Lego seems to have become a popular item in libraries lately. I have heard many librarians talk about the “Lego Program” they started in the library. The programs are conducted in many ways. Some fill bags with a set amount of Legos for each participant to build their project. In other programs the Legos are in buckets or spread out on tables and the participants may use as many as they want in their creations. Some designate what each group or individual should create, such as house, robot, animal, cars, etc. Others let the individual build whatever they want. In many programs the participants are timed and in others they can take as much time as they want. In almost all, the creations are displayed in the library.

Libraries have Lego programs weekly, once a month, and some have just one. There are different programs for different age groups. In many Lego programs the projects are judged and prizes awarded. Judges are architects, carpenters, mayors, policemen, teachers, librarians and local celebrities. A little while ago I started keeping track on IOWALIB of libraries telling about their Lego programs. Among the many are: Cedar Falls, Waterloo, Stuart, Glenwood, Shenandoah, North Liberty, Adel and Sanborn. Sanborn competes in a Lego League. Learn more about it in the article in this newsletter. If you are interested in starting a Lego program at your library I am sure these libraries will be happy to share ideas.

Meet Nancy Medema

LIBRARY PROGRAM DIRECTOR

at Iowa Library Services

Nancy has worked in public libraries for 32 years, first at Davenport Public as a circulation clerk and for SE Regional Library System (way back when), then at the Bettendorf Public Library in the circ. department, ending as the Manager of Circulation Services. She has a MLIS, MOL (masters of organizational leadership) and is a Certified Public Manager. She's been involved in various ILA committees and forums such as Support Personnel Forum, Johnson Brigham Plaque, and the Leadership Development Committee. Her love of working with the public and libraries is continuing with her new job as Library Program Director at Iowa Library Services in Des Moines, and she's looking forward to meeting and working with all of you!
ISLA offers National and State Conference Scholarships

Want to learn something new? Meet new librarians? Attend a State or National Conference? This is your chance!

The Iowa Small Library Association is offering scholarships for 2013 conference attendance. Six scholarships will be awarded this year as follows:

- **Two $150.00 scholarships** to attend the Iowa Library Association (ILA) Conference in Coralville, Oct. 16-18
- **Two $500.00 scholarships** to attend the Association for Rural & Small Libraries (ARSL) Conference in Omaha, Sept. 25-28
- **Two $250.00 scholarships** for ISLA members who are attending both ARSL and ILA (NOTE: you must attend both conferences to earn this scholarship)

You might be asking how you earn your chance to win one of these fantastic scholarships. In order to apply for any of the scholarships you **MUST** be an ISLA member. In addition, to be eligible to win the ILA or Dual attendance scholarships you must be an ISLA member and attend the ISLA Spring Meeting and Program, “**Library as Place**” (more information and registration available in this very newsletter). The small fee you pay to attend the ISLA Spring meeting helps us raise money for these scholarships.

In addition to attending ISLA Spring Meeting, in order to apply for one of the two $500.00 ARSL conference scholarships, applicants must submit a one page, typed essay telling the ISLA Executive Board what you believe attending ARSL would do for you professionally and also for your library. ISLA Executive Board members are not eligible to apply.

**Due April 12, 2013**, the application essay may be mailed or emailed to ISLA 2013 President Jennie Garner (contact information to follow). Your essay should include the following: letter from library board approving attendance to ARSL, applicant name, position, library, and contact information including address, phone and email and must be submitted by April 12, 2013. The ISLA Executive board will vote on two recipients and announce winners by May 1.
ISLA offers National and State Conference Scholarships

Continued......from page 2.

For compliance follow up, all winners will submit an article for the ISLA spring newsletter to the ISLA PR Committee covering their attendance of a specific session or based on overall conference reflections and experiences.

If you are not a current ARSL member, find out more about ARSL by visiting the website: [http://arsl.info/](http://arsl.info/). Individual Membership is low, just $9-49 per year. By attending the national conference, the membership pays for itself.

Benefits of attending the ISLA Spring Meeting and Program on April 12 are numerous and include:

- Presented at eight (8) ICN sites across Iowa so you don’t have to travel far
- Attend the Spring Business Meeting and keep up with your organization
- Enjoy lunch on your own in a local restaurant with fellow librarians Find out what other
- Iowa Librarians are doing (and doing well) to create their library as 3rd Places in their communities both in their physical library and online and how to market your digital space to the public
- Network to get new ideas and share your own expertise on what works in your library
- Learn new things while Earning CE credit for just $5 if you are an ISLA member
- And…
- Become eligible to enter drawings for six (6) scholarships

Submit your essay or to Jennie Garner, ISLA 2013 President at 319-626-5778 or jgarner@north-liberty.lib.ia.us. Contact Jennie for further information if needed.

2013 ISLA Spring Meeting
April 12, at ICN Sites around the State
HAWARDEN PUBLIC LIBRARY CARNIVAL by Val Haverhals

In a small library, you are always seeking partnerships to make an event a little more special or to handle the monetary costs of a project. This year we hit the nail on the head with multiple partnerships for our READ ACROSS AMERICA project. For the last three years the Hawarden Public Library has spearheaded a project with the West Sioux Elementary School for Read Across America. This year we wanted to give the kids a carnival as a reward for reading and using the public library.

We knew we needed help to make this project work! We approached a local bank who agreed to sponsor a book for each student in grades TK-5. We approached our high school’s National Honor Society and asked if there were some students who would wear the costumes of Little Critter, the Berenstain Bear kids, and the Pig from “If You Give a Pig a Pancake”. The kids and their advisors agreed to help. We needed more help. So, we rounded up over 50 volunteers to man our carnival booths. We had 20 different booths—ranging from a very successful dancing cupcake walk to fishing in buckets to nail painting and tattoos. We were able to fund the booths and the prizes for the activities from a grant from our local foundation. Plus, our local Hawarden Area Arts Council called and asked if they could help us, too! You might ask where do you hold such a carnival? Well, our city manager graciously allowed us to use our community events center at no cost. He also permitted city workers to take an hour with pay to volunteer as carnival helpers.

The West Sioux teachers encouraged kids to read, read, read during the month and a half prior to the carnival. The kids earned their tickets through AR tests, Reading Rodeo, public library visits, coming to the library with their parents, and, of course, reading. Each grade came to the carnival for an hour. During that hour, they used up their tickets, had their pictures taken with our storybook characters, and picked out their free book at the bookstore! We had approximately 400 kids come to the carnival. Several kids said, “This was the best day of my life!” There were so many smiles! Incidentally, there was not one frown or discipline problem. The teachers were amazed! Our helpers were tired! The librarians were smiling because everything we had planned came together for the two-day event. You can see pictures of the event on the Hawarden Public Library’s facebook page,

"The Toledo Public Library received a $1,000 grant from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation for multicultural children’s materials.

The community is very grateful to the Dollar General for this additional funding."
Lego League  by Terri Tesch

Sanborn Public Library, here in the Northwest, partnered with their school and started an after school program for 5th and 6th grade students, competing in a Lego League. HMS school received a grant from Iowa State in an initiative to get students more involved in engineering. The school then approached the library about partnering in the Lego League. Their second year they received funds from the O’Brien County Extension.

The league is a national competition where the students create Lego robots and program them to complete certain tasks in a course built on a table. HMS 5th and 6th grade students met at the Sanborn library 3 times a week for this project. Their Lego robots come in a kit which includes: the Legos and accessories, robot programming instructions, course layout and theme for the year. The students design and build their robot, build a course, and program the robot to work the course. They create the program on computer and then download it to the robot. After much time and work getting their robot to perform the tasks sufficiently and all the other preparation they have to do, it is time to head to tournament competition. The first year, the group competed at Sioux City and the Second year at Sioux Falls.

At the competition, there are several tables with the course setup. Two tables are set up together and the teams compete against each other running their robots through their courses at the same time. The first team to get their robot to the center of the table gets points. Some of the tasks the robots have to perform are to pick up something and put it somewhere else, push something to another place, go under, around and over things, and etc. Teams are judged and scored in four categories. 25% on speech and presentation about the chosen theme for the year, 25% on what they know about their robot and program, 25% on robot performance, and 25% on teamwork.

Sanborn’s team received the Shining Star Award the first year. They were one of the youngest teams competing. The second year they received the Teamwork Award. The teams worked very hard and are very proud of what they accomplished. They even designed their own t-shirts!

If you want to learn more about the Lego League you can research it online. It is an amazing competition.
“Library as Place”
FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 2013 – 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Meeting Overview
9:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. – Arrival and registration
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. – ISLA Spring Business Meeting
12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. – Lunch (on your own)
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. – “Library as Place” program

Afternoon program from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00

“Library as Place” will be a panel discussion moderated by Karen Burkett-Peterson from Bondurant, Ted Anderson from Glenwood, Karen Burns from Iowa Library Services, and Brandie Ledford from Sac City.

This panel will discuss the library as third place: the physical, virtual and digital spaces that patrons connect to in libraries.

How do we engage our communities in all these library spaces? To remain resilient in a changing library landscape we must exchange ideas about where and how these spaces are developed. Come hear about a maker space for teens and a great online teen space in Glenwood, how in-library programs can take on a life of their own, and explore ways to promote your databases to give your library patrons the tools they need to utilize them. After the panel, exchange ideas with other librarians at your ICN site and share what you know!

2 CEs will be awarded for attending

ICN Sites for the ISLA Spring Meeting are located at: State Library - Des Moines, Matilda J. Gibson Memorial Library - Creston, Eldora Public Library, Fayette Community Library, Hawarden Public Library, Oskaloosa Public Library, Sac City Public Library, and Solon Public Library. All are welcome to attend!
ISLA Spring Meeting Program 2013
Library As Place
April 12, 2013
10am to 3pm

Name & Library Affiliation: ________________________________

Email: ________________________________ Phone: _____________

Address: ________________________________ City & Zip: ___________

Please select the ICN Location you will attend for the Spring Meeting:

☐ Des Moines  ☐ Creston  ☐ Eldora  ☐ Fayette  ☐ Hawarden  ☐ Oskaloosa  ☐ Sac City  ☐ Solon

Please note: Attendees are responsible for lunch. You can plan to go out as a group from your respective sites or bring your own lunch. Each site host should be able to provide you with ideas for where to eat in the community.

Registration Cost:

ILA/ISLA Member $5
ILA/Non-ISLA Member $10
Non-ILA/Non-ISLA Member $15

Credit Card: ☐ Mastercard  ☐ Visa  ☐ Discover  ☐ AmEx

Card #________________________ Exp Date: __________

Signature:

Three easy payment options:

1. Mail your completed registration form and payment* to:
   Iowa Library Association
   Attn: Andrea Heisterkamp
   525 SW 5th Street, Suite A, Des Moines IA 50309

   *When you provide a check as payment, you authorize us either to use the information from your check to make a one-time electronic fund transfer from your account or to process the payment as a check transaction

2. Phone registration with a credit card: 515-282-8192 (Following your phone registration, please send in your completed form for ILA records).

3. Fax registration with credit card information: 515-282-9117

Questions: Contact Jennie Garner, ISLA 2013 President at 319-626-5778 or jgarner@north-liberty.lib.ia.us
Minutes of ISLA Fall Meeting
October 11, 2012, 5:25 p.m.
ILA Fall Conference Dubuque, Iowa

President Sue Kroche called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone present.
Motion by Dee Crowner, North Liberty PL and seconded by Mary Murphy, Perry PL to approve the minutes with two correction. Motion carried.
The Treasurers report was presented by Shirley Vonderhaar, James Kennedy PL, Dyersville. See attached report. Jennie Garner, North Liberty PL motioned and Nathan Clark seconded to accept the report as presented. Motion carried.

Committee Reports-
Nominating Committee
Jennie Garner reported the election results as follows:
President Elect-Connie Mataloni, Sibley PL
Treasurer-Sandy Long, Whittemore PL
Secretary-Jennie Bledsoe-Toledo PL
The motion was made by Terry Tesch, Paullina PL, seconded by Shirley Vonderhaar, James Kennedy PL, Dyersville to destroy the ballots. Motion carried.

Programming Committee-
Karen Burkett-Pederson, Bondurant PL asked for ideas for future programming. Ideas were shared from around the room for the committee to begin working on.

Membership Committee-
Anne Skaden, Kalona PL reported that has received from ILA a list of ILA members and ISLA members but nothing has been done with it so far. It will be passed on to the incoming committee to be worked on to try and reach out to non-subdivision members.

Report of Iowa Library Services
State Librarian, Mary Wegner called for questions of the membership and fielded several questions about the upcoming shortfalls in budget, the advisory board meeting, and that the new data base will be rolled out soon.

New Business:
By-law revisions-Jennie Garner reported a concern about time frame of voting for new officers as stated in the current by-laws. would like to see a change. A call was put out for a committee to work on this by-law change. Jennie Garner, Connie Mataloni, and one other member to be decided will work on this and present at next meeting.
Iowa Small Library Association

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

Fall Meeting Minutes continued.....

Book Exchange at next year ILA meeting
Discussion was held about the possibility of doing this at next year's conference. Discussion was held about using this to draw possible members at the ISLA booth in the exhibit hall at next year's conference.

Fund Raising -
President, Sue will seek volunteers from the membership to take this task on.

Budget Proposal-
Treasurer-Shirley Vonderhaar explained the proposed budget. Tena Hanson and Paula Brown explained the Farm Progress line item. Dee Crowner, North Liberty PL motioned to approve and Pat Means, Villisca PL seconded to approve the budget as presented. Motion Carried.

Old Business
ARSL in Omaha/Council Bluffs 2013-Tena Hanson
Tena reported that the proposal was approved to be held on the Nebraska side. It will be held at the Hilton in downtown Omaha, NE. Becky Heil and Tena Glansen will be the co-chairs. A signup sheet to help was passed around.

Farm Progress Show, Boone 2014-Paula Brown
Paula reported that PLF sub-division will help with the project. Discussion was held about how it could be run and the possibilities.

Terry Tesch, Paullina PL requested items for the newsletter for ISLA
Tena Hanson won the door prize.

The spring meeting will be held in April with the date to be announced at a later date.

Dee Crowner, North Liberty PL motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:15, seconded by Karen Burkett-Peterson. Motion Carried

Respectfully Submitted,
Jill Sanders, ISLA Secretary
ISLA 2013-14 Officers and Committees:

**Executive Committee:**

Chair  Jennie Garner, North Liberty  jgarner@north-liberty.lib.ia.us  
Vice Chair  Connie Mataloni, Sibley  connie.mataloni@sibley.lib.ia.us  
Secretary  Jenny Bledsoe, Toledo  jenny@toledo.lib.ia.us  
Treasurer  Sandy Long, Whittemore  sandy@whittemore.lib.ia.us  
PR  Terri Tesch, Paullina  territesch@paullina.lib.ia.us  

ILA Liaison:  Tena Hansen, Estherville  thansonlibrarian@gmail.com  

**Nominating Committee:**

Chair  Connie Mataloni, Sibley  connie.mataloni@sibley.lib.ia.us  
Member  Jill Sanders, Elkader  director@elkader.lib.ia.us  

**Program Committee:**

Chair  Brandi Ledford, Sac City  bledford@saccity.lib.ia.us  
Member  Mary Murphy, Perry  mmurphy@perry.lib.ia.us  
Member  Jan Grandgeorge, Eagle Grove  jgrandgeorge@eaglegrove.lib.ia.us  
Member  Paula Brown, Spencer  pbrown@spencerlibrary.com  

**Membership Committee:**

NC (chair)  Nathan Clark, Emmetsburg  nclark@emmetsburg.lib.ia.us  
C  Leah White, Minburn  minburnlib.netins.net  
SE  Denise Levenhagen, Central City dlevenhagen@centralcity.lib.ia.us  
SW  Frankie Hannan, Missouri Valley  fhannan@missourivalley.lib.ia.us  
NW  Jodi Fischer, Wall Lake  jody.fischer@walllake.lib.ia.us  
NE  Carol Walthart, Colesburg  colepl@iowatelecom.net  

**Public Relations Committee:**

Chair  Terri Tesch, Paullina  territesch@paullina.lib.ia.us  
Member  Cathy Shaw, Edgewood  cshaw@edgewood.lib.ia.us  
Member  Val Haverhals, Hawarden  Valerie.haverhals@hawarden.lib.ia.us  
Member  Becky Bilby, Sioux Center  bbilby@siouxcenter.lib.ia.us  

**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.
From President Jennie Garner

I'm the 2013 president of ISLA. While North Liberty is not considered a "small" library by some standards there are so many commonalities in all libraries. Over the years that the Iowa Small Library Association has been part of ILA, it has become a very active and well-organized subdivision thanks to many of its members. I learn something new from librarians across Iowa every day! I've worked at North Liberty Community Library (NLCL) since 1995 and volunteered at the library for two years before that. North Liberty has grown more than 300 percent since I moved to this community and my role at the library has seen many shifts and changes. For the last 12 years, I have been assistant library director. My position includes a great deal of community work and fund-raising, which is a perfect fit because I'm passionate about both!

Since I started at the library, I've been a member of ILA and have served both as a member of and chaired multiple subdivisions and committees. I've also worked on Conference Planning and served a term on the Executive Board. This year, I'm also serving on the conference planning committee for the Association for Rural & Small Libraries which will be held in Omaha in September.

The Iowa Library Association and the Iowa Small Library Association offer great networking opportunities and I encourage all of you, as members of your association, to volunteer to take a leadership role. Being active in ILA and ISLA benefits both the organization and your library and profession. I truly believe that by working together, we can make a difference in the profession and in our respective communities.

I hope you'll join us at an ICN site for the ISLA Spring Meeting (see details in this newsletter).

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions or if you'd like to be more involved. I can be reached at 319.626.5778 (w) or 319.321.8056 (c). You can also reach me by email at jgarner@north-liberty.lib.ia.us.