President's Message

As you are no doubt aware, the 2018 Legislative Session is in full swing. Our lobbyists, Craig Patterson and Amy Campbell, are keeping close track of the proceedings. There are a couple of things to report on here:

First, there is some relatively good news to report. While most items in the Governor's budget show reductions, FY 2019 funding for both the State Library and Enrich Iowa show no decrease (nor any increase) in the new budget, at $2,530,063 and $2,464,823, respectively. Of course, no increase is effectively a cut, as costs invariably go up, but in this budget climate funding that's even with last year is about as good a scenario as we can hope for. Let your legislators know that, while both lines deserve an increase, stable funding is appreciated, and urge them at minimum, to maintain this funding level. And stay tuned: at this point, nothing is a done deal.

Another item of note, is the $150,000 in funding for online job skills and vocational test taking software, AKA Learning Express. The Governor’s budget isn't detailed enough to include this item specifically so we don’t know if it is intended for funding or not. It is paid by the Iowa Workforce Development Department’s Operations Budget. Please take a few minutes to email the Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee (here’s a link to their members) to make sure they know how important this funding is for both libraries and job seekers.

Planning continues apace for the 2018 ILA Annual Conference in Cedar Rapids (Oct. 3-5 – mark your calendars now!) and we’re looking for submissions for programs. If you have an idea for a session, fill out the online proposal form, which is available here. The Conference Planning Speakers Subcommittee will only review proposal submitted via the online form.

You should have gotten an ILA membership renewal form in the mail recently. You can also renew online or download a printable PDF to renew by mail. Whichever method you choose, be sure to renew today. Our memberships are the key to keeping ILA a vital resource for Iowa’s libraries and librarians.

Is something fun/cool/amazing or otherwise noteworthy going on in your library? Send it to ILA and we'll help you let everyone know about it! Go to http://bit.ly/ShareILANews to submit and we'd be happy to brag about you on ILA social media and the newsletter.

Best to all!
Mike

Michael Wright - ILA President

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**Legislative Update**

Craig Patterson and Amy Campbell, Iowa Library Association lobbyists, are already very busy working on our behalf as the 2018 legislative session begins. Highlights from their recent report (1/20/2017) are below. ([Full report](https://mailchi.mp/a52481a4541d/iowa-library-association-january-february-catalyst))

### Learning Express

The third budget item of significance to libraries is the $150,000 in funding for online job skills and vocational test taking software, often referred to as Learning Express. This funding appears every year in the budget not as a separate line item, but as a carve out under the Iowa Workforce Development Department's Operations Budget. The high-level nature of the Governor's budget proposal every year doesn't go into depth enough to know whether she intends to maintain this funding. The best thing for ILA members to do is to make sure that members of the Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee all know how critical this funding is for libraries. **Please take a moment to email them** ([link HERE](https://mailchi.mp/a52481a4541d/iowa-library-association-january-february-catalyst)) with your support for maintaining the $150,000 for online job skills and vocational test taking software in the IWD budget.

### Backfill

Governor Reynolds' budget fully funds the backfill in FY 2019 and makes no mention of a phase-out, studying a phase-out, etc. If you have a chance, please take a moment to send her a message ([Link HERE](https://mailchi.mp/a52481a4541d/iowa-library-association-january-february-catalyst)) thanking her for that and encouraging her to continue to defend the backfill.

### Elimination of the Department of Education

Legislation that would eliminate the Iowa Department of Education ([SF 2017](https://mailchi.mp/a52481a4541d/iowa-library-association-january-february-catalyst)) was introduced in the first week of session. Similar legislation has been introduced in previous years, but it has not historically required a discussion. SF 2017, on the other hand, had a subcommittee meeting scheduled and held this past Thursday afternoon. After discussion, Senator Chelgren, the subcommittee chair, indicated that he does not have an interest in advancing SF 2017 in its current form, but would instead look to amend the bill significantly to focus more on local control.

### Digital Content Blocking on all Internet Devices

Since the bill affects the bottom line of Verizon, AT&T, Best Buy, and every entity in Iowa that sells a product that accesses the Internet, it is unlikely to gain any traction. However, we will be monitoring the bill closely and keeping an eye for similar legislation.

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**Save These Dates for ILA Lobbying Activity**

One of the most important things an ILA member can do is lobby lawmakers about issues important to the association, it's members, and the Iowans we serve. Please save the following dates to participate in lobbying:

**Lobby From Home Day - Wednesday, February 14**

Lobby From Home Day is our opportunity to thank legislators for their support! It is also your opportunity to ask for continued support for initiatives that are important to your library and that directly affect your patrons. [View a list of issues to consider](https://mailchi.mp/a52481a4541d/iowa-library-association-january-february-catalyst). You
don't have to address all items – pick the one or two that are important to your community!

Legislative Day - Wednesday, March 14
This year’s Legislative Day will take place on Wednesday, March 14 in Des Moines. More information will be shared with members soon. In the meantime, make plans to join us at the Capitol!

Session Proposals Now Being Accepted for Annual Conference.

The Iowa Library Association is now accepting proposals for sessions for the 2018 Annual Conference, which will be held in Cedar Rapids October 3 - 5. The theme of this year’s conference is Access, Connections, Action.

Please fill out the online form to submit a proposal for your session. The form will remain open through March 1. The form is also available on the ILA homepage and the conference web page.

The form collects your name, contact information, and biography; a session title and description; and any equipment you will need. If you are proposing a panel, only one of the speakers should fill out the form. There is a field on the form to provide the names of the other panelists.

If you need additional information, please contact the ILA office at 515-282-8192 or admin@iowalibraryassociation.org. Thank you in advance for your session proposals!
ILA Leadership Institute – Developing Iowa’s Library Leaders!

You are invited to apply for the 8th Iowa Library Association Leadership Institute which will be held July 25-27 The Hotel at Kirkwood Center in Cedar Rapids.

Why a leadership institute?
Iowa's future depends on educated, information-literate citizens. Libraries help create and sustain the essential habit of lifelong learning. Strong library leaders are essential to the evolution of great libraries. The Iowa Library Association has established a comprehensive leadership development program to ensure that its members are prepared to actively shape the future of Iowa libraries.

What happens at the Institute?
You will participate in activities designed to help you:

- Recognize yourself as a leader and develop the confidence to become a change agent in your library as well as in the larger community.
- Assess your personal leadership style and develop the skills to use that style for effective decision making.
- Seek creative solutions to shape the future of the Iowa Library Association and library service in Iowa.
- Connect to a supportive network of successful library leaders.

Who will lead the institute?
Maureen Sullivan, past ALA President (2012-2013), is the institute leader. A highly sought-after speaker
and advisor, Sullivan has more than twenty-five years of experience as a consultant on organization development and work redesign, strategic planning, leadership, managing change, and establishing learning programs.

**Who is invited to apply?**
Any ILA member (may be MLS or non-MLS) with three years’ experience working in any Iowa library may apply to attend. The Leadership Development Committee will select up to 26 individuals to attend the institute.

**Where and when is the institute held?**
The institute will be held at The Hotel at Kirkwood Center in Cedar Rapids. Participants will lodge in The Hotel. Accommodations are double occupancy. Daytime sessions and activities will be held in the adjoining Kirkwood Center. The institute will begin Wednesday, July 25 at 10:00 a.m. and end Friday, July 29 at 5:00 p.m.

**What is the cost?**
Approximately 75% of the costs of the institute (institute activities, lodging and meals) are paid for through the generosity of donors, including a LSTA grant through The Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and the ILA Foundation. The fee for each participant is $250 which includes lodging and most meals. Participants are expected to cover travel costs and miscellaneous expenses. Tuition assistance may be available to participants. Contact Melissa Primus at the ILA office at 515-282-8192 or 800-452-5507 with any questions regarding tuition assistance.

**How are applications submitted?**
The application form is available on the Iowa Library Association website [www.iowalibraryassociation.org](http://www.iowalibraryassociation.org). Applications are due Friday, March 30, 2018. Candidates selected to attend the upcoming institute will be notified by May 4, 2018.

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**Save the Date**

*ACRL and Iowa Private Academic Libraries Conference*

**May 31 – June 1**

ILA-ACRL is pleased to join with IPAL (Iowa Private Academic Libraries) to co-host a two-day conference Thursday, May 31 and Friday, June 1 at Drake University in Des Moines. Look for a call for proposals, announcement of a keynote speaker, and registration information soon.

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**2017 ILA Committee and Subdivision Reports Now Available Online**

Annual Reports summarizing the work of ILA Committees and Subdivisions have been posted to the ILA website. These reports share highlights, activities, and accomplishments of 2017. Committee reports are available by clicking here. Subdivision reports can be accessed here.

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Marvin K. Mooney Will You Please Renew Now!

The time has come.
The time is now.
Renew your membership.
I don't care how.

https://mailchi.mp/a52481a4641d/iowa-library-association-january-february-catalyst
Your active participation in ILA creates a stronger association to better serve you and all of the librarians and library supporters from the 730 libraries in Iowa that make up our wonderful professional cohort, as well as the Iowans you serve.

ILA's membership year runs from January 1 – December 31. If you haven't yet renewed your 2018 ILA Membership, be sure to add it to your To Do list today! The renewal form is available on the website at [www.iowalibraryassociation.org](http://www.iowalibraryassociation.org), or you can [print out a form](http://www.iowalibraryassociation.org) and mail it to the ILA office. Don't wait and risk missing out on the benefits of membership!

Marvin K. Mooney!
I don't care HOW.
Marvin K. Mooney!
Will you please RENEW NOW!

If you have a story, idea, picture, or any other library-related news you would like to share with the membership, feel free to send it to us. We have a handy Share ILA News ([http://bit.ly/ShareILANews](http://bit.ly/ShareILANews)) form for just this purpose. We look forward to hearing from you!
Campaigns That Make An Impact
We focus on fundraising so you can focus on encouraging lifelong learning

> Our in-house team of advisers, researchers, writers, designers, social media strategists, web developers and video producers work together to electrify your campaign
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