President's Notes

May 7 and 8 I had the privilege of joining a group of dedicated Iowa librarians (Rebecca Funke, Cara Stone, Annah Hackett, Alison Ames Galstad, Michael Scott, and Nancy Medema) as well as librarians from all over the country for the American Library Association's National Library Legislative Day in Washington, DC. With a day of training under our belts we marched down to the House and Senate office buildings on Tuesday, May 8 to lobby our representatives on the importance of reauthorizing the Museum and Library Services Act, fully funding the Library Services and Technology Act, and promoting the need for broadband internet access. We met with three of Iowa's representatives (Blum, Loebsack, and Young) and with a staff member of Rep. King. We were also able to meet with Senators Grassley and Ernst. All were engaged, friendly, and had questions.

The event was fascinating, right down to negotiating the labyrinth of tunnels that connect the various buildings, and oddly exhilarating. My biggest takeaway was how important it is to contact our representatives about issues that matter to us. What we heard time and again was that calls, emails (personalized ones – “robo-emails” get ignored), and old fashioned letters really do get attention, and the more of them the better. Those with stories included to make a point get extra notice.

So write. Call. Make your voice heard. Get your friends and colleagues to do the same. We won’t always win, but at least we won’t be silent.

Best to all!
Michael Wright - ILA President

ILA Adopts A Library

Have you heard? ILA adopted a library this spring, as part of an ALA initiative to partner libraries in need with other libraries/chapters. The San Francisco Oller Library is part of the Escuela de Artes y Diseno de Puerto Rico, and was hit hard by hurricanes Irma and Maria last year. They continue to work on repairs to the library and ILA has initiated a fundraising campaign to help with costs to replace materials (books) lost.

As a design/art college, books are quite expensive to replace. **Our fundraising goal is $15,000!** We are hoping Iowa libraries—public, school, college, and special—will consider ways to raise a little money to
Day!

Need more information on the campaign? Check out our site for more information: https://ialibraryassociation.libguides.com/c.php?g=814153&p=5893221

For those of you who need a little competition to get the juices flowing, we’ve designed a competition for libraries to raise money! Winners get to toot your own horn all year and you get some great PR for your library!

Want to share stories about what your library is doing to raise funds? Send an email to Cara Stone (cstone@iastate.edu) or Rebecca Funke (rsfunke@dmacc.edu) and we’ll highlight your efforts on the website and next issue of the Catalyst!

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Pre-Conferences and Keynotes Announced for Annual Conference

The annual Iowa Library Association Conference will be held October 3-5 at the Cedar Rapids Doubletree Conference Center. The theme this year is Access, Connections, Action.

The conference will begin with three excellent pre-conferences on Wednesday, October 3. “Intellectual Freedom in the Age of Trigger Warnings” will explore the history of trigger and content warnings, their relation to intellectual freedom and censorship, and the best practices related to potentially traumatic material. Attendees at the “Bedbugs and Biohazards” pre-conference will learn how to be prepared to handle these tricky situations in their libraries. “Pay it Forward” suggests practical workplace approaches that can help pave the way for new staff and lessen their learning curve.

Thursday morning’s keynote “From Advocate to Activist” will be presented by P.C. Sweeney, political director for EveryLibrary, the first and only Political Action Committee for libraries in the
United States. It will focus on building actionable support from political leaders and other stakeholders in your community. On Friday the opening session “Stories for the Future: Trends, Signals, and Values for the Library of the Future” will be presented by Miguel Figueroa, Director for the American Library Association’s Center for the Future of Libraries. Friday’s closing luncheon will feature New York Times journalist Dan Barry, author of the 2018 All Iowa Reads selection Boys in the Bunkhouse: Salvation and Servitude in the Heartland.

The Conference Planning Committee is very excited about the wide variety of concurrent sessions that will be offered on Thursday and Friday. They received more than 100 excellent submissions, and had a difficult time narrowing the list down to 40. Session topics include assisting with genealogical research, promoting library resources to homeschooling families, being an effective trustee, online readers’ advisory, project management, after-school teen programming, managing a book challenge, how to host a trivia night and an escape room, and much more.

Cedar Rapids area libraries are excited to welcome ILA and are planning some fun things to do when you’re in town. More information to come soon!

Sincerely,

Jillian Rutledge
Lindsay Healey
Conference Speaker Subcommittee Co-Chairs
An author fair featuring authors from the Cedar Rapids area.

Refreshments and hors d’oeuvres.

Following the Grand Opening of Exhibits, the Cedar Rapids Public Library will host a networking reception from 6:30 – 8 p.m. This event will be held at the downtown location, which is only three blocks from the conference hotel.

Make Your Hotel Reservations for the 2018 Annual Conference

Make your reservations for the 2018 Annual Conference, which will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Cedar Rapids. Reservations can be made online or by calling 319-731-4444.

A group rate of $118 per night is available for rooms with one king or two double beds. The group rate will be available until the room block sells out.

Join Us for One of Two Events on Thursday Night at the Conference

Make plans to join us for one of two Thursday night events that are being offered at this year’s conference.

The popular Trivia Night event returns. New this year is a Speed Mentoring Event. Both events will be held on Thursday, Oct. 4 at 6 p.m. Registration is required for both events and you can indicate which event you would like to attend when you register for the conference.

Trivia Night

Dan Wardell is returning as the emcee. Teams of eight will compete for prizes and bragging rights in this friendly competition. To reserve a table for your team, send an email to Nancy Medema (Nancy.Medema@iowa.gov) with a list of team players. The person who emails Nancy will be the contact for any further information. If you don’t have a team you will be assigned to one.

Mulligans (free answers) will again be available for purchase at $10 for 10 Mulligans (limit 10 per team). Double Downs, which double your score for that round, will also be available for purchase at $5 for one (limit one per team). So, bring some spending cash. These are great ways to increase your score!
National Library Legislative Day

National Library Legislative Day was held in Washington, DC May 7-8. Iowa libraries saw our largest group in attendance in quite a while! Mike Wright (ILA President & Dubuque County), Alison Ames Galstad (Coralville), Michael Scott (State Library), Nancy Medema (State Library), Cara Stone (ISU & ACRL Scholarship attendee), Annah Hackett (Grand View University & ACRL Scholarship attendee), Rebecca Funke (ILA & DMACC) attended the two-day event.

We spent the first day listening to speakers and learning about issues important to libraries. We heard Brad Fitch, President and CEO of Congressional Management Foundation, give a great presentation about building relationships with lawmakers. Here are some take-aways to help build those relationships:

- Know what committees lawmakers serve on
- Know the lawmaker's history on policies/issues
- Know the negative consequences of the vote you are asking for; understand and articulate the other side
- Send personalized a thank you on Saturday/Sunday, or after 8 p.m. weekdays, so it will actually be seen. Personal, paper thank yous are also great!
- Responses are needed within 24 hours to a lawmaker social media post. This is when it will most likely be seen.
- What lawmakers are looking for most when you have an issue:
  - Information about impact to constituency
  - Reasoning for supporting/opposing issue
  - Personal stories – most important!

The second day was spent visiting all six Iowa lawmakers in DC. We met with each senator and representative about the impact of federal funding on Iowa libraries, the need for access to broadband internet, and of course, shared those important personal stories! It was a wonderful opportunity to build those relationships. Having so many of us attending this year helps us show how important our work is to Iowans! Several Iowa lawmakers commented positively about the size of our group this year! Iowa even made the ALA Blog: [https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/blogs/the-scoop/national-library-legislative-day-2018-year-round-advocacy/](https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/blogs/the-scoop/national-library-legislative-day-2018-year-round-advocacy/)
Register for Upcoming Conferences

Registration is still open for these upcoming conferences:

**GODORT Workshop**
The Iowa GODORT Summer Workshop will be held on Friday, July 20, from 1-4 p.m. The workshop will be presented online via Zoom. Please use this online form to register: [https://uiowa.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_74Kmd5Mys6LNumN](https://uiowa.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_74Kmd5Mys6LNumN).

**Joint Conference of Iowa Association of School Librarians and Iowa Reading Association**
The 2018 joint conference of the Iowa Reading Association and the Iowa Association of School Librarians, Literacy Landmarks, will be held on June 25-27 on the ISU campus in Ames. [Register online](https://www.irauiowa.org/register/) or [download a registration form from the Iowa Reading Association website](https://www.irauiowa.org/register/).

Thank You for Participating in Diversity and Inclusion Survey

Thank you to all who participated in the Committee for Diversity and Inclusion’s survey. We received more than 600 responses and are grateful for all who shared their perspectives on these topics as we seek to learn more about who we are and who we serve in Iowa libraries. The committee is still going through the data and will share initial impressions with the ILA Executive Board on June 8.

2018 ILA Award Nominations Now Open

ILA’s Awards Committee is now accepting nominations for ILA annual awards. Each year during the Annual Conference, ILA recognizes individuals who have provided exceptional and meaningful contributions to the Iowa library community. The Awards Committee recognizes the important work done not only by ILA members, but our partners. For this reason, the Awards Committee, with approval from the Board, has expanded the number of awards offered so as to better celebrate all the work and successes accomplished in support of Iowa libraries.

Please consider submitting an nomination for the following awards:

- Distinguished Leadership Award (formerly Member of the Year Award)
- Distinguished Career Award - **NEW**
- Citation of Merit
- Outstanding Library Advocate Award (formerly Ted Anderson Award)
- Emerging Leader Award - **NEW**
- Library Philanthropy Award – **NEW**
- Lifetime Membership Award

Nomination Process: **deadline for nominations is August 3, 2018.** Before [submitting nominations](https://mailchi.mp/0ddccf1b8f8a/may-june-iowa-library-association-catalyst-37976236), please be sure to carefully review award descriptions. The Awards Committee will review nominations based on [award descriptions and/or criteria](https://mailchi.mp/0ddccf1b8f8a/may-june-iowa-library-association-catalyst-37976236). Contact Rebecca Funke at rsfunke@dmacc.edu with any questions.
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) form for just this purpose. We look forward to hearing from you!

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For more information, contact Mary G. Johnson, SLIM MLS Director, at mjohns46@emporia.edu or 620-412-6453
course, we also must keep up our own professional growth. Now is a great time to encourage your staff and/or you to take advantage of an opportunity for professional career development!

This past fall, 23 students began meeting in Sioux Falls to begin a 36 credit-hour program for a master of library science (MLS) degree from Emporia State University (KS). Many MLS programs are strictly online, meaning students participate in discussions, submit assignments and communicate with professors and other students online only. What makes ESU's School of Library and Information Management (SLIM) unique is the blended classroom approach. This hybrid program allows students the flexibility of the online component with an interactive classroom experience.

Students are admitted on a cohort basis, meaning they go through the program together. All courses are facilitated online for the full semester with core courses meeting for two face-to-face Friday evening and Saturday classes during the semester. Faculty teach these classes in person, allowing for personal interaction with fellow students, instructors, and the regional director. Student Korey Erickson (SD) says, “Emporia offers the best of both worlds of graduate degrees. The online aspect allows for flexibility with work and family schedules, and the in-person weekend classes make me feel like my classmates and faculty have a personal investment in helping me be successful.”

The South Dakota face-to-face classes are currently held at a Mikkelsen Library classroom at Augustana University in Sioux Falls. These students come from five states — South Dakota, North Dakota, Nebraska, Minnesota, and Iowa — and from different types of libraries (public, academic, school, special) or even with no library background. The program they take provides students with a broad spectrum of courses which transfer to a number of positions and types of libraries. The SD cohort currently has a basic admission deadline in July; however, there is a cap on enrollment. The next cohort will start in August 2018.

SLIM has a long history of commitment in the profession of librarianship for 115 years, and the program has ALA accreditation. If you have any questions or would like to know more about the program, please contact the South Dakota Regional MLS Program Director, Mary G. Johnson, at mjohns46@emporia.edu or at (620) 412-6453.