2010 Election of Officers

President: Linda Adams, (Arlington and Fayette Libraries);
Linda has been working in the library world since 1983. She began as the Assistant Librarian at Arlington, and became the director in 1987. In 1988 she also became the director of the Fayette Community Library. Linda has been married for 43 years, and has 3 grown children, 1 son and 2 daughters in addition to 10 grandchildren.

Vice-President: Sue Kroesche, Le Mars Public Library;
Sue is the Director of the Le Mars Public Library. Sue has traveled in her library career, as she followed her husband of 39 years around Iowa. She began at the McGregor Public Library in 1993, moving after 6 years to Emmettsburg starting as children’s librarian, then the Director in 2000. In 2003 she became the cataloger at Orange City until their last move in 2008. They have 2 sons, 1 daughter, and 5 grandchildren.

Secretary: Jill Sanders, (Elkader Public Library);
Jill began working at Colesburg as the Director in 1998, moving to Elkader in 2002. Both libraries are very small; Colesburg has a population slightly over 400 and Elkader around 1400. Located in Northeast Iowa, Jill has been married for 10 years. She has 2 children and 6 grandchildren. One of her concerns in the library world is that we don’t lose the face-to-face experiences and exchanges in this digital age!

Treasurer: Shirley Vonderhaar, (James Kennedy Public Library, Dyersville);
Shirley was hired as the Library director in Dyersville in 1987, after earning her MLS from Iowa. She is married and has 3 children. Her oldest is attending ISU in Ames, but she also has a 16 and 12 year old. The issue of change is close to home for her, as she has survived the entire process of conversion to computers in one library! She grew up in Mapleton, Iowa.
I hope everyone has recovered from ILA. It was a terrific conference. Getting to see familiar faces and making new acquaintance is always a plus. I hope everyone enjoyed the breakout sessions they attended as much as I did. We co-sponsored Kim Van Deest’s session “Incorporating Web 2.0 into Daily Work Routine”; Maeve Clark and Jen Jordan’s “Bringing Green Programs to Your Community”; “Better Every Minute: Effective Staff Training in Bite-sized Modules” by Ann Clapp; and “Small Library Excellence” with Anne Hughes. The sessions were always full and very informative.

Thanks to everyone who stopped by the ISLA booth to register for the prizes, stopped to talk, worked in the booth, or came to see the new banner. It is awesome!!! Thanks to Nathan Clark for the idea and Tena Hanson for picking up the banner and bringing it to ILA. The winners of the t-shirts are Dee Crowner, North Liberty Library and Laura Blaker, Independence Public Library. The mouse pads went to Ann Newberry, Winterset Public Library; Mary Frisbie, Lake Mills Public Library; and Melanie Murray, Lehigh Public Library. We still have mouse pads and t-shirts left, so if you are interested let one of the officers know; we will get one off to you right away.

The new officers for 2011 are Linda Adams, President (Arlington and Fayette Libraries); Sue Kroesche, Vice-President (LeMars Public Library); Jill Sanders, Secretary (Elkader Public Library); Shirley Vonderhaar, Treasurer (James Kennedy Public Library, Dyersville), and Kolleen Taylor-Berven has agreed to fill the position of Public Relations (Bertha Bartlett Public Library, Story City). The ILA liaison to the Executive Board is Karen Davidson. The new officers will be gathering, along with the other subdivision officers on Nov. 5 in Urbandale to begin the planning of the 2011 Iowa Library Association activities. If you have subjects and/or speakers you think would be ideas for the planning committee, let one of the officers know this.

Please remember to keep the ARSL proposal and the Farm Progress plan in the front of our minds. We are still working on the booth fee, how we will be able to raise funds, who exactly is going to lead this project, and many other little questions that have and will arise. This is an exciting opportunity for Iowa’s libraries, the state of Iowa and anyone who is interested in partnering with our group. The exposure that Iowa’s libraries will receive during this project will increase our presences in all our communities. Iowa’s libraries can do big jobs!!!!

Also, I will take this time to thank each and every one of you as a member of ISLA for the support you have given me during my year as president. At times it did seem overwhelming, but we worked as a group, someone was always willing to step up and take on a project or just give me the guidance I needed now and then. You are a great group of people and I will always remember the faces, smiles, projects and inspiration I received from this very special group.
Keeping Libraries and ISLA Strong!

By Kolleen Taylor-Berven

The words from State Librarian Mary Wegner still echo “…the future of library funding looks dim”… and it reminds us all that all the tools and skills we have in the library world will be tested as we strive for more effectiveness, more efficiencies and more creative services.

The charge from the legislature

(This is taken directly from ILA website):
A few people have asked about the original legislation that was the impetus for this process. The legislation is in House Amendment 8516 to Senate File 2376, which was passed by the legislature in late March and signed by the governor on April. The language in the amendment that specifically refers to the committee’s work is as follows:

3. a. The library service areas and the state library shall work collaboratively to conduct a study of ways to streamline state-funded library operations and services. The study shall, at a minimum, address the following:
   (1) Library service area service delivery strengths
   (2) Best practices for delivering continuing education
   (3) The use of social networking tools to provide consulting services
   (4) Consolidation of bookkeeping and auditing functions
   (5) Locally based creative collaborations among all types of libraries

b. The library service areas shall collaboratively submit their findings and recommendations in a report to the general assembly on or before November 1, 2010

The last year has shown us all that we are vulnerable, as the state legislature began the year by requiring cuts in both the State Library budget and Library Service areas. Because we are a strong voice, we were allowed the time to determine our own destiny, and teams of volunteers from the library ranks attacked this problem with heavy hearts, but optimism that they still had a voice.

It’s a testimony to the Iowa Library Association that our President, Dale Vande Haar was included in those initial meetings, and he was able to step into the void left by the sudden departure of President Dale Ross, who left to care for his wife after her health took a terrible turn. Most knew Dale lost his wife later in the year. For most of us making this transition so quickly, with such a controversy brewing would be challenging, if not totally unnerving.

The results have been published, with the ILA membership approving the recommended changes at the meeting in October. If you missed the earlier details, those are located on the Iowa Library Association webpage (see link below).

http://iowalibraryassociation.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=100

In addition, a blog and survey allowed individuals to express opinions, concerns, and help formulate the final plan as submitted to the legislature. As much as possible, information was kept in front of librarians as things proceeded, however, not we all know that not everyone had the time to access this information online. It continues to be posted on the ILA website for your better understanding.
President C.J. Thompson, Kling Memorial Library, Grundy Center called the meeting to order at 5:18 p.m. at the Iowa Library Association Conference in Coralville.

Minutes were read by Anne Skaden, Secretary. C.J. noted the ISLA Facebook item needed to be changed to read “meets the ILA specifications” rather than the State Library specifications. Susan Blythe (Conrad) moved to approve the minutes with the change, seconded by Pat Sleister (Mary J. Barnett Library, Guthrie Center).

Mary Wagner, State Librarian, gave her report and handed out a copy of the article from “City Scape.” She spoke about the reorganization plan and how the committee has been working very hard. She also took comments and questions about the reorganization. Looking ahead, finances for libraries look “grim.”

Pat Means, Villisca Public Library, gave the treasurers report.

- Beginning balance: $524.54
- Meeting/other receipts: $180.00
- Dues: $995.00
- Total available funds: $1,699.54
- Less expenses to date: $257.68
- Balance in account: $1,441.86

Committee Reports

a. Nominating Committee: Linda Adams, Fayette Community and Arlington Public Libraries, announced the candidates. President/President Elect: Sue Kroesche, Le Mars Public Library and Karen Peterson, Bondurant. Secretary: Beth Crow, Blairstown P.L. and Jill Sanders, Elkader P.L. Treasurer: Andrew Hoppmann, Lied P.L. and Shirley Vonderhaar, James Kennedy P.L. The voting was done on-line for the first time and 67 members voted.

b. Public Relations: Jim Cross, Riceville Public Library, is no longer at the library full-time and resigned from the newsletter position. Someone else will need to be found. (Kolleen Taylor-Berven, Bertha Bartlett P.L., Story City, later volunteered to do P.R.)

c. LSA: No report

d. Programming: Pat Means, Villisca, said ISLA helped sponsor 4 sessions this conference and so far the sessions have been well attended.

Old Business

a. ARSL Proposal: Tena Hanson, Milford Memorial Library, reported that ILA approved the pursuit to find people and a spot in Iowa/Nebraska for the ARSL 2013 Conference. Fund raising will not really be an issue since participation is the only requirement. There are 17 members on the committee. The proposal will need to be revised to include Nebraska, with their approval. The committee hopes the conference can be in the Omaha/Council Bluffs area.

b. Farm Progress Show, 2012: A proposal will need to be submitted to the ILA Board for approval. Volunteers are needed to help with the proposal. Give C.J. a call if you are interested in joining that committee.

New Business: Everyone expressed their appreciation, with applause, for the work that C.J. Thompson has done as President. The new officers were announced.

- President/President Elect: Sue Kroesche, Le Mars Public Library
- Secretary: Jill Sanders, Elkader Public Library
- Treasurer: Shirley Vonderhaar, James Kennedy P.L., Dyersville

All the candidates were warmly thanked for agreeing to run. Susan Blythe, Conrad Public Library, made a motion for the ballots to be destroyed. Pat Means, Villisca P.L. seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned by C.J. Thompson at 6:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Skaden, Secretary
Director, Kalona Public Library
How to join ISLA

Joining ISLA costs only $5, in addition to your ILA membership. (The ILA membership fee is based on salary for those currently working in a library). To pay your dues, go to www.iowalibraryassociation.org and click the “Join ILA” tab across the top menu. If you’d like an invoice to pay by check, select the “PDF Membership Form.” The second page of that document lists membership rates. One important step you must remember: under section C for ILA Subdivisions, please check the box stating that you would like to join the Iowa Small Library Association for an additional $5. Return the form and your payment to the Iowa Library Association as listed on the form. Thank you!!

Please note: Anyone is welcome to join ISLA! Anyone can show your support for the organization and its mission to “empower Iowa’s small libraries” with your membership.

ISLA Officers for 2010:

CJ Thompson, President  
cjthompson@grundycenter.lib.ia.us  
Linda Adams, Vice President  
fayettelib@netins.net  
Anne Skaden, Secretary  
askaden@kalona.lib.ia.us  
Pat Means, Treasurer  
villib@mchsi.com  
Kolleen Taylor-Berven, Public Relations  
scbbpl@iowatelecom.net

Our Mission:

The Iowa Small Library Association is an active networking organization that strengthens and advocates for public libraries with a population under 10,000.
In the world of the in-touch librarian, technology has overtaken all of us as we try to stay abreast of the most recent changes and upgrades in the work place and in the social networking arenas. Whether you are 16 or 61, we are all expected to be connected.

The cost to stay on top of our websites, our facebook pages, our tweets and our messaging is less about dollars, and more about time. Posting photos, forwarding links, uploading policies, and changing digital material to pdfs is almost more than a mind can boggle. Carbon paper seems so much easier these days.

For Librarians, the urgency to stay on top of these changes has caused us to move further and further into digitization, with online-conferences, workshops and meetings. A good powerpoint presentation isn’t enough, it needs bells and whistles, music and spins. Today’s presentations are masterful works of art….not just data on a screen.

Thank goodness for the new, young professionals in our library world who are not tired of the changes yet. For hundreds of years, maintaining a good book collection was all that was required of a good librarian. Today the list goes on and on, with knowledgable staff trying to streamline information into a path that is useful and helpful, not frustrating. The Iowa Library Association has done a great job in making sure these new avenues are presented at the ILA meetings each year, helping sort through the necessary evils of learning new skills, new ways to communicate and the new generations communication tools.

Managing to clear the mind and the brain to produce creative, insightful library programs sometimes takes a back-seat to the constant demand for the newest technology trend. But it all boils down to information. Finding it and using it properly is still a skill, whether you are using the newest smart phone application or the shelves of your library.

As the newly appointed Public Relations Committee chair for ISLA, it seems impossible to use all the many forms of communication to reach out to everyone. In the months ahead, as the new President and officers define their year, we will attempt to communicate in every cost efficient and time efficient way we can. But I encourage those who can to watch our Facebook pages, both the Iowa Library Association and Iowa Small Library Association have great pages being monitored by officers. Be sure to watch for e-mailed newsletters and read them when you receive them, and find a way to connect, either in person or through one of the venues available to you!