board’s review.

Committee members voiced concern about ILA’s 2012 budget and the financial health of the Association. Over the last couple of years the Association’s income has decreased. The two main sources of revenues for the Association are membership dues (which have dropped) and the Annual Conference.

The Finance Committee recommends forming an ad hoc committee to evaluate the current dues structure. It has been a very long time since dues have been raised. All categories need to be reviewed including lifetime, students, institutional and sustaining memberships.

2011 was a year of transitions with ILA working with a new Interim Office Manager and Diversified Management Services (DMS). The Finance Committee hopes that the office and DMS activities will be streamlined over time, and feels that the next year will be another transition year until a good balance is found between the Interim Office Manager and DMS. ILA has a building contract for the current office space through January 2013, which locks the Association into the current office through 2012.

The financial reports are posted on the ILA website for your review.

Submitted by the Finance Committee:

Susan Kling, Chair
Lorraine Borowiński
David Gregory
Susan Knippel
John Lerdal
Ellen Neuhaus
Dale Vande Haar
The Iowa Library Association Annual Conference this year was held in my town, Council Bluffs, at the Mid-America Center. There were almost 400 people registered and 73 exhibitors at this year’s conference.

The evaluations were positive overall and show that again the Conference Planning Committee planned a great conference. As usual we tried to keep conference fees as low as possible for attendees while still having conference income that is needed by the Iowa Library Association. The meals were the same price as the previous year and most of the speakers either charged no honorarium or a minimal one.

On Wednesday, there were five pre-conferences, the Grand Opening of Exhibits, sponsored by Jones Library Sales, Inc. and OPN Architects, Inc., the Conference Reception, The Treasure Trove (author fair), and the movie viewing and discussion of Storm Center hosted by Michael May. During the Grand Opening of Exhibits, a local group played various jazz and rock and roll tunes while refreshments were served and attendees visited with the exhibitors.

The Conference Reception was held at the Council Bluffs Public Library and was supported by The Friends of the Council Bluffs Public Library, The Council Bluffs Public Library Foundation, Hy-Vee on Madison Avenue, area wineries, and Leo A Daly. I would also like to thank the following for sponsoring breakfasts and breaks: Thursday Continental Breakfast – Walmart, Council Bluffs and University of Iowa School of Library and Information Science; Conference Orientation and New Members Breakfast – George Lawson Consulting; Thursday Morning Break – Davidson Titles; Thursday Afternoon Break – Demco; and Friday Morning Beverage Break – Innovative Interfaces. For other contributors, please see the Acknowledgements page of the 2011 ILA Annual Conference Program.

During the remainder of the conference there were many concurrent sessions to choose from, campaign speeches to listen to, exhibits to visit, and great keynote speakers. The Thursday morning Opening General Session keynote, David Moore from Google, gave us some interesting ways to look at libraries and library service. Pippa White, held us spellbound as she became different women during wars throughout history. It was as if she was actually each of the people she portrayed.

The Friday morning keynote, Dr. Dipesh Navasaria, did an excellent job of talking about his experiences as a pediatrician, his degree in library science and being a children’s librarian, the ways he can tell the development of a child in how the child holds and handles a book, and his participation in the Reach Out and Read program. If you did not hear him speak, you really missed a very special session. The Conference ended with the Friday lunch and keynote Stephanie Kallos, author of the 2011 All Iowa Reads book, Sing Them Home. Stephanie has a vibrant personality and was a joy to listen to as she talked with us about the background of the book and how she wrote it.

Continued on page 5
Thank you to the exhibitors who are a vital part of every conference! If you need to contact any of them, the program is available in the Catalyst section of the ILA website.

I hope you enjoyed the conference as much as I did. The 2011 ILA Conference Planning Committee enjoyed putting this program together. We looked at all the suggestions from the Subdivisions on the forms you filled out at the 2010 Annual Planning Meeting. Most of the speakers we used came from those sheets. I want to thank Roy Kenagy, who worked as the Interim in the ILA Office through June, who was involved in a lot of the conference planning. When Denise Ballesteros began working as the ILA Office Coordinator, she plunged right in as well. Thank you Denise for all of the help you gave us. And, of course the 2011 Conference Planning Committee members: Lorraine Borowski, Denny Sharp, Carol Kirsch, Jerri Heid, Pat Means, Jerri Garner, Mary McInroy, Barb Corson, Denise Ballesteros, Denise Rehmke, and Dale Vande Haar. It took all of us to pull the conference together. I also want to thank the Local Arrangements Committee members: Karen Burns, Mary Carpenter, Lynn Friesner, Ellen Garaffa, Monica Gohlinghorst, Anna Hartmann, Dianne Herzog, Katies Johnson, Marlys Lien, Tom Ryan, Idella Spann, and Ellen Van Waart. The members of the Local Arrangements Committee did all of the background work in Council Bluffs and at the Mid-America Center to make a successful conference. As you can see, it takes a lot of people and a lot of time and effort to have a great ILA Annual Conference! See you all in Dubuque next October for the 2012 ILA Annual Conference.

Barbara Peterson, Chair
2011 ILA Annual Conference Committee
Iowa Library Association 2012-2014 Strategic Plan

1. Iowa’s libraries, librarians, and library services will have strong advocates.
   a. We will actively recruit, train, and support advocates.
   b. ILA members will show increased participation in advocacy activities including Legislative Day.
   c. We will encourage innovative partnerships.
   d. We will find new ways to support and advocate for all Iowa librarians.

2. We will provide opportunities for professional growth and leadership development.
   a. We will make better use of the skills and expertise of its members.
   b. We will provide better training and support for leaders.
   c. We will identify and implement a better system for organizational continuity.
   d. We will encourage mentoring.

3. We will provide educational opportunities for the benefit of its members.
   a. We will better use technology to expand educational opportunities.
   b. We will explore and implement virtual attendance technology and social networking.
   c. We will collaborate with other educational providers.
   d. We will encourage networking at all levels.

4. We will ensure an effective, flexible, and efficient organization through continual review.
   a. We will establish a regular schedule for review of policies and procedures.
   b. We will review and revise, as needed, the bylaws and the organizational manual to ensure a flexible and efficient organization.
   c. We will regularly solicit and evaluate input from the membership and subdivisions.
   d. The Executive Board will annually review personnel and contracts.

Approved by the ILA Membership, October 13, 2011
Another Great Year At The Conference

The ILAF Board wants to thank all you for making our fundraising efforts at the conference this year a success. We raised nearly $10,000 with the raffle and auction combined proving once again the generosity of Iowa librarians.

We also collected almost $2,500 in pledges for the 30x30x3 Campaign to celebrate our upcoming 30th anniversary. Money raised from our endowment is used for speakers at the conference, leadership opportunities for ILA members, on-going expenses for ILA, and scholarships for library students. Contributions to ILAF may be made on the ILA website.

Barbara Corson
President, Iowa Library Association Foundation

ILAF Foundation Raffle Winners, from left to right: Trip to ILA 2012 - Jan Grandgeorge, Eagle Grove P.L.; Gas Card - Judy Grienke-Miller, Cherokee P.L.; Gas Card - Carol Kirsch, State Historical Society, Iowa City; iPad2 - Mary Heinzman, St. Ambrose University; Barb Corson, Iowa Library Association Foundation Director

ALA Chapter Councilor Report

ALA Councilor, Kathy Parsons, attended the ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans in June. Kathy attended many events while keeping updates and information for ILA in mind. She particularly noted a focus in the sessions on how to maintain or increase membership in organizations. A thought provoking take-away for making associations more relevant to members was a list of things that associations may have to do to maintain their membership. This list includes restructuring the board of directors, revamping committees, defining their members, changing programs and services to be more in line with mission, and using technology more efficiently. For a complete report, visit the ILA website.
Boone Librarian Shares Excitement Of Internship At The Library Of Congress

Early in March I went to Washington, D.C. for vacation where I toured many museums and monuments. Although I was in awe of everything, it was the Library of Congress that inspired me by its history and architecture. So much so, that after coming home, I realized that I wanted to go back and intern there. I found the Ability Plus Internship Program, applied and received a phone call weeks later telling me that I would be allowed to intern with the Young Readers Center located in the Thomas Jefferson Building at the Library of Congress. On July 30th I departed from Des Moines and headed to Washington, D.C. for nine weeks.

The Young Readers Center caters to children from birth through high school. It is under the umbrella of the Center for the Book. To read anything at the Library of Congress you have to be at least sixteen, which is why the Young Readers Center is important, as it provides children, with their families, the opportunity to have the experience of reading there.

It’s hard to write about everything that I worked on while there, however, some of my most memorable projects were: creating a presentation that ran at the Young Readers Center during the National Book Festival, greeting visitors from all around the world, helping with displays to showcase materials for all ages, and talking about the Harry Potter collection in Braille. In addition, I enjoyed working around great scholars.

Some of my most exciting adventures during my stay included: attending the National Book Festival Gala and meeting Toni Morrison and Katherine Patterson, getting a special 'behind the scenes' tour of the library and collection, eating at the Capital each day, and meeting a Holocaust survivor. My goal is to put together a collection of my photos for librarians to view.

It is important to set aside time to thank those who provided me the opportunity to complete this internship. My parents, Douglas and Mikki Stier; my brother and his wife, Thomas and Amy Stier; my aunt Gretchen; the staff at the Bondurant Community Library (Karen Burkett-Pederson, Jenny Campbell, Shelley Kesling, and Alisha Pals); my host family, Bridget, Catherine, and Andrew Bean; and the Young Reader Center Director, Jane Gilchrist and all the staff members at the Library of Congress. I also want to thank the Kirkendall Public Library and its staff. It was my childhood library and also provided me with my first library job.

To be honest, I struggled with the idea of writing this piece because this opportunity was costly and was something I had to leave my job for. Many librarians may not feel they have the ability to do something like this. It then dawned on me that by speaking about this internship I wanted to encourage librarians (of all kinds) go beyond their daily routine. As the new children’s librarian at the Ericson Public Library in Boone, it is my goal to use this experience to enrich the community through literacy activities. So I leave you with this thought: take time to dream, plan, and do something beyond your daily routine, and don’t be afraid to challenge yourself!

If you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact me at: 515-432-3727 ext 3 or email me at zstier@boone.lib.ia.us

Zachary Stier
Ericson Public Library, Boone
Spotlight On Iowa Libraries

Name of Library: Charles C. Myers Library, University of Dubuque

Age of Library: The newest phase is 8 years old, the oldest part of the building is 56 years old. The library building has four major eras: The current Charles C. Myers Library was a complete renovation and expansion of the existing library. Completed in 2000 (Phase One) and 2003 (Phase Two), the library went from 32,643 to 62,143 square feet. The library that was renovated and expanded consisted of two parts: the Ficke-Laird Library, dedicated in 1967, and the Seminary Library, which was built in 1955.

Library Director: Mary Anne Knefel

Number on staff: 11 permanent employees and 25 student workers

Regular Programs:
- Book Sale (September)
- Celebration of Faculty and Staff Scholarship and Creativity (February)
- Student Study Break (Sunday before Finals week)
- Variety of poetry and literary readings, art shows, and displays

Hours Open: Academic Year (Fall and Spring Semesters) 93.5 per week (Mon-Thu: 7:00 a.m.-Midnight; Fri: 7:00 a.m-9:00 p.m.; Sat: 8:30 a.m.-9:00 p.m.; Sun: 10:00 a.m.–Midnight)

Where Located: The Library is located on the corner of Algona and Grace Streets in Dubuque. There is a visitor parking lot across from the library. A campus map at www.dbq.edu gives directions to campus.

Features: The librarians at the Charles C. Myers Library partner with teaching faculty at the College and Seminary to offer an extensive information literacy program, teaching about 500 sessions annually. Sylvia’s Common Ground, the library’s coffee shop, features art work done by students, faculty, staff, and community members. Annually, the library hosts a reception to celebrate faculty and staff scholarly and creative works which includes a presentations and an annual bibliography. The library staff and Student Government Association partner to purchase leisure books and film as well as sponsor a finals study break every semester. The library participates in the Iowa Library Services/State Library of Iowa’s Open Access program and community members regularly attend the art exhibits and literary readings. The Archives and Special Collections Department creates displays throughout the year and hosts tours. The library staff recently participated in the Thriller Flash Mob on Halloween, which was choreographed by Library Office Manager, Diana Newman. Visit our website at www.dbq.edu/library/.

Mary Anne Knefel
Charles C. Myers Library, University of Dubuque

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ILA 2012 Legislative Agenda

Libraries enrich Iowa. Iowans are turning to their libraries in increasing numbers. Iowans depend on libraries for Internet access, early literacy programming for young children, homework assistance, health care information and, especially now, resources for job searches, career development and education. To support these vital services, the Iowa Library Association asks the General Assembly to meet the following goals in 2012:

• Provide additional state funding to fully implement and operate Iowa Library Services; this new agency was created by HF645 and combined the Library Service Areas and State Library into a single, streamlined agency.

• Increase funding for Enrich Iowa to support the rise in Iowans' use of libraries and the additional services provided by libraries. Enrich Iowa provides direct state aid to public libraries and enables library resource sharing and interlibrary loan services, which makes Iowa's library system an efficient network accessible to all Iowans.

• Enhance Iowa's workforce by providing state-wide access to high demand databases to help Iowans prepare for a wide variety of educational and career opportunities.

• Recognize the important role Iowa teacher librarians play in developing 21st century information and digital literacy skills by insuring that each school district employs a teacher librarian.

• Preserve hometown governance in Iowa's public libraries by maintaining support for the policy-making autonomy of public library boards of trustees.

The Iowa Library Association will continue to monitor and address other legislative issues as they affect the Iowa library community. The Iowa Library Association is the organized voice of the Iowa library community. Its 1500 members sustain Iowa's public, academic, school and special libraries.

2012 Legislative Dates To Remember

Lobby from Home Day
Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Legislative Day
Wednesday, March 7, 2012
2:30 p.m. Legislative Briefing (location to be determined)
4:00-6:00 p.m. Reception in the Law Library at the Capitol

Watch for additional information on the ILA website and in the next issue of the Catalyst.

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Mary Heinzman, Elected Vice-President Of ILA
Mary Cameron And Katherine Howsare Elected To Executive Board

St. Ambrose University Library Director Mary Heinzman was elected to the position of Vice President/President-Elect of ILA. Mary has served on the Executive Board of ILA from 2008–2011, and has served as Chair of the Iowa Chapter of ACRL. In her statement of professional concern Mary wrote: ... This year has been a challenging one for libraries of all types and sizes within Iowa. We have all faced challenges on the state level in the reorganization of support services, and locally in cuts to our budgets. This makes it more important than ever that the Iowa Library Association continue to advocate for all types of libraries and to spread the word about the benefits of a strong library presence within the state. It’s also important that there be active participation by all its members so that we can turn our challenges into opportunities.

Mary Cameron, retired from the Iowa Department of Education and the State Library, presently an adjunct instructor for the University of Iowa School of Library and Information Science and Katherine Howsare, Urbandale High School Teacher Librarian, were each elected to a three-year term on the Executive Board.

ILA thanks outgoing Executive Board members Karen Davidson, Northeast Iowa Community College; and Mary Heinzman, St. Ambrose University, and also Past President Ellen Neuhaus, University of Northern Iowa, for graciously serving an additional year in the office of Past President.

Planning To Apply For The Upcoming ILA Leadership Institute? Save The Date!

2012 ILA Leadership Institute will be held July 17 - 19. The Iowa Library Association has established this comprehensive leadership development program to ensure that its members are prepared to actively shape the future of Iowa libraries. Incoming ALA President Maureen Sullivan is the institute leader. A highly sought-after speaker and advisor, Sullivan has more than twenty years of experience as a consultant on organization development and work redesign, strategic planning, leadership, managing change, and establishing learning programs. Attendance is limited to 25. Watch future Catalyst issues for more information.

2012 Dues Renewal Notice

Watch your email for the ILA 2012 Dues Renewal Notice in mid-December. You can print and mail or fax your membership form, or you can renew online on ILA's website. Memberships are for the calendar year.  

If ILA does not have a valid email address for you, you will receive your first notice via postal mail.
Letter From The Incoming President

Dear ILA Members,

It is mid-November and the end of my year as ILA Vice President. Embarking on the position of President, I look back on a year of change. Economically and politically, this year has seen many challenges for all libraries and the individuals served. The ILA organization has experienced many changes as well. The coupling of DMS (Diversified Management Services) as a non-profit manager, secures ILA accounting practices. The hiring of Denise Ballesteros as Interim ILA Office Manager creates an excellent partnership for moving forward.

The fall ILA Conference in Council Bluffs did not yield high attendance, however, did yield enthusiastic participation and overall positive feedback from members who attended. The momentum of enthusiasm continued at this year's Annual Planning Meeting where a total of 80 people came together to plan ILA membership opportunities for next year. The Planning Meeting attendees were not only current committee/subdivision members but ILA members who are excited about becoming more actively involved in ILA.

The upcoming year’s goals are:
• Continue to review and suggest updates to the Bylaws and Operational Manual
• Build the ILA membership
• Planning and implementing exciting opportunities for all members
• Legislative endeavors for increased funding
• Continue to strengthen the ILA organizational structure for the future.

None of these initiatives can be done by just one, but with all of us working together, next year at this time we can look back and smile. Get involved, join a committee or subdivision of your choice, actively communicate to your legislators the valued services offered to Iowa citizens and participate by sharing through the ILA list serve.

Lorraine Borowski
ILA President, 2012