I am excited to be the 2014 President of the Iowa Small Library Association (ISLA), which is a subdivision of the Iowa Library Association (ILA). I saw many of you at ILA in Coralville and many of you stopped by the ISLA booth, as well. An organization is only as good as its members, so a big thank you to all of you who are members and continue to advocate for small libraries.

At the ILA Planning Meeting in Urbandale on November 8 and at the ISLA Planning meeting in Story City on February 7, we made plans for our Spring ICN Meeting which will be held on April 4 at various sites in Iowa. I am very excited about the program *Meeting in the Middle: Building a Better Relationship with Your City* given by Adam Ledford, administrator in Sac City and husband to our very own Brandie Ledford, Library Director in Sac City. It should prove to be a very interesting and informative program and discussion. Please see the registration form in this newsletter. Prior to the program, we will have the ISLA business meeting and we will need to approve a budget for 2014 since it was not done in the fall and will also have approval of the fall minutes. Please review these items in the newsletter prior to the meeting. We will also have a drawing for two $150 scholarships to attend the fall ILA Conference in Cedar Rapids, IA. However, you must be a member of ISLA and attend the spring meeting and program to be eligible to win. We currently have 144 members and I am challenging all of you to increase our membership to 200 for the coming year since we had 182 members last year. Please contact all of your library friends and encourage them to be members of ILA and the ISLA subdivision. They won’t want to miss out on our spring program!

Hope to see you all of you in the ICN rooms on April 4, 2014!

Connie Mataloni, President ISLA
2013 was a busy and successful year for ISLA. The purpose of the Iowa Small Library Association Subdivision (ISLA) is to work toward consensus among small libraries on issues that affect them. The subdivision will further provide a channel for receiving information on issues affecting small public libraries and a means for networking among small public libraries. The ISLA will advocate for the concerns and views of small public libraries to the Iowa Library Association, the Iowa Library Services, community leaders, elected officials and the general public. Active participation in other organizations related to the library profession will be encouraged. I think this group, the Iowa Small Library Association accomplishes this for its members in numerous ways and I challenge all of you to get involved, share your ideas and talent with others in the state to keep this organization vital.

In keeping with offering networking opportunities, ISLA gave six scholarships to help librarians attend various conferences: $150.00 to Jan Grandgeorge, Eagle Grove, and Sarah Sellon, Ely, to attend the Iowa Library Association Conference in Coralville in October, $250.00 to Wendy Street, Pella, and Sue Kroesche, LeMars, to attend both the ILA Conference and the Association of Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL) Conference in Omaha in September and $500.00 scholarships to Annette Murphy, Menlo, and Stacy Tynan, Rockford, to attend ARSL.

We kicked things off this year with the Annual Spring meeting. Over 60 library professionals attended the meeting remotely in seven different communities to network and share ideas on the topic “Library as Place”. We keep costs very low and distance to travel as low as possible to make this one day meeting and workshop easy for as many members as possible to attend.

Throughout 2013, many ISLA members volunteered their time and energy to make the national Association for Rural & Small Libraries Conference a resounding success at the end of September. It’s the first time in history that they had full capacity at this conference! Many librarians said it was the best conference they’ve ever attended and it was very fortunate that members of this group worked together to propose bringing (ARSL) to Council Bluffs/Omaha area. Over 80 Iowa library representatives were able to make the trip to Omaha to attend the conference and many others taught workshops during the week.

Shortly after, several of us traveled to Coralville for the Iowa Library Association Conference. ISLA sponsored an exhibitor booth and people stopping by could put their name in for a drawing. We also sponsored a session presented by Sue Mannix, Bettendorf. Sue presented on how a public library director can confidently and successfully manage the pivotal, professional relationships with library trustees, city administration, and local government officials.

I want to thank the many people who represented ISLA this year, particularly at ARSL but also those who worked so hard throughout the year to make it all fall into place. Huge thanks to Connie Mataloni of Sibley for taking on the role of ISLA President in 2014. I urge anyone who is interested in getting more involved and working with this great group of librarians to give Connie a call and get 2014 started!  

Jennie Garner,  ISLA President 2013
Want to learn something new? Meet new librarians? Attend a State Conference? This is your chance!

Scholarships

The Iowa Small Library Association is offering **two $150 scholarships** to attend the Iowa Library Association (ILA) Conference in Cedar Rapids, October 22-24.

In order to apply for the scholarship you **MUST** be an ISLA member and attend the ISLA Spring Meeting and Program, “Meeting in the Middle: Building a Better Relationship with your City”. The registration form and flyer are included in this newsletter. The small fee you pay to attend the ISLA Spring meeting helps us raise money for these scholarships.

ISLA Executive Board and Committees at their work session at Bertha Bartlett Public Library in Story City on Friday, February 7th.
ISLA 2014 Spring Meeting & Program

MEETING IN THE MIDDLE: BUILDING A BETTER RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR CITY

Iowa Small Library Association
Empowering Iowa's Small Libraries

Friday, April 4, 2014
9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
$5 fee for ISLA members, $10 for non-ISLA and $15 non-ILA/non-ISLA

Adam Ledford, administrator in Sac City, will give librarians the insider scoop on how to improve the lack of communication that exists between cities and libraries. Topics covered will include:

- Budgets
- City Regulations
- Capital Improvement Plans
- Reports
- Getting City Officials into the Library
- City-Library Partnerships

There will be a question and answer session at the end of the presentation.

Get 2 C.E. credit hours for attending the ISLA Spring Program!

Presented at an ICN Room Near You:
- Des Moines Dept. of Education
- Denison High School
- Spencer Public Library
- Oskaloosa Public Library
- Creston Public Library
- Fayette Public Library
- Eldora Public Library
- Solon Public Library

Don’t miss the Spring Meeting for your chance to win a scholarship to the ILA Conference in October 2014! Must be present to win. For more details, see article in the ISLA Spring Newsletter.
ISLA Spring Meeting 2014
Meeting in the Middle: Building a Better Relationship with Your City

April 4, 2014
Business Meeting 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
Program 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Name & Library Affiliation: ____________________________________________
Email: ____________________________________________ Phone: ____________
Address: ____________________________ City & Zip _______________________

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

☐ Des Moines-Dept. of Ed  ☐ Denison High School  ☐ Spencer Public Library  ☐ Oskaloosa Public Library
☐ Creston Public Library  ☐ Fayette Public Library  ☐ Eldora Public Library  ☐ Solon Public Library

Please note: Feel free to continue the conversation at lunch. You can plan to go out as a group from your respective sites if you wish but the program will end at 12:30 p.m. this year. 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: (800)452-5507 (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 Connie Mataloni, ISLA 2014 President at (712)754-2888 or connie.mataloni@sibley.lib.ia.us.
Executive Committee:

Chair        Connie Mataloni (2014)  Sibley    712-754-2888  connie.mataloni@sibley.lib.ia.us
Vice Chair   Cindy Davis (2015)    Spirit Lake 712-336-2667  admin@spiritlake.lib.ia.us
Secretary    Jenny Bledsoe (2014)  Toledo  641-484-3362  jennyb@toledo.lib.ia.us
Treasurer    Sandy Long (2014)    Whittemore 515-884-2680  sandyl@whittemore.lib.ia.us
PR           Heather Jones (2015)  Swaledale 641-995-2352  hjones@swaledale.lib.ia.us

ILA Liaison
ILA Exec. Board  Jill Sanders  Bondurant  (c)563-880-8611  jills@bondurant.lib.ia.us

Nominating Committee (Subdivision vice chair is Chair):

Chair        Cindy Davis (2014)  Spirit Lake 712-336-2667  admin@spiritlake.lib.ia.us
Member       Jill Sanders (2014)  Bondurant  (c)563-880-8611  jills@bondurant.lib.ia.us

Program Committee (Chair appoints):

Chair        Brandie Ledford (2015)  Sac City  712-662-7276  bledford@saccity.lib.ia.us
Member       Mary Murphy (2015)     Perry    515-465-3569  mmurphy@perry.lib.ia.us
Member       Jan Grandgeorge (2014) Eagle Grove 515-448-4115  jgrandgeorge@eaglegrove.lib.ia.us
Member       Paula Brown (2015)     Spencer  712-580-7290  pbrown@spencerlibrary.com

Membership Committee (Chair Appoints):

C District  Leah White- Chair (2014)  Minburn  515-677-2712  minburnlib@minburncomm.net
NC          Melissa Johanson        Lake Mills 515-592-0092  director@lakemills.lib.ia.us
SE          Denise Levenhagen      Central City 515-438-6685  dievenhagen@centralcity.lib.ia.us
SW          Frankie Hannan (2014)  Missouri Valley 712-642-4111  fhannan@missourivalley.lib.ia.us
NW          Jody Fischer (2014)    Wall Lake  712-664-2983  jody.fischer@walllake.lib.ia.us
NE          Carol Walthart (2014)  Colesburg  563-856-5800  colepl@iowatelecom.net

Public Relations Committee (appointed by PR Chair):

Chair        Heather Jones (2015)  Swaledale 641-995-2352  hjones@swaledale.lib.ia.us
Member       Cathy Shaw (2014)    Edgewood 563-928-6242  cshaw@edgewood.lib.ia.us
member       Jennie Bledsoe (2015) Toledo  641-484-3362  jennyb@toledo.lib.ia.us
Member       Becky Bilby (2014)   Sioux Center 712-722-2138  bbilby@siouxcenter.lib.ia.us

The Iowa Small Library Association is an active networking organization that strengthens and advocates for public libraries with a population under 10,000.
Thank you Iowa Small Library Association for the $150 scholarship to attend the Iowa Library Association annual conference I was awarded following the Sprint meeting. This scholarship will help to “stretch” our travel and training budget.

The annual conference is a chance to visit with other librarians from the entire state, renew friendships and network with other people in similar working environments.

Visiting the exhibits offered me the opportunity to visit with vendors about digitizing our local newspapers, replacing our disc repair machine, and other exciting products. Now I just need to find the funding for those projects.

I attended the preconference tour of the Iowa City, North Liberty and Coralville libraries. It was exciting to see these libraries. I came home with ideas to implement at our library. Comparing their periodical collections to ours reaffirmed that we are on the same path as larger libraries with our collection. It was interesting to see how each library was arranged. I’m envious of many things I saw at each library; especially the staff work areas and the storage. However, I’m thankful that I work in a small library and have contact daily with our library users.

One of the suggestions in the Library Anywhere: Mobile Access to Library Resources came from a participant who was using QR codes for reader’s advisory. They place the code near an author’s works and suggest additional authors that may be of interest by scanning the QR code.

I’m looking forward to next year’s conference and visiting with many of you in Cedar Rapids next October.

Jan Grandgeorge, Director
Eagle Grove Memorial Library
2013 ILA Conference “Healthy Libraries Build Healthy Communities”
Sue Kroesche

I can’t imagine a fall without ILA’s annual library conference. It is always an energizing to find out what’s going on not only in libraries in Iowa, but around the country. Thanks to a scholarship from Iowa Small Library Association I was able to attend this year’s ILA conference in Coralville. The conference “Healthy Libraries Build Healthy Communities,” was filled with so much great information it will take me weeks to digest and sort through it all. I focused on several different technology sessions mostly because technology related classes and questions are in high demand at the Le Mars library so I am always hunting for new ideas and new ways to present information to patrons.

Kim VanDeest had two tech sessions that I attended, and as usual with Kim’s classes, I was not disappointed. If you can imagine someone going through 100 tech tools for learning in 2013 then you’ll have an idea of how quickly we raced through these tools. Fortunately these great tools are available at the ILA website for you check out yourself. With the list of these tools, from Evernote to Dropbox to Prezi I will have materials for classes for my patrons for quite awhile.

Kim’s other class was how libraries are using mobile technologies. As someone who just got her first smart phone I appreciated getting to look at how important mobile technology is going to be in the library in the very near future. The possibilities of mobile applications at the Le Mars library are very exciting. For example, libraries are using QR codes (smart phones required to read the code) to link to their Summer Reading Programs, or to reviews of new book, or doing treasure hunts with their teens. These are great ideas that I hope we will be able to implement!

Thanks to ILA and all the committees for their hard work and for the great fall conference, and to Iowa Small libraries for the scholarship enabling me to go. I so appreciate the opportunity.
ARSL 2013 Conference  
Sue Kroesche  

Thanks to a scholarship from ISLA and the support of my board of trustees I was able to attend the ARSL (association for rural and small libraries) that was held in Omaha this fall. This was one of the most outstanding conferences I’ve been privileged to attend. Each one of the sessions during the 3 1/2 of the conference was filled with information, ideas, and challenges that were totally usable at the Le Mars library. I was challenged to do more than think outside the box- to involve staff, community, board and as many others as possible in thinking big when it comes to library. Do I have funding issues, staff shortages? Exploit my patrons, don’t be defined or confined by the box of my problems but think about ways to partner, build, well just start. Lee Rainey of the Pew Institute was the keynote speaker and he reminded all of us something that will come as no surprise to any librarian: “Having a library improves the quality of life in a community.” It’s time to shout that from the library rooftop so our funders remember! Other practical sessions provided information on getting low cost and meaningful staff recognition, ideas for displays, tech tools, video book talks, advocating for the library in the community and my favorite one ‘The Future is now’ which encouraged me to do more than think outside the box, to throw away the box and not be defined by it. Oh, and did I tell you that Craig Johnson was at one of our luncheons! I am a fan of the books-Walt Longmire and I love the A & E series “Longmire” as well. He was great fun to listen to I have to tell you!  

The ARSL conference was geared for libraries that are small, often one or two persons with limited budgets, so the sessions and the networking were perfect. Next year’s conference is in Tacoma, Wash. If you have any way of driving, flying, biking, rowing, or, well, you get the idea, to be able to attend next year’s conference I can promise it will be worth the money and the effort that it takes to get to net year’s conference.
As always, attending the ILA Conference left me inspired and recharged! *Healthy Libraries Build Healthy Communities* was the theme for this year’s conference and was kick started with a 5K fun run/walk. The proud few who took part of this “Book’n It” run/walk were able to enjoy beautiful scenery and make some new friends. This was the perfect way to start a conference that focused on healthier options for living and included a yoga session and massages! It is my hope that the 5K will continue, but perhaps can be held at a different time to encourage more participation. The keynote speakers did a wonderful job. Emily Sheketoff was frank while being funny and inspired all of us to do what we can to advocate for libraries. She even provided us with some strategies for starting this contact/conversation, insider information on some of our politicians as well as contact information for them! Dr. Miller-Meeks provided insight into the Healthiest States and the Blue Zones initiatives. I was also privileged to be able to present at one of the concurrent sessions where I shared the various programs, classes and opportunities sponsored through my library to address a healthier lifestyle for my community. Who knew presenting could be so much fun?! I attended the luncheon on Friday and was pleased to hear Jean Thompson talk about her book, *The Year We Left Home*. The insight into how and why she wrote this as she did, as well as to discover the town in Iowa she based her book off of proved to be entertaining. Especially as a Librarian from that town stood up and declared that, yes, she was the librarian, yes, this was about her town and yes, this was her wedding! As you can surmise, the conference was filled with laughter and fun while providing library professionals across the state a chance to connect and collaborate. I would like to extend my gratitude to the ISLA for selecting me as a recipient of a scholarship to attend this conference. I hope to see you all next year at the 2014 ILA Conference to be held in Cedar Rapids.

Sarah L. Sellon, Director
Ely Public Library
ARSL/ILA Conference review

I am thankful for the opportunity to attend both conferences. I rarely get to go to any conference other than ILA, so I appreciated the chance to go to two!

This was my first time to attend ARSL and I enjoyed the experience. I met many interesting new people (what a friendly bunch!) and got some great ideas. I am not usually a huge fan of author talks, but Joe Starita and Craig Johnson were just outstanding. The concurrent session I found most useful was “Excel at Rearranging Your Library” by Chris Rippel. The information was practical and immediately useful.

I am a veteran of many ILA conferences, but I am never disappointed. This year, I especially liked Bob Pasicznyuk’s session on “Cutting the Cord on Service.” It made me look at my library from a new perspective and to really think about changing things up at our service desk. I am glad I took the time to visit the exhibitors this year, because I also picked up some new ideas from them.

I always feel rejuvenated after going to a conference. While I am invigorated by the ideas presented in formal sessions, the best part of any conference is the opportunity to talk with other librarians about what they’re doing, what has worked for them and what hasn’t, and what they’re planning next.

Thank you!

Wendy Street
Pella Public Library
Minutes of ISLA Fall Meeting  
October 17, 2013  
ILA Fall Conference Coralville, Iowa

President Jennie Garner called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone present. Jennie reported that there were no minutes of the Spring Meeting to read through and approve. Terri Tesch, Paullina PL, said that she kept her notes of the meeting and will try to write up the minutes for that meeting. Terri will also take minutes at this meeting as the secretary is not in attendance.

Jennie G. informed the group that the committees and their responsibilities were reviewed by the executive committee and a time-line has been created.

Connie Mataloni, Sibley PL, reported the election results as follows:  
President Elect - Cindy Davis, Spirit Lake PL  
Public Relations Chair - Heather Jones, Swaledale PL  
A motion to destroy the ballots was made by Jennie Garner, North Liberty PL with a second by Jan Grandgeorge, Eagle Grove PL. Motion carried.

Committee reports-  
Public Relations – Terri reported that at the planning session, fundraising ideas were discussed. One idea that was mentioned was a calendar with ISLA libraries and librarians featured. Cathy Shaw checked into pricing of this and found it to be too expensive.  
The newsletter was discussed. Stories are needed to include in the newsletter. It was suggested to include articles in the newsletter highlighting ISLA members.

Programming committee – Brandy Ledford, Sac City, reported that it was a successful Spring Mtg. Comments were favorable and the afternoon program went well. The format of the spring meeting was discussed. It was suggested to keep using the ICN but have the speaker at the main sight. Participants felt that the time allowed for lunch break was too long. It was recommended that the business meeting be held from 9:00 to 10:00, speaker from 10:00 to 11:00, breakout discussion at sites from 11:00 to 11:30, and from 11:30 to 12:00 get back together for reporting and sharing. Lunch afterward for those who want. An idea for a topic at the 2014 spring meeting was suggested – Susan Mannix, Bettendorf PL: relationship between city gov. and libraries.

Members would like to have a pre-conference program at the ILA conference next year. Connie asked for suggestions for a program to be submitted to executive board. The ideas will be considered at the planning meeting.
Fall Meeting Minutes continued…..

The Farm Progress Show was once again brought up. It was suggested that maybe a group of libraries in the state take on the project rather than the ISLA as an organization. There was some discussion on this. Paula Brown, Spencer PL, made a motion to not have the ISLA sponsor a booth at the Farm Progress Show. Dee Crowner, North Liberty, seconded. Motion carried.

There being no further items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Terri Tesch
### Iowa Small Library Association 2014 Budget Proposal

*(To be approved at April business meeting)*

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**ARSL Conference Scholarships (2014 and beyond – funded as able)**