President's Notes

Have you registered for ILA?

After months of work and planning, ILA's Annual Conference is almost here! The 2018 theme is Access, Connections, Action, three words which I believe are hallmarks of our profession. I hope you've marked your calendar for October 3-5. It's not too late to register, but the early-bird discounts end on Sept. 21.

As usual, the breadth and variety of conference offerings is impressive. I'm looking forward to a terrific few days in Cedar Rapids. For starters, there are three excellent pre-conferences scheduled on Wednesday, any of which should be of interest to Iowa librarians.

At 3 p.m. on Wednesday is the Grand Opening of Exhibits, marking your first chance to visit with more than 50 vendors and to see the offerings at the ILAF Silent Auction and Raffle. A special attraction this year: Iowa phenomenon Raygun will be selling "America Needs Librarians" t-shirts at a huge discount, with a portion of each sale going to ILA. Wednesday evening is a networking reception at the gorgeous Cedar Rapids Public Library.

Thursday and Friday are chock-a-block with concurrent sessions, with topics ranging from fake news to effective messaging to trustee issues to books clubs and lots more. We have two particularly good keynote speakers. On Thursday, P.C. Sweeney, Political Director EveryLibrary will talk about the journey from being a library advocate to being a library activist. On Friday Miguel Figueroa, Director of ALA's Center for the Future of Libraries will offer his take in the trends and values that will shape libraries in the future.
Thursday evening, in addition to Trivia Night with Dan Wardell is a new offering: Speed Mentoring facilitated by Dr. Michele Leininger, Director of Minnesota’s Marshall/Lyon County Library. You may remember Michele from her time at the State Library of Iowa.

As in the past, the grand finale of the conference is the talk by Dan Barry, author of the 2018 All Iowa Reads selection, The Boys in the Bunkhouse.

In this issue of The Catalyst you’ll also find photos, bios, and statements for the candidates for ILA Vice-President/President-Elect, and the Executive Board. As we have done the past few years, all candidates have been asked to make brief video statements. In addition, all candidates will be available at different times at the ILA booth (#29) in the Exhibit Hall. Please join me in thanking the candidates for their willingness to run, as well as the Nominating Committee for their work in lining up an excellent slate of candidates.

Last but by no means least, I want to thank the ILA Conference Planning and Local Arrangements Committees, as well as the ILA-dedicated staff at DMS for doing so much of the heavy lifting involved in making the annual conference possible. Without their hard work we never would have made this happen!

I’m looking forward to seeing you in Cedar Rapids!

Mike Wright
ILA President

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**Early Registration Closes Sept. 21**

The early registration period for the conference closes on Friday, Sept. 21. After that date, registration prices for the conference increase by $30 (excluding full-time students and exhibits only). Registration for meals and Trivia Night and Speed Mentoring also closes on Sept. 21.

Register by Sept. 21 to receive the best rates for this year’s conference!

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**Important Links for the 2018 Conference**

[Annual Conference Main Page](https://mailchi.mp/23bf5e556277/ila-september-october-catalyst)
Special Conference Rates Available to Library Trustees

Trustees play a vital role in many libraries, from advocacy to fundraising and policy development. Just like staff, trustees become more effective as they build these skills. This year’s conference keynotes and learning sessions address these topics, as well as many others important to trustees.

To encourage trustees to attend this year’s conference, ILA has created special registration rates for trustees:

- Trustee member, full conference: $60
- Trustee member, Thursday only: $50
- Trustee member, Friday only: $37.50
- Trustee non-member, full conference: $108.50
- Trustee non-member, Thursday only: $98
- Trustee non-member, Friday only: $77

These rates increase by $30 after Sept. 21. Onsite registration is also available for an additional $20 to the after Sept. 21 fee.

The Iowa Library Trustees Association has created two sessions of special interest to trustees at this year’s conference.

Being an Effective Trustee: Resources Available from ILA and the State Library of Iowa will be held on Thursday, Oct. 4 during the 11:05 a.m. concurrent sessions. Michael Wright, president of ILA and Bonnie McKewon, consultant with the State Library of Iowa, will share resources, training, and standards available to trustees and those who work with them.
Challenges Before Library Trustees will also be held on Thursday, Oct. 4 during the 2:15 p.m. concurrent sessions. Interesting issues that have been brought before Boards of Trustees will be discussed by trustees in attendance. This session will ask for cases that provoke discussion to be presented to the group and that trustees discuss how they would approach the issues. The goal of the session would be to familiarize trustees with current issues and to learn how other libraries process these concerns. Best practices as well as potential pitfalls will be shared. The discussion will be facilitated by a trustee.

A trustee team is also forming for Trivia Night on Thursday. To join this team, contact Steve Imming, co-chair of the Iowa Library Trustees Association and a trustee with the Davenport Public Library.

Encourage your trustees to attend the conference and these events!
New Members and First-Time Attendees Invited to Special Conference Events
Are you a new member with ILA or attending your first conference? If so, join us at these two events:

**New Members Breakfast**
The ILA Membership Committee will host an ILA New Members Breakfast on Thursday, October 4 at 7:45 a.m. in Taft A.

The ILA Membership Committee will give an overview of the conference, share information about ILA and how you might get more involved, and answer questions. Come for breakfast and an opportunity to meet your fellow librarians.

**Thursday Awards Lunch**
A table will be set aside for new members and first-time attendees at the Thursday Awards Lunch, which takes place at noon in Exhibit Hall B-C. ILA members and those who have attended previous conferences will also be at these tables to answer questions and provide welcome. Registration for Thursday lunch is required to participate.

For more information, contact the ILA office at 515-282-8192 or admin@iowalibraryassociation.org.

**Don’t Miss This Year’s Grand Opening of Exhibits**

Be sure to arrive to the conference in time to attend the Grand Opening of Exhibits on Wednesday from 3 – 6 p.m. Visit with exhibitors and Iowa authors during the Author Fair. Each attendee will receive one free drink ticket and a cash bar and hors d’oeuvres will be served. There will be a scavenger hunt for your chance to win a Visa cash card, and the annual drawing for a gift basket. It’s also the first opportunity to view and bid on Foundation silent auction items. Don’t miss this event to kick off the conference! The Exhibit Hall will also be open Thursday from 7:30 – 11:45 a.m. and 1 – 5 p.m.

[Download an exhibit hall map and list of exhibitors](#)

[Download a list of authors](#)
Register by Sept. 21 to Participate in Thursday Night Events at
the Conference

Choose from one of two events on Thursday night at this year’s conference. **Trivia Night** returns and a new **Speed Mentoring event** will be held. **Pre-registration is required by Sept. 21** to participate in either of these events. Registration includes dinner and costs $33. A cash bar will be available.

During Trivia Night, teams of eight will compete for prizes and bragging rights in a friendly competition emceed by Dan Wardell of Iowa Public Television. To reserve a table for your team, send an email to Nancy Medema (Nancy.Medema@iowa.gov) with a list of team players; you will be the contact for any further information. If you don’t have a team, don’t worry! You will be grouped with others looking for a team. Bring some cash to purchase Mulligans (free answers) and Double Downs, which double your score. Proceeds will go to the San Francisco Oller Library, ILA’s adopted library in Puerto Rico.
Looking to meet other librarians and support staff, exchange ideas, and build a network of people you can reach out to when you have a difficult situation?

Join us on Thursday night for speed-mentoring! Dr. Michele Leininger will facilitate a fast-paced networking opportunity to share your needs and find like-minded individuals.
ILA Foundation
Announces
2018 Raffle and Silent Auction
At Cedar Rapids, IA

Raffle Options

Native Wood Sleeping Cat
Donated by
Mary Boy, ILA Board Member,
Danae Schirfield, and Bob Chittenden

Cosmo, AI toy Robot

100% ILA Customized Quilt designed
by Sandra Pehr (Quilt Winner)

Visit the Exhibit Hall to buy Raffle Tickets or bid on the
Silent Auction items donated by Exhibitors and ILA members.

Auction items are needed: Handcrafted items, theme baskets or ....

Complete the ILAF Auction Donation form at:

https://www.iowalibraryassociation.org/index.php/foundation

All proceeds support Iowa Libraries and Librarians! ILAF at work for you!

2018 ILA Business Meeting Agenda
The annual ILA business meeting will be held on Friday, Oct. 5 at 8:30 a.m. in Exhibit Hall B-C at the Cedar Rapids Convention Complex. Here is the agenda for the meeting:

1. Report of the Credentials Committee
2. Adoption of Standing Rules
3. Amendments to and Approval of Agenda
4. Minutes of the 2017 Business Meeting
5. New Business
   1. Proposed Bylaws Revision
   2. 2019 Legislative Agenda
6. Open Forum
7. Remarks from the President
8. Acknowledgement of Resolutions of Courtesy
9. Adjournment

ILA Legislative Agenda for 2019 Presented for Approval at Annual Conference

Part of the mission of the Iowa Library Association is to advocate for quality library services for all Iowans. Funding is always a critical piece in ILA's legislative focus and will continue to be a focus in 2019. In addition to funding, there are other important issues facing libraries that will be decided by lawmakers.

It is important for all ILA members to be engaged in the legislative process and to make our voices heard for the field and for the Iowans we serve. All members are encouraged to become familiar with ILA's Legislative Agenda for 2019. The agenda will be presented for approval to the membership during the business meeting on Friday, Oct. 5 at the annual conference.

Watch for more information about ILA's initiatives and other ways to advocate for quality library services.
ILA Welcomes New Personal, Institutional, and Corporate Members
The strength of the Iowa Library Association is due to its members, who provide their time, talent, and financial support to advancing the field and providing quality library services to all Iowans.

ILA extends a warm welcome to all new personal, institutional, and corporate members. Click here to see the list of new members this year.

Have a colleague or friend who is not a member of ILA? Encourage them to join! All new members who join before the end of the year are eligible for a 50% discount on personal membership dues.

America Needs Librarians and You Need This T-shirt

RAYGUN, the greatest store in the universe, or at least one of the greatest t-shirt stores around, will be at the annual conference selling their America Needs Librarians t-shirts, as well as other items.

America Needs Librarians t-shirts will be available for $15, a discount off the regular price. RAYGUN is donating part of the sale of these shirts to ILA. Look for RAYGUN in the exhibit hall on Wednesday and Thursday.

Changes Proposed to ILA Bylaws

The ILA executive board is proposing changes to the ILA Bylaws. These changes will be presented...
for approval at the ILA Business Meeting, which will be held at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 5 during
the annual conference.

All members are encouraged to review the proposed changes and the rationale for the changes in
advance of the meeting. Please visit the News and Events page of the ILA website to review the
documents related to this change.

Questions about the changes can be directed to the ILA office or to a member of the executive
board.
Vote for Executive Board Candidates

The ILA Nominating Committee and Executive Board are pleased to present the slate of candidates for
the ILA elections. Voting opens on Monday, October 8 and ends at 5 p.m. on Friday, October 19. See below for more information about voting.

The candidates are:

**Vice President/President-Elect**

- Randall Schroeder, Williamsburg Public Library
- Mara Strickler, Algona Public Library

**Executive Board**

There are two open director seats. Three candidates are presented. Please vote for two. One candidate had to withdraw and is not listed below.

- Jillian Rutledge, Waverly Public Library
- Zachary Stier, Ericson Public Library, Boone
- Constance Wade, University of Iowa

Read biographies and statements provided by each candidate.

Watch brief video statements provided by each candidate.

**Electronic Voting Guidelines**

ILA utilizes electronic voting for the ILA Executive Board election. According to the Bylaws, only personal members are eligible to vote.

On Monday, October 8, an email will be sent to ILA personal members with the required link for voting. One vote per personal member will be counted.

If you are currently a personal member, and either do not receive the email or do not use email, please contact the ILA Office at admin@iowalibraryassociation.org or 515-282-8192. The ILA staff will be happy to email or mail you a ballot.

All voting must be completed and submitted by **Friday, October 19, at 5 p.m.**
Deadline Extended for Adopted Library Donations

We know summer is a crazy busy time for most libraries, and with kids now back to school, we thought fall might be a great time to raise awareness and support for Puerto Rico and, the Francisco Oller library in particular. **We are extending the deadline for this campaign to October 10!**

ILA's goal for the campaign is $15,000, and we still have a way to go to meet this goal. All money raised, 100%, will go directly to the Francisco Oller library as they continue the rebuilding their facility and their collections.

ILA is an amazing organization and this initiative was started as a way for ILA to make a difference beyond our borders and to help a library community in need. There are 544 public libraries, roughly 52 college/university libraries, several special libraries, and many school libraries in Iowa. If each library system could raise just $20 for the Francisco library, we’d meet our goal and help provide better access to library resources for the students of Escuela de Artes Plásticas y Diseño (EAPD).

Keep it easy! Set a jar on the counter and let patrons contribute what they can. Let library employees pay to wear jeans to work one day. Partner with your local Lions or Kiwanis group for a fundraiser. Put a link to the donation page on your library website.

Over the next several weeks, Cara Stone and Rebecca Funke will send updates about recovery efforts in Puerto Rico that are still ongoing (e.g. power outages remain common, almost a year later), in addition to updates on ILA’s campaign efforts!

Keep us posted on your efforts! Follow us on social media and share your ideas there! Track our [thermometer](#) as donations come in!

Questions? Contact Cara or Rebecca.
Francisco Oller library staff are pictured, left to right: Estrella Vázquez (Library Director), Rubén Cosme (Library Assistant), Milagros Pizarro (Librarian) and Yomarilly Meléndez (Library Assistant).
Iowa’s library furniture solution.

Library Furniture International (LFI) is a full service firm specializing in the sale and service of library furnishings. Our problem-solving product and design creates inspiring and functional library spaces for every purpose. Whether your needs call for the purchase of one section of shelving or an entire library of furnishings, LFI will have the solution that works for you!

libraryfurnitureinternational.com | 847 564 9497

total library furniture solutions
2017 Jack E. Tillson Scholarship Winner Provides Thanks

Ben Schmidt was named the Jack E. Tillson Scholarship recipient in 2017. Each year, the Iowa Library Association Foundation awards a $1,500 scholarship to a library student attending the University of Iowa School of Library and Information Science.

Ben provided this note:

ILA Members,

I wish to first thank the scholarship committee for awarding me the Jack E. Tillson scholarship in 2017. This scholarship has been crucial in my ability to further my education and advance my studies. I used the scholarship money to support my travel to present a paper at an academic conference in the fall of 2017. The remainder of this money went towards my University of Iowa tuition for the spring 2018 semester.

Without the generous funds provided by ILA, I would not have been able to attend this conference and present research I had done while at the University of Iowa. Receiving this scholarship has been a great honor and privilege and critical to advancing my education.

Sincerely,

Ben
Letter from the 2017 ILAF Scholarship Recipient

The Iowa Library Association Foundation provides a $1,500 scholarship to an outstanding student pursing a graduate degree in School Library Studies at the University of Northern Iowa. The winner of this scholarship in 2017 was Kristina Moore. Kristina sent the letter below:

Dear ILAF,

I am honored that I was selected to receive a scholarship this year. Thank you for your generous support of my library career. This year I was able to accomplish so much, and I credit this organization for supporting me.

I am currently working at Clarion-Goldfield-Dows High School as a teacher librarian and an English teacher. My goal with this scholarship money was to attend various professional development trainings. The highlight of my year was attending NCTE/ALAN in St. Louis. I was able to meet with librarians, teachers, and authors from all around the world. This conference along with the release of the new library standards inspired me to continue of my pursuit of constructivist education in the school library.

After the conference, I took my ideas and vision and shared it with my grant writing club that I started last year. This club consisted of 4 juniors and 8 seniors. I shared a variety of articles on makerspaces, and we researched different makerspaces across the world. From that, we selected various tools that we felt suited our space. I am honored to say that we received two large grants to support our space. This fall our makerspace will operate as part of the library curriculum as well as curriculum enrichment for various courses at the high school.
In addition to our growing makerspace program I selected to write my master’s paper on classroom teacher’s dispositions toward the educational value of makerspaces. I hope to discover how other teachers in Iowa are utilizing these spaces and what barriers exist.

Thank you again for supporting my library career!

Kristina Moore

Save The Date for Annual Planning Day on Nov. 16

Save the date for ILA’s Annual Planning Day, which will be held on Friday, Nov. 16 at the Johnston Public Library. Registration and check-in will open at 9:30 a.m. and the meeting will begin at 10 a.m.

More information about Annual Planning Day, and the registration form, will be shared with members soon.