President's Notes

2018 is winding down, but the Iowa Library Association is finishing it in style!

As you've likely heard by now, ILA has been awarded the prestigious Downs Intellectual Freedom Award for our sustained advocacy on behalf of intellectual freedom and the First Amendment, core values of librarianship. And speaking from the heart, having spent a large chunk of my professional life championing these topics, it is satisfying to my core for ILA to receive this award during my time as President. Sincere thanks are due to everyone who has worked so hard to keep our libraries places of free and open inquiry. At the risk of being turned in to the Grammar Police, we done good.

Even if you don't include the happy surprise of the award, ILA still had plenty of noteworthy accomplishments in 2018.

- Under the coordination of incoming President Dan Chibnall, we had a well-attended planning day, and if you were there you know the room practically buzzed with energy and ideas.
- Of course, all eyes were on 2019 and the joint conference with Nebraska, which continues to slowly take shape. Kudos to Rebecca Funke and Dan for all their work to date on the Joint Conference Planning Committee.
- The annual conference in Cedar Rapids was attended by 464 people, down about 10% from last year but not a bad figure. I thought the conference was excellent, but I’m biased, having had some minor involvement in it. However, judging by the comments and evaluations, most of you thought it was pretty good as well. Literally dozens of people worked to make the 2018
conference shine – my thanks to each of you. I want to give a particular shout out the Cedar Rapids Public Library for hosting the reception on Wednesday evening. I was both surprised, impressed, and jealous when I found out the reception was catered by the library’s own Greyhound Café.

There was another great leadership institute, the Legislative Day, I could go on and on, but have been warned against that type of thing. Let’s just say that we were a busy and productive group on all fronts, and 2019 is not likely to be any different.

I will use my bully pulpit one last time to thank you, the ILA membership, for allowing me to finish my time in Libraryland (40 years!) by serving the association as President, and soon, Past President. Not only has it been an honor, it’s been a lot of fun. I look forward to working with you all – most especially the Government Affairs Committee -- in 2019.

Happy Holidays, however you choose to celebrate them.

---

Thank You From Melissa Primus

ILA Members,

As you have likely heard by now, in October I left my position with Diversified Management Services for a new career opportunity. That also meant leaving my role with the Iowa Library Association. I wanted to take a minute to say thank you.

It has been a pleasure to work with ILA and you, the members, over the last eight years. You have all become “my librarians” and what a privilege to have 1000 + librarians!

You have taught me so much about the library world. Early on I remember someone making it very clear to me that libraries were more than buildings with books and then I saw this play out time after time. I saw first-hand what a vital role you play in your communities -- developing and offering such a wide variety of programming for those in your communities, fighting to maintain intellectual freedom, serving as centers of your community, offering safe spaces. I saw how you go outside the walls of your libraries to make your services available to all. I witnessed the hours many of you spend on summer reading programs and the hours others of you invest in our college students. Thank you for your individual
investments in so many individual lives and in your communities!

Thank you also for your trust in me. Thank you for your willingness to try new things as together we worked to evaluate, improve, and add value to association membership. Thank you for being open to take a look at processes and procedures, to consider new ways of operating and new opportunities, and for continuing the conversations. Thank you for your commitment to your communities, to your profession, and to the Iowa Library Association. Thank you for becoming “my librarians.”

I wish you and ILA all the best!

Melissa Primus

---

Please Renew Your Membership for 2019

Iowa Library Association dues renewal notices for the 2019 membership year will be sent to all members this month. You can print and mail or fax your membership form with payment, or you can renew and pay online at ILA’s website. If you choose to renew online there is no need to log into your account.

Membership renewals will be sent via email for all members who have provided ILA with an email address. Renewals will be sent via postal mail if ILA does not have an email address on file for you. We encourage all members to provide us with an email address so we can communicate electronically with you and reduce mailing costs.

Membership is on a calendar year.

Your membership supports and advances the ILA mission to foster a community of innovation and advocacy, supporting and strengthening our members to promote libraries as an essential resource for all Iowans.

We hope you will renew. Know someone who is not a member but might be interested? Please encourage them to join as well!
Are you Ready to Help ILA?

If you’d like to get involved on one of ILA’s Committees or Subdivisions, or if you know of someone else that would be a good fit, please fill out the online I Can Help Form. The Iowa Library Association largely operates on the work of volunteers. Thank you for your consideration in lending a hand!

Leadership Transitions

At the end of every year, we bid farewell to our outgoing Executive Board members who have completed their terms on the Board. Thank you to Rebecca Funke, Brianna Glenn, and Debbie Stanton for their years of service on the Board and their contribution to ILA leadership.

We were fortunate to have a very solid state of candidates for the fall elections, and our sincere thanks go out to all of the individuals who stepped up to run for leadership positions in ILA this fall - your commitment to ILA is deeply appreciated!

Mara Strickler was elected as the new Vice President/President-Elect. We also welcome Jillian Rutledge and Zach Stier, who were elected to the Executive Board.

Submit Your Ideas for the 2019 Joint Conference

Thanks to everyone who participated in ILA’s Planning Day!

The 2019 conference will be a joint conference with the Nebraska Library Association and the Nebraska School Librarians Association. The theme of the conference is Bridging Borders: Succeeding Together.

The conference will be held Oct. 2-4, 2019 in Omaha, Neb.

More details will be unveiled in the coming months, so watch the conference website as well as our Facebook page and Twitter account.
Subdivisions and Roundtables

Subdivisions and roundtables can submit their Activity Proposal Forms for 2019 events and conference events on this web form.

Subdivisions and roundtables are encouraged to begin the process of identifying session speakers who are eager to present on a topic of interest to the subdivision, and who are able to submit a proposal.

Call for Conference Session Proposals Now Open

The Conference Planning Committee is now accepting proposals for the 2019 conference. Anyone who wishes to submit a formal proposal for a conference session is welcome to do so. Please fill out this web form to submit your proposal.

Session Selection

The Conference Planning Committee will do a blind review of ideas and proposals, with the intention of selecting sessions that are diverse and representative of all the members of the sponsoring associations. Sessions will be announced in the spring of 2019.

2018 Conference Recap

The 128th Iowa Library Association Conference was held Oct. 3-5 at the beautiful Cedar Rapids DoubleTree Hotel & Convention Center. This year’s theme was Access, Connections, Action.

There were three excellent pre-conference sessions held on Wednesday: “Intellectual Freedom in the Age of Trigger Warnings,” “Pay it Forward: Improving Today’s Work and Tomorrow’s Worklife,” and “Bedbugs and Biohazards.” Later that afternoon the exhibitor and vendor booths kicked off with a grand opening (complete with a scavenger hunt!), an opportunity to talk with and purchase books from local authors, and the start of the Iowa Library Association Foundation’s silent auction. A networking reception was hosted that evening by the Cedar Rapids Public Library. ILA would like to extend its gratitude to CRPL for another wonderful event.

Thursday morning’s keynote session “From Advocate to Activist” was delivered by PC Sweeney, Director...
of EveryLibrary, the first and only Political Action Committee for libraries in the US. Their research shows that even though public opinion of libraries is high, people's willingness to get out and vote is low. Mr. Sweeney encouraged attendees to go beyond the walls of the library and out into the community in order to put a face to the library. He advised that by doing so we are more likely to gain support when it comes to elections, which in turn can mean an increase in funding.

Trivia Night that evening was hosted once again by IPTV's Dan Wardell, and new this year was a Speed Mentoring event where attendees could network with a number of librarians from across the state.

Miguel Figueroa from the American Library Association’s Center for the Future of Libraries was Friday morning’s keynote speaker. His session, titled “Stories for the Future: Trends, Signals, and Values for the Library of the Future” highlighted some exciting and innovative trends from libraries around the country including a shift toward experience and space over collections, “Fast Casual” offerings, and library subscription boxes. I certainly walked away with some great ideas to try at my library.

*New York Times* journalist Dan Barry spoke at Friday’s luncheon about his book *The Boys in the Bunkhouse: Servitude and Salvation in the Heartland*. This 2018 All Iowa Reads winner is a harrowing, yet uplifting, story of the exploitation and abuse of a resilient group of men with intellectual disability, and the heroic efforts of those who helped them to find justice and reclaim their lives. Mr. Barry gave an excellent presentation, and it was a delight to hear him speak. Given that next year’s conference is a joint effort between the Iowa Library Association and the Nebraska Library Association, the All Iowa Reads committee collaborated with One Book, One Nebraska to select one title to be read and discussed in both states. Short synopses of the five finalist titles were read, and the winner, *This Blessed Earth: A Year in the Life of an American Family Farm* by Ted Genoways, was announced a few weeks later. The All Iowa Teens Read and All Iowa Kids Read selections were also announced (*A Land of Permanent Goodbyes* by Atia Abawi and *Amina’s Voice* by Hena Khan). I feel very fortunate to have an organization such as the Iowa Center for the Book that is so committed to promoting reading and literacy in our state, and I’m looking forward to discussing all three titles.

On behalf of the Conference Planning Committee, I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to all of the representatives from ILA committees and subdivisions who helped select the conference schedule, the Local Arrangements and Exhibits & Sponsors Committees, Diversified Management Services, and the many volunteers for their work on this year’s conference. Thank you also to the exhibitors, vendors, and sponsors. This conference would not have been possible without your generous support. Please visit...
page 20 of the conference program for a list of exhibitors. I would especially like to thank Melissa Primus for her tireless work on behalf of ILA, and wish her luck in her future endeavors. We will miss you, Melissa!

We hope you join us for next year’s joint conference of the Iowa Library Association and Nebraska Library Association, Oct. 2 - 4 in LaVista, Neb.

Thank you,
Jillian Rutledge, 2018 Speakers Subcommittee Co-Chair
The Foundation Board Thanks Members and Friends for Their Support

The ILA Foundation Board members are extremely grateful for the support we have received from the Iowa library community. Once again, you have generously donated and enabled us to continue to fulfill our mission of supporting the Iowa Library Association and librarians across the state of Iowa. This year, you donated 138 items and we were able to raise about $6,000 from the silent auction and raffle to add to our funds.

ILAF funds support scholarships, continuing education, the ILA Leadership Institute, and nationally known speakers at the annual conference. Recently, we have also been able to support ILA members attending the annual conference through the Susan Lerdal and Biblionix Scholarships.

As we look towards the future, we hope to continue to have 20/20 vision as we focus on building funds for scholarships to continue to help to advance the quality of libraries and librarianship in the state of Iowa.

Thank you all for your continued support of the Iowa Library Association and the Iowa Library Association Foundation.

Sarah Clendineng, ILAF President 2018

Board Members
Lois Blythe
Rick Brammer
Mary Bucy
Karen Davidson
Mara Egherman
Darryl Eschete
Mary Heinzman
Ken Jones
Marlys Lien
Susan Macken
Susan Moore
Catherine Noble
Tara Painter
Kay Runge
Wendy Street
2018 ILA Award Winners

Congratulations to these ILA members for their services to ILA and Iowa libraries!

**Distinguished Leadership Award (Formerly Member of the Year)**
Presented for the first time in 1989, this award recognizes outstanding service to the Iowa library community. The 2018 recipient is Mary Heinzman, the director of the St. Ambrose University Library. Mary is also a member of the ILA nominating committee and the vice-president of the Iowa Library Association Foundation board.

**Distinguished Career Award**
Presented for the first time this year, this award recognizes and ILA member with significant accomplishments and more than 15 years of experience in the library community. The inaugural recipient of this award is Dawn Cline, outreach coordinator at the Marion Public Library. Dawn is also the co-chair of ILA’s Public Library Forum and a volunteer coordinator for the annual conference.

**Trustee of the Year Award**
Donna Epley, Coralville Public Library

**Jack E. Tillson Scholarship**
An education grant of $1,500 given to a University of Iowa library student and provided by the late Jack E. Tillson, former Executive Assistant of the Iowa Library Association. Presented to: Emily McClimon

**ILA Foundation Scholarship**
An education grant of $1,500 given to a University of Northern Iowa library student.
Presented to: Melissa Marwedel

**Biblionix Public Librarian Scholarship**
Presented to: Kim Eichler, Norelius Community Library and Dara Sanders, West Point Public Library

**Susan Lerdal Memorial Scholarship**
Presented to: Kayla Becker, Urbandale Public Library, Annie Schrandt, University of Iowa, Melissa Marwedel, Urbandale School District, and Jacqueline Stolz, Urbandale Public Library

**Lifetime Membership Awards**
Given to ILA members of twenty-five years or more upon their retirement.
Presented to:
Beth Elshoff, retired, Muscatine Community School District
Lori Kappmeyer, retired, Iowa State University
Jo Pearson, retiring, Marion Public Library
Jeannie Stone, retired, Bayard Public Library

20 Year Member Awards
Given to ILA members after 20 years of membership.
Presented to:
Kimshiro Benton-Hermsen – James Kennedy Public Library, Dyersville
Cynthia Blinkinsop – Mid City High School, Long Grove
Christa Cosgriff – Forest City Public Library
Linda Friedow – Britt Public Library
Sarah Latcham – Van Allen Elementary, North Liberty
Bonnie McKewon – State Library of Iowa
Marian Meyer – Bellevue Public Library
Jana Smith – Conrad Public Library
Barb Sowers – Readlyn Community Library
Missie Sturch – Waterloo Public Library
Sarah Willeford – Iowa Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Des Moines
Jennifer Wirtz – Ankeny High School

ILA/ACRL Annual Conference Scholarship
Presented to: Cynthia Bancroft

Quality Time Award
Presented to: Erin Silva, North Liberty Public Library

Summer Reading Program Scholarship
Presented to: Albion Public Library

Association of Rural and Small Libraries Conference Scholarship
Presented to: Carol Wilkins, Wellman-Scofield Public Library

Iowa Library Association Leadership Institute Scholarship
Presented to: Tracy Clair, Ely Public Library

Iowa Library Association Conference Scholarship
Presented to: Sandy Long, Whittemore Public Library and Laura Hoover, Swisher Public Library

Presidential Award
Presented to: Michael Wright, ILA President

Outgoing Board Member Recognition
Presented to: Brianna Glenn and Debbie Stanton

Lyrical Iowa 2019 Poetry Competition

The Iowa Poetry Association is a non-profit organization whose sole objective is to promote interest in and appreciation for better poetry by Iowans of all ages. Their annual Lyrical Iowa Poetry Competition, now in its 74th year, is open to all persons with Iowa residence and there is no entry fee. Top-ranking poems win modest cash prizes and/or publication in their annual Lyrical Iowa anthology. The 2018 edition, a perfect-bound 182-page book with full-color cover, showcases 378 poems chosen from 1,840 entries in their 2018 contest. These came from 73 of Iowa’s 99 counties, sent by persons ranging in age from kindergartners to near-centenarians in well over one hundred cities and towns. There are currently 79 libraries across Iowa with standing orders for the Lyrical Iowa anthology.

For the Lyrical Iowa 2019 Competition, entries may be sent January 1-February 28, 2019. Please consult the complete contest rules for adult, college, high school, and grade school entries in the printable contest brochure available at http://www.iowapoetry.com. If you have questions, please contact Editor Marilyn Baszczynski at ipa@iowapoetry.com.
EMPORIA STATE UNIVERSITY

School of LIBRARY AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Earn your Master of Library Science
A graduate degree in Library and Information Management complements previous education, offers prospects for increased earnings and provides flexible skills for the future. Be a part of the information profession that has exciting career opportunities such as public or academic librarian, media specialist, data manager, archivist, and many more.

- **Balance Online Learning and Occasional Weekend Intensive Classes**
  Enjoy personal interaction between students and faculty as you combine your MLS studies with an active life. Cohort locations include:
  - Portland, OR
  - Salt Lake City, UT
  - Overland Park, KS
  - Las Vegas, NV
  - Denver, CO
  - Emporia, KS
  - Sioux Falls, SD

- **Leadership Development**
  Practice advocating for your library or information organization based on your new understanding of adaptive leadership.

- **SLIM’s Heritage of Excellence for Over a Century**
  Share the inherited legacy of a worldwide network of SLIM alumni to further your career objectives.

Special tuition rates available for certain residents of Oklahoma, Nebraska, Missouri, North Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, and Indiana

For more information contact:
sliminfo@emporia.edu or 620.341.5203

emporia.edu/slim
Drawing on your vision to design libraries of the future.