

ILLINOIS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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The Illinois Library Association Reporter

is a forum for those who are improving and reinventing Illinois libraries, with articles that seek to: explore new ideas and practices from all types of libraries and library systems; examine the challenges facing the profession; and inform the library community and its supporters with news and comment about important issues. The *ILA Reporter* is produced and circulated with the purpose of enhancing and supporting the value of libraries, which provide free and equal access to information. This access is essential for an open democratic society, an informed electorate, and the advancement of knowledge for all people.



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ON THE COVER

Secretary of State Jesse White speaks at the Illinois Library Association Annual Conference in October 2017, held in Tinley Park. White is Illinois' first African American Secretary of State and was first elected to office in 1998. He retires in 2022 after a remarkable 24 years in the position. In this issue, we pay tribute to the highest-ranking, and longest-serving, library champion in the state.

The Illinois Library Association is collaboratively shaping a new future for libraries in Illinois, providing leadership, advocacy, partnership, and learning for the benefit of Illinois libraries. It is the eighth oldest library association in the world and the third largest state association in the United States, with members in academic, public, school, government, and special libraries. Its 3,000 members are primarily librarians and library staff, but also trustees, publishers, and other supporters.

The Illinois Library Association has five full-time staff members. It is governed by a sixteen-member executive board, made up of elected officers. The association employs the services of Blaida and Associates for legislative advocacy. ILA is a 501(c)(3) charitable and educational organization.

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See ILA calendar for submission deadlines for the *ILA Reporter*. Copy should be submitted by email to ila@ila.org. You are encouraged to include press-ready digital photos (300 p.p.i.) and graphics with your articles, which will be included on a space-available basis.

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Illinois Library Association

33 W. Grand Ave., Ste. 401 | Chicago, IL 60654-6799
phone: 224-698-1728 | fax: 312-644-1899
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Celebrating Jesse White

Jesse White, Illinois' first African American Secretary of State, was elected to office in 1998, and subsequently reelected in 2002, 2006, 2010, 2014, and 2018, ultimately holding the record as the longest serving Secretary of State in Illinois. His weighty responsibilities as Secretary of State include serving as the state librarian. In that role, White has been a vigorous supporter and defender of all Illinois libraries and library funding. He received ILA's Robert R. McClarren Award for Legislative Development in 2007, and was inducted as an Illinois Library Luminary in 2016. To commemorate his 24 years of service and his 2022 retirement, ILA Reporter Advisory Committee members reached out to current and former system and state organization staff who worked closely with Secretary White, asking for people to share their memories, thoughts, and gratitude in their own words.



“During his administration, millions of dollars were spent on improvements to public libraries and expansion of library services.”

LESLIE M. BEDNAR, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ILLINOIS HEARTLAND LIBRARY SYSTEM

My earliest interaction with Secretary White was the grand opening of the Hayner Public Library Branch at Alton Square in Alton. It was a festive event celebrating a much-needed improvement to the library district. Secretary White spoke with passion and conviction about the services libraries provide to their communities. He also brought along the Jesse White Tumblers who are an example of his dedication to youth in this state.

Every engagement since has been inspiring and reminds me we have a duty to serve when and where we can. As a member of the Illinois library ecosystem, I have the good fortune to support member libraries every day regardless of zip code. Ensuring all patrons have equal access to resource sharing in Illinois is made possible by Secretary Jesse White's commitment to public service.

DEIRDRE BRENNAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEM

I had the honor and pleasure of attending multiple library visits and ceremonies where Secretary White spoke movingly of his support for libraries and their importance to public education and self-improvement. During his administration, millions of dollars were spent on improvements to public libraries and expansion of library services.



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“Countless people young and old can point to him as having a profound impact on their lives.”

**ANNE CRAIG, SENIOR DIRECTOR,
THE CONSORTIUM OF ACADEMIC AND
RESEARCH LIBRARIES IN ILLINOIS (CARLI);
DIRECTOR, ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY,
2005–2016**

I write today on the occasion of Illinois Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White’s retirement from the Office of the Illinois Secretary of State in 2022.

Secretary White, Illinois’ first African American Secretary of State, was elected to office in 1998, and subsequently reelected in 2002, 2006, 2010, 2014, and 2018, ultimately holding the record as the longest serving Secretary of State in Illinois. I began my tenure at the Illinois State Library, a Department of the Office of Secretary of State, in 1989, leaving in 2016 to work for the University of Illinois System. In 2005, Secretary White appointed me as the Director of the Illinois State Library. My eleven years with Secretary White as his state library director were eventful, highlighted by incredible new programs and opportunities for Illinois libraries. The years with Jesse White seated in me a lasting appreciation for this wise, charismatic, and dedicated man. I am proud to contribute to this collection of memories in his honor.

Secretary White is completely committed to libraries; while many elected officials talk about support for libraries and education, Jesse White exemplifies this commitment in his elected position as well as his volunteer work with the Jesse White Tumblers. His pride in being the State Librarian was evident from the first day of his administration. He began many new library initiatives, including the Public Library Construction Program, Project Next Generation, the Veterans’ History Project, the Talking Book and Braille Service, and countless professional development initiatives for the library community.

Like all of Illinois state government and at several different times during his 24-year term, Secretary White’s tenure was punctuated by budgetary crises. During these periods of austerity, every constitutional officer was forced to make cuts—sometimes very drastic—in their budgets. Despite these very serious circumstances, Secretary White protected the library grants. His commitment to library services, including construction, literacy, and statewide library services was steadfast. Without doubt, decisions during these times were extremely difficult; his responsibilities as Secretary of State span more than 20 departments, including Drivers’ and Vehicle Services, and the State Archives. Instituting cuts during times of austerity is incredibly challenging, especially considering that much of the funding in the Secretary’s budget is for personnel. Despite these challenges, library grant programs were retained, continuing decades-long support from Illinois state budget dollars. In fact, during the years’ annual budget presentations to the General Assembly, Secretary White routinely called out library appropriations as line items to be protected.

Jesse White is a leader who is familiar with accolades, having received countless honors and recognitions during his long career in public service and volunteer work. Countless people young and old can point to him as having a profound impact on their lives. I am one of them. His example of volunteerism and constant, selfless generosity reminds me daily to be a good boss, mentor, mother, and human being. He exemplifies his personal credo to make a difference every day by doing something good for someone.

I have seen firsthand the incredible positive difference that libraries make in peoples' lives. As the Illinois State Library director, I had the privilege of witnessing this transformational effect up close when visiting libraries across the state. Everyone who is in the orbit of a library—whether as a patron, board member, or staff member—should thank Jesse White for making such a profound and lasting positive impact on their lives. His lifelong commitment to learning and helping all people everywhere to the absolute best of his ability has left a legacy of sterling library service and an example of devotion to public service to which all who serve should aspire. He truly and without prejudice loves his fellow man and lets that love guide his actions and work. He talks about a world where all who are entrusted with the public good share this compass of kindness, compassion, and empathy... who “do good for someone else today.” His leadership springs from this devotion; we are all better in so many ways from having been part of this remarkable man's vision.

ROBERT P. DOYLE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ILA, 1996–2017

I imagine others will focus their remarks on Jesse's many accomplishments. I'd like to share a single event, offering a glimpse of the man not always seen.

Described as Illinois' most popular elected official, Jesse is a friendly and approachable guy. Whenever I would see him, he would always say, “You the man, Bob.” I took it to be a casual greeting. I knew I was no power broker. When I saw him, however, we frequently wanted something from him that would improve the lives of Illinois citizens. And on one occasion, I turned to Jesse for his help in a more personal “ask.”

On Wednesday, March 5, 2003, the ILA Public Policy Committee finished holding its monthly meeting in Shorewood as usual and at the conclusion of the meeting, I said good-bye to everyone including then ILA President Sylvia Murphy Williams. Sylvia had to leave quickly to pick up her son Jacob from daycare. Later that night, I received a phone call from her husband Tony informing me that Sylvia had collapsed in Jacob's arms at the daycare center and was rushed to Central DuPage Hospital. The doctors thought she might have had a brain aneurysm, but he would call tomorrow with more information.

When Tony called back the next day, he was distraught. The hospital had told him there was nothing to be done, and he was desperate to get Sylvia transferred to Northwestern Memorial Hospital to make sure she had every possible chance. I still remember his exact words. “Please, Bob, get her transferred.” I told Tony I would call him back, immediately wondering how in the world to get this done.

I decided Jesse was our only chance. I was able to reach him immediately, explaining the situation. As Illinois Secretary of State and State Librarian, each year I would introduce Jesse to a new ILA President. We would have various meetings with Jesse, and he always attended our annual conference. Jesse was very generous with his time and enjoyed meeting his constituents. During Sylvia's presidency, we drove down to Springfield three times to present testimony about proposed Internet filtering legislation, and during each trip we would stop in to see Jesse. He was always delighted to see her. Sylvia was unique, a joy. I knew he liked her, but then who didn't like Sylvia? She was vibrant, friendly, bright, positive, and funny. (Driving back, she always gave me a hard time about being “the man!”) When I called Jesse to tell him the sad news and to seek assistance with Sylvia's transfer, I had no idea what to expect.

You guessed it. Within hours, I received a call informing me that Sylvia would be transferred to Northwestern. Even though she remained unconscious, the family had the opportunity to gather, pray, and make critical decisions. Each day, I briefed the Secretary of State's office on the latest developments. Just hours before life support was removed, the Illinois State Library Director Jean Wilkens came to say good-bye on Jesse's behalf. Sylvia died on Monday, March 10, 2003, and a joyous standing room-only celebration of her life was held on Saturday, March 15 at St. Benedict the African East Catholic Church in Englewood.

Decades later, I have forgotten the many bill numbers, the precise details of those Springfield battles to defend our First Amendment rights and to defend, explain and stress the importance of libraries. I, like everyone else, however, can remember the personal—the people who helped, inspired, defended our principles, making the impossible, possible. In my mind, it was an impossible request to transfer Sylvia from one hospital to another and yet, Jesse did it. He provided hope and comfort to her shocked family who wanted to do the best for their beloved Sylvia and needed time to understand what was happening. He enabled them to know that they had done everything possible to save her life. He gave everyone the opportunity to have their moment to say goodbye. Decades later, I'm now comfortable in returning the greeting, “You the man, Jesse.” Thank you for your years as an educator, mentor, public servant, and most importantly, a friend to call on when help is most needed. Best wishes in your retirement!

**KAREN EGAN, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR,
GRANTS & PROGRAMS, LIBRARY
DEVELOPMENT, ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY**

It has been my honor to work for you during your tenure as Secretary of State and State Librarian.

Through your vision, we developed the Project Next Generation (PNG) grant program for public libraries across the state to make an impact on the youth in their communities. Since 2000, libraries have been hiring mentors and using technology as a tool to foster the development of self-confidence and pride in students by helping them gain the knowledge and skills necessary for future educational and professional success. Thousands of students, especially those slipping through the cracks, have benefited from your willingness to support their social and academic development.

I fondly remember the annual PNG picnics. For years, they were held at Lincoln Park in Springfield until the year a downpour moved us into the atrium of the State Library. The Jesse White Tumblers would perform to the delight of the PNG programs in attendance. You and the tumblers taught the kids appropriate ways to get high.

Thank you, Secretary White, for your leadership and passion for libraries and learning. Your legacy will live on through the many lives that you impacted.

**GWENDOLYN A. HARRISON, LIBRARY
PROGRAM SPECIALIST, ILLINOIS STATE
LIBRARY**

It has been a pleasure and honor to be a part of the SOS work family. In particular, on behalf of the Illinois State Librarian at the Illinois State Library, this job has been a pinnacle of my professional career. In serving in the capacity as a Library Program Specialist for the past 20 plus years, it is overwhelmingly apparent that you are indeed a champion for libraries and the communities served. The efforts of this office have impacted the multi-type library system in ways that have been unimaginable. The labors of this office have changed communities for the better. This all emanates from the passion and savoir faire demonstrated by the ample support provided throughout the years from the Secretary of State's Office. Your commitment to library systems, libraries, library professionals and communities will never be forgotten.

Thank you, Mr. Secretary, you are the sharpest knife in the drawer. Job well done!

**KAREN DANCZAK LYONS, EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR AT EVANSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY;
FIRST DEPUTY COMMISSIONER,
CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY, 1993–2012**

Jesse White has been a steadfast champion of libraries, readers and writers of all ages, and literacy throughout his tenure as Secretary of State. Under his leadership and with the support of his talented staff, libraries throughout Illinois have received funding directly and through grants that have allowed us to improve our programs and services and build new libraries. When Secretary White attended a Family Reading Night at Evanston Public Library, children of all ages and their parents enjoyed the story he read and the generous gift of new books each child was invited to take home, books provided through the Illinois Literacy Foundation. The Illinois Literacy Foundation Ten Ton Challenge provided books to the public-school children in the state's lowest income counties.

The Illinois Center for the Book is a programming arm of the Illinois State Library that promotes reading, writing, and author programs with the following mission: Nurturing and connecting readers and writers, and honoring our rich literary heritage. At the annual awards ceremony for the Illinois Emerging Writers Competition, Secretary White warmly congratulates the winners of the Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Award and encourages them to continue to write and share their gifts with all of us. As the Chair of the Illinois Center for the Book, I was honored to support this work along with a Board of amazing and talented volunteers and staff from the Secretary of State's office.

Writers, readers, libraries, and lifelong learners of all ages are grateful for Jessie White's leadership and commitment to providing access to library resources equitably throughout Illinois. His work will be the foundation of our library service for many years.

**GREG MCCORMICK, DIRECTOR, ILLINOIS
STATE LIBRARY**

It has been my privilege to work within Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White's administration for its duration, most recently in the capacity as Director of the Illinois State Library. Secretary White has maintained a lifelong commitment to education and of service to others. As State Librarian he quickly became the state's champion for libraries, readers, writers, literacy, and lifelong learners.

When he leaves office this coming January, the impact of his service upon the Illinois library landscape will be longstanding. The Illinois State Library building was renamed the Gwendolyn

Brooks Building, the first in the Capitol Complex to be named after an African American. Programs like Find-It! Illinois, the Illinois Digital Archive, Ask?Away, Project Next Generation, Business and Libraries Working Together forever changed the manner in which libraries utilized technology and continue to support new and improved services to their patrons. Illinois is one of the few states that have an ongoing public library construction grant program and the Secretary will have soon administered over \$100 million in grants to support new construction and renovation projects. The Illinois Library Delivery System (ILDS) has been revamped to provide better service to library users. The regional library systems have been realigned and refocused, finding themselves in a better position to provide essential services to libraries in the state. And most recently all three statutory formula grant programs to support school library, public library, and regional library system services have benefitted from significant increases in funding due to the Secretary's commitment to library services and the responsibility to the office that he holds.

While Secretary White serves as State Librarian, he might equally be entitled, "State Humanitarian." His service in the United States Army, as an educator, as a state legislator, as Cook County Recorder, as philanthropist with the Jesse White Tumbling Team, and now as Secretary of State and State Librarian was all accomplished with the intent of service to others. Each day his personal example challenges those working in his office to do something good for someone else, and to take responsibility to the call of duty that each of our roles requires. Certainly, this perspective has made the Illinois State Library an even better organizational unit.

The next State Librarian shall certainly find areas for continued growth and opportunities for new program implementation; however, the legacy of Secretary White's leadership in statewide library support will leave his successor in a place for easy transition into a role that should be equally embraced.

SUSAN PALMER, OPERATIONS DIRECTOR, ILLINOIS HEARTLAND LIBRARY SYSTEM

Years ago, SOS Jesse White used to go to the libraries that received a construction grant and hand out a giant check to the library. It was usually a big community event. At one of them, someone from the audience yelled, "Show us a handstand, Jesse!" and bam, he dropped down and did a handstand. Wow.

The other memory that I have is of when the Alliance Library System had received a huge grant for a mobile training lab with satellite connection, called ALEC. There were tons of exposure with it at conferences, etc. And SOS Jesse White christened it along with our director of the Alliance Library System, Valerie Wilford.



ANDREA TELLI, COMMISSIONER, CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY, 2019–2020

Thank you, Secretary White! With your support and encouragement over many years, you helped to make Librarian Henry Legler's dream for Chicago Public Library a reality: that there would be a library within walking distance for every Chicagoan who wants to read or needs books. Wishing you a happy, healthy retirement!

PAMELA THOMAS, BIBLIOGRAPHIC GRANT MANAGER, ILLINOIS HEARTLAND LIBRARY SYSTEM, CATALOGING MAINTENANCE CENTER

Although I have not personally met Jesse White, I am grateful for all that he has done for Illinois libraries and since I work for the Cataloging Maintenance Center (CMC) which is grant-funded, I am appreciative and proud of the free cataloging services that my team can provide to Illinois libraries. Mr. White will be greatly missed. **ILA**

Beyond Voter Registration Tables: Libraries and Civic Engagement

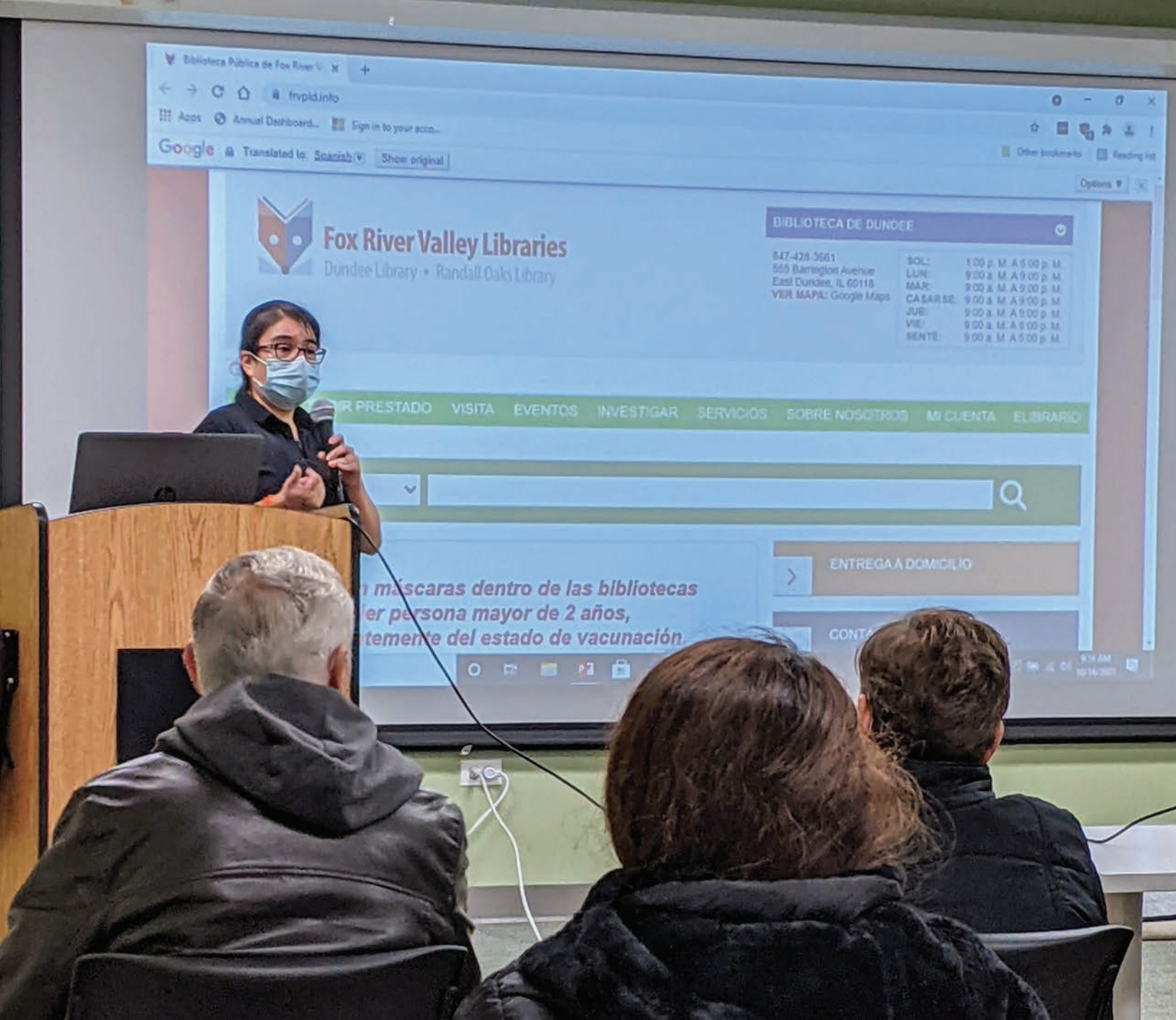
Civic engagement can be defined as “individual and collective actions designed to identify and address issues of public concern,” which has a broad area of applications, according to the American Psychological Association. Frequently, however, it is discussed purely in association with civic duty and voter engagement. This can bring to mind displays for National Voter Registration Day (September 22, 2022, this year), tables to help people register to vote, and information packets about elections; but it can be so much more. Public concerns can be anything that affects your community, from food insecurity to implicit bias. Some of these programs may be considered community, rather than purely civic, engagement but all of the work discussed is aimed at addressing issues in the community and working together to create a more vibrant, supportive world.

First, though, there are several interesting activities surrounding voter engagement libraries can be involved in. For example, the Chatham Area Public Library has hosted candidate forums in collaboration with the local Chamber of Commerce for years. But, due to the pandemic, those forums went virtual which allowed the library to host events on multiple nights through Facebook Live and saw a vigorous response from the community. Director Amy Byers hopes to continue this format for the next consolidated election and has made the previous videos available to view on the library’s YouTube channel. The Gail Borden Public Library District allows candidates from all parties to use the library as a location for filming. Other libraries may partner with a group like the League of Women Voters to host informational panels in addition to general voter education and registration.

One impactful way libraries have been involved in civic engagement in recent years was the 2020 census. Especially in Illinois, where loss of representation was extremely likely, libraries stepped up to educate, reassure, and assist people with all the issues surrounding the count. RAILS and Forefront were part of a coalition called “IL Count Me in 2020” for Illinois to perform outreach regarding Census 2020. The focus was on helping ensure a fair and accurate count, keeping the public educated about shifts in the census timeline, and countering misinformation and other challenges such as the potential citizenship question. The funders collaborative associated with the coalition awarded grants to numerous organizations performing census work. One of these was the Gail Borden Public Library.

Denise Raleigh, Public Relations and Development Division Chief for Gail Borden, shared information about their efforts. The library had been involved in promoting the 2010 census as well, so already had experience in the area. Their kickoff event had around 350 people in attendance and unveiled an item called the world’s largest census tablet which showcased the number of languages spoken by residents in the area. The event helped involve people from different cultural communities and foster a sense of ownership over participating in the census work. Other related efforts involved partnering with organizations already trusted by hard to count communities to reinforce the message that the troubling citizenship question was not being asked and would not be on the forms. The community has reason to be proud of their efforts. Elgin went from 8th to 7th largest city in the state after the 2020 census.

“Public concerns can be anything that affects your community, from food insecurity to implicit bias”





Partnerships, like the ones among organizations for census work, tie into a broader message about engagement and being part of the community. Gail Borden's involvement in the census work led to a contact who worked with the library in setting up an area for a pandemic team from the Illinois Public Health Association to work. The team provided resources about COVID-19 best practices, a vaccine clinic, and information about rental assistance opportunities. The library also has a staff person on a committee exploring community relations with the police department. Denise recommended exploring non-traditional ways to assist the community and mentioned that connecting with a variety of groups means they will bring program ideas to you when they need space and support.

In addition to census work and pandemic responses, social justice and racial equity have been issues around which libraries have created programming. In June 2020 the Schaumburg Township District Library created an anti-racism guide that asked patrons to "get inspired to take actions for the greater good." Additionally, they hosted the travelling Bias Inside Us Exhibit and created programs to help viewers recognize the impact and influence implicit bias has on everyone. They also began a racial justice quarterly book discussion and celebrated Martin Luther King, Jr. Day with conversation starter cards. Patrons could register for a pack online or ask for a physical set via drive-through. The cards dealt with many topics mentioned in King's "I Have a Dream" speech and contained starting ideas appropriate for all ages to facilitate learning about civil rights with family.

The Fox Valley River Public Library District also performed census work, including promoting census job opportunities to their patrons. However, a more ambitious project has been their 1619 discussion series. Starting with the *1619 Project* itself, the program is hosted by the library, but the library staff do not moderate or take any leadership role in the discussion. Instead, the community group follows three rules: Be respectful, don't dominate the conversation, and commit to learning rather than debate, in order to initiate dialogue about topics such as the criminal justice system and inequalities. Future topics and media are to be based on group feedback. Jason Katsion, Adult & Teen Services Manager, says the talks have seen a great response from a diverse group of patrons. The library has also partnered with nonprofit Alianza to provide drop-in immigration help, DACA renewal assistance, and citizenship programs. The strong attendance at these sessions prompted presentations on other library services since many participants had not previously been regular library users.

Finally, a conversation with Deirdre Brennan, Executive Director of RAILS, demonstrated how consortia and other supporting organizations can support and encourage the activities of other libraries. Their EDI initiative has materials for libraries looking to become more diverse, networking opportunities, and recordings of many trainings. In the area of community partnerships, the Explore More Illinois program encourages libraries to recommend museums and other cultural institutions for the system of free passes available to patrons. And, in a reinforcement of Raleigh's

statements about local government involvement, Brennan mentioned the importance of the Advocacy Committee's work for libraries and the importance of projects like being involved in textbook approval committees.

So, from voter registration tables to inviting in community experts on immigration and disease to creating virtual opportunities for patrons to learn about anything from political candidates to civil rights libraries are continuing to engage their communities in evolving and novel ways. In closing, civic and community engagement is a core purpose of libraries in not just providing information to the public but also aiding in understanding and critiquing the issues confronting them. As the trustees for the Boston Public Library said in 1852, "For it has been rightly judged that, under political, social, and religious institutions like ours, it is of paramount importance that the means of general information should be so diffused that the largest possible number of persons should be induced to read and understand questions going down to the very foundations of the social order, and which we, as a people, are constantly required to decide, and do decide, either ignorantly or wisely." **ILA**

References & Resources

- American Psychological Association definition of "civic engagement:" <https://www.apa.org/education-career/undergrad/civic-engagement>
- Forefront's IL Count Me in 2020 initiative to drive a complete count in the 2020 census: <http://ilcountmein2020.org>
- Schaumburg Township District Library's anti-racism resources: <https://www.schaumburglibrary.org/about/news/anti-racism-resources>
- The Smithsonian's "The Bias Inside Us" initiative: <https://biasinsideus.si.edu/homepage>
- Alianza Hispanoamericana, which partnered with the Fox River Valley Public Library District: <https://www.alianzafp.org/>
- Reaching Across Illinois Library System's Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion resources: <https://www.railslibraries.info/issues/183804>

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More than 40 Libraries in Illinois rely on CKIG for their insurance needs

Libraries Share Hybrid Programming Experiences

The COVID-19 pandemic has, among all its other effects, drastically changed the landscape of library programming. When asked to pivot immediately from almost entirely in-person modes of interaction to an entirely virtual space, librarians everywhere met the challenge admirably. Whether by recording story times, creating make-and-take crafts for curbside service, or hosting book clubs through Facebook, libraries found distanced and virtual ways of meeting their communities' needs.

Now, with spaces opening up and mandates being dropped, some libraries have committed to continuing their virtual offerings. They found new or expanded audiences online who are still interested in those digital spaces. This has led to much discussion about hybrid programming. However, there are multiple ways to think about hybrid programming as we discovered in sending out a survey to Illinois librarians. The survey was distributed in late February 2022 via RAILS and IHLS email lists. Many of the articles out there define hybrid programs as ones where there are simultaneous in-person and virtual elements, such as a book club held at the library where some members still attend virtually. But, when discussing total programming strategies, hybrid also feels like an appropriate term to discuss event calendars that are a mix of fully in-person and totally virtual meetings. For our purposes, we will be discussing this mixed schedule as well as fully hybrid events since the two are difficult to disentangle. This approach reflects responses to our survey, which discussed overall programming more than individual sessions.

HYBRID PROGRAMMING SURVEY

For a glimpse of the extent to which libraries and library staff had to adjust, more than 90% of the respondents to our survey said they had done no online or hybrid programming prior to the pandemic. At the time of data collection, 23% of respondents were back to fully in-person events while roughly two-thirds said they were offering hybrid programs or described a mixed calendar of events. One very commonly mentioned option was make-and-take kits for a variety of audiences. Bobbi Perryman, director of the Vespasian Warner Public Library District in Clinton, said the kits' popularity was consistent among members of a library directors' group and that the grab-and-go items were reaching a separate, and potentially new, audience from the ones coming into the library.

Perryman also provided some perspective on the results of another question. When asked how current in-person attendance had changed compared to pre-pandemic numbers, 69% of respondents said it had decreased. Comments on the question showed that in some cases this was due to restrictions put in place for social distancing or that their answer reflected smaller numbers per program but not overall. Other commenters were enthusiastic about increased virtual attendance or stressed that since the types of programming allowed for communication with different audiences, it was comparing apples and oranges. "Virtual attendance is up to ten times the number of in-person attendees," said one library director. "In-person attendance is around 50–60% of what it was pre-pandemic." At Vespasian Warner, it seems that in-person numbers picked back up dramatically after mask mandates were dropped, perhaps indicating that many people were choosing not to visit while the mandate was in effect.



HYBRID PROGRAMS IN A POST-PANDEMIC WORLD

While we did not ask specifically about whether libraries were going to continue offering virtual or hybrid programming, comments on questions lend insight to possible trends. Among librarians who feel they've reached new segments of their community or who have seen excellent attendance for virtual programs, continuation of these digital services seems certain. However, other libraries did not see this type of engagement. Bobbi Perryman mentioned that the Vespasian community seemed largely uninterested in virtual programs. Exceptions to this were established book clubs and a series of local history videos published to YouTube. She emphasized the importance of discovering what works for your community, since there is no one-size-fits-all answer. If more virtual programming became necessary, she says they'd rely more on pre-recorded segments since those were the most popular type.

While not all of the feedback has been positive, there are many reasons to keep virtual programming in place not tied to social distancing requirements. Libraries have been able to offer a broader variety of programs online than they could in person. "Our virtual programs have never reached the attendance level of our in-person programs, but we have been able to add more programming of a wider variety by including virtual than we had available pre-pandemic," said Donna Forbis, marketing and events coordinator at Illinois Prairie District Public Library. Jade Parks, teen services librarian at Northlake Public Library District, has also found virtual programming feedback to be mainly positive. "It varies from program to program, and we're relearning what draws our teens," said Parks. "It's different than it was. It started strong and then waned as the pandemic wore on."


With virtual programming, there are no geographical limits for having a speaker at an event, which has been a boon to program organizers. "We've been able to have great out-of-town presenters because of Zoom," said Lucy Tarabour, who handles adult programming and marketing at Clarendon Hills Public Library. Clarendon Hills has produced virtual events on subjects including chair yoga, museum tours, and history during the past few years, and is continuing to offer virtual programs at this time. Carbondale Public Library has hosted hundreds of virtual programs since the beginning of the pandemic, and even hosted one before COVID-19 turned programming upside down. "Virtual and hybrid programs allow us to host authors and speakers without having to cover travel expenses," said library director Diana Brawley-Sussman. "Pre-pandemic, we showed a documentary in-person at the library and brought the filmmaker in to converse with us via Zoom. Patrons were able to fully interact with the filmmaker, and it felt like she was here in person."

Libraries have even been able to band together to afford higher speaker fees for larger, collaborative, statewide programs. These programs, such as those put together by Illinois Libraries Present, offer an opportunity for libraries to hear from authors that they would likely not be able to afford on their own. Clarendon Hills Public Library has joined the collaboration, along with more than 200 other libraries. "We've partnered with other libraries to bring in a large Zoom audience for author presentations. We're part of Illinois Libraries Present that has been spearheading this effort," said Lucy Tarabour. Fees for individual events of this caliber would be unaffordable, and attendance numbers unrealistic, for most libraries, but particularly for small and rural ones.

Another benefit of virtual or hybrid programming is the ability to create archives of programs. "Virtual programs allow us to build an archived collection of library programs," said Diana Brawley-Sussman of Carbondale Public Library. "A lot of wisdom is shared in library programs, but with in-person programs only the people who happen to be present at a particular moment in time get to hear it. With virtual and hybrid programs people who can't be there can still access the program, either live online, or in the archives." Libraries have the ability to stream or upload their virtual programs to YouTube and other sites to preserve the content. This allows for members of the community to access the programs after the fact or to share interesting programs with others.

MOVING FORWARD

Libraries have to determine whether hybrid programming is something that is worthwhile to continue for their specific audience. Programs that are both in-person and online may continue to gain popularity, as there are benefits to having both formats available for patrons. This type of hybrid programming is the most complicated to plan and execute. Additionally, a digital divide exists where computers and the Internet are not available for all, so libraries need to plan and advocate for accessibility options within their communities. Libraries who continue hybrid programming need to have the resources to deal with the technological challenges that come along with it, as well as the ability to be flexible as the world continues to change.

The authors would like to thank the various libraries who took the time to share their experiences for this article. 



MEMBER TESTIMONIAL

"Because of my association with LIRA, I am a more sophisticated professional and steward for the library and community. I've learned more than I had in almost 30 years working in libraries about safeguarding community assets as a direct result of my involvement with LIRA. Hopefully, additional Illinois libraries will come to understand LIRA is more than insurance; it's a community pulling for each other, contributing to a greater good, and ensuring all are stronger, safer, smarter, and better as a result."

– Tina Hubert, Six Mile Public Library

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Talking with Rhone Talsma, *Jeopardy!* Champ



Recently I had the pleasure of talking with Rhone Talsma, the recent *Jeopardy!* champion who unseated the former 40-day champ, Amy Schneider and a current librarian at Chicago Ridge Public Library. Back in the day though, when Rhone was a middle- and high-schooler he was a favorite teen patron of mine at the Plainfield Public Library. That was in the before times, when teen librarianship including running a library MySpace page and *Dance Dance Revolution* tournaments. We've met Rhone, the talented *Jeopardy!* player, but who is Rhone Talsma the librarian?

JM: *It's been a little bit since your brush with fame, how has your life changed?*

RT: All told, not that much! I have a lot more followers on social media than I used to, which has proven interesting and at times strange. I also am now connected with the larger network of former *Jeopardy!* contestants and it's been great to become a part of that community. A lot of my patrons have joked about me quitting my job, but one day's worth of *Jeopardy!* winnings is not quite enough to manifest that kind of change—not that I'd want to quit!

JM: *Looking back now, what was your favorite Jeopardy! memory?*

RT: Without question, interacting with Ken Jennings. I have looked up to him for most of my life and meeting him was a dream come true. We didn't know who would be hosting our episodes when we arrived in the studio that day, so finding out that it was Ken put me over the moon.

JM: *How's your family? Still in Plainfield? And what was their reaction?*

RT: Yep, my parents are still in Plainfield! They, my brothers, and my nephew were all super excited for me. I think the most excited person was my mother—you'd think she was the one who won on *Jeopardy!* based on her reaction!

JM: *Tell me about your path to librarianship.*

RT: As you know, Joe, I've always been a fan of libraries and spent a lot of time at Plainfield Public Library as a kid and teen, even volunteering there for one summer during middle school—so I guess I've technically been a librarian since I was 12. In high school my focus shifted to extracurriculars, especially music, and I ended up matriculating to DePaul University with the intention of pursuing a career in music education. As often happens while in college, I ended up changing my major several times, settling on Women's and Gender Studies to set me up for graduate school—at that point, I saw myself going to law school or pursuing a Master of Social Work degree.

Upon graduating in 2015, though, I felt pretty directionless, having decided against the legal field and feeling soured on pursuing social work. I met with the professor who oversaw my senior thesis, Dr. Robin Mitchell (now at California State—Channel Islands), and asked her for guidance on what to do next. She saw in me a knack for research and a strong desire to make a positive difference in the world, which to her meant that I ought to become a librarian.

It felt like a light bulb illuminating above my head, like a career path that had been hiding under my nose this whole time. I knew it was what I was supposed to be doing, and so I aggressively pursued it. I started off by volunteering at the Gerber Hart Library and Archives, an LGBT archive and community center on Chicago's north side. I parlayed that into my first library job, working part-time as a CyberNavigator within the Chicago Public Library system for about two and a half years. I began working towards my MLS in the fall of 2016 at the University of Illinois, taking advantage of their distance learning program, and graduated in December of 2018. Earlier that year, I accepted an offer for a full-time role at Chicago Ridge Public Library, where I work to this day as an adult reference librarian and also design a great deal of the library's marketing and communications.

JM: *Give me a favorite book; I know you can't possibly choose one, but what book most impacted the person you've become?*

RT: The first book I thought of for this question was one I remember checking out from the Plainfield Public Library sometime in high school: *How I Paid for College* by Marc Acito. As an adult, I don't read novels very often, preferring articles, essays, and nonfiction books, but this one has stuck with me for over a decade now and I return to it once every couple of years.

This book has endured as my favorite due to it being the first time I remember feeling represented in a novel. To depict gay and queer teens so vividly and honestly, especially in a period piece, is no easy task, and Acito really makes the characters feel incredibly real. It is laugh-out-loud funny at times, heartbreaking at others. I can't recommend it enough.

JM: *Tell me about a favorite library moment from your career so far.*

RT: The highlight for me so far is definitely getting to meet Carla Hayden at the ALA Annual Conference in Washington, DC, back in 2019. She had very recently been named the new Librarian of Congress and was overwhelmed with attention, but still made a point of doing multiple meet-and-greets, and she actually made a point of asking about my role and my ambitions in the field. My answers lead her to introduce me to a LoC employee working in their communications department who had great feedback and advice for me. She didn't have to make me feel special, but she did, and I'm very grateful for that.

JM: *Do you feel like this the right field for you? Why?*

I've also generally preferred variety and spontaneity in my life and dread strict routines. Working at a public library, every day is different, and I find that very rewarding. I think my natural tendencies towards openness and honesty, empathy, flexibility, and creativity are all significant assets to me in this field.

JM: *How do you find what to read next?*

RT: I elect to read books based on whatever I'm reading about online. Short form texts like articles and essays are a bit more friendly to my ADHD brain—I *adore* Wikipedia and literally read an article on there every single day. I usually like to just get the gist of something and then move on to something else. That said, when I do want to do a deep dive, I'll usually use GoodReads or booklists from public libraries to try to find books on the topic in question. I'm very mercurial, though, and tend to not finish books...does that make me a bad librarian? I generally tell people that my passions as a librarian involve information literacy, research, technology, and public service—as such, I'm a little less focused on books.

JM: *What's on your to-be-read list?*

RT: Once I have the wherewithal, I look forward to reading *An Indigenous People's History of the United States* by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz. Howard Zinn's similarly titled *A People's History of the United States* is probably my favorite nonfiction book I've read, and it had a big impact on my worldview and values when approaching historical inquiry. While Zinn does a nice job in that book of describing the lived experiences of indigenous North Americans and taking a critical look at their interactions with settlers, I'm excited to read Dunbar-Ortiz's more detailed account.

JM: *What's something you haven't been asked yet that you're dying to let people know?*

RT: Even though everyone now associates me with neon yellow, my favorite color is actually purple. It's opposite yellow on the color wheel, so I've always been drawn to yellow when it comes to accents and accessories, since everything else I own, basically, is purple. It's actually kind of crazy that I didn't wear purple on the show.

JM: *Finally, who do you think you are? You were called the "cool-glasses guy" in Vulture and been referred to as the "cool-glasses librarian" online. I'll have you know that I didn't spend years collecting a coordinating library wardrobe with 15 different pairs of glasses, cardigans, and sweater vests to be unseated as the cool-glasses librarian because of a Jeopardy! appearance.*

RT: I learned from the best, Joe! I remember admiring your mid-2000s hipster vibes! We can definitely both be "cool-glasses librarians. Maybe once there's enough of us, we can get our own *Jeopardy!* tournament.

ILA

2022 Election Results



VICE PRESIDENT/PRESIDENT-ELECT

Ryan Johnson – *Elected*
O'Fallon Public Library

Victoria Blackmer
Robert R. Jones Public Library, Coal Valley

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(three-year term beginning July 1, 2022–June 30, 2024)

A candidate from each pairing is elected in accordance with the ILA bylaws as amended at the 1998 ILA Annual Conference; a total of four directors are elected to serve three-year terms on the ILA Executive Board.



DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE

Becky Spratford – *Elected*
LaGrange Public Library

Jamie Paicely
Chicago Heights Public Library



DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE

Monica Boyer – *Elected*
Bartlett Public Library

Sophie Kenney
Glen Ellyn Public Library



DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE

Alex C. Todd – *Elected*
Prospect Heights Public Library

Sara Zumwalt
Litchfield Public Library District



DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE

Esther Curry – *Elected*
C.E. Brehm Memorial Public Library District, Mt. Vernon

Lisa Butler
Wilmington Public Library

ILA Welcomes New Members

On behalf of the ILA community, Executive Board, and staff we would like to welcome our recent new members. We hope as a member of ILA you contribute, grow, and thrive within the library profession and the ILA community; and support ILA's continuing efforts to create and promote the highest quality library services for all people in Illinois.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Atomatic, Arlington Heights

TRUSTEE MEMBERS

Rachel Ballenger, Towanda District Library
Celeste Flores, Warren-Newport Public Library District
LaTisha Franklin, Markham Public Library
Karen Harris, Maryville Community Library District
Juquita Johnson, Markham Public Library
Betty Martinez, Bridgeview Public Library
Gwendolyn Smith, Markham Public Library

STUDENT MEMBERS

Wendy Bering, Antioch
Kate Donley, Northfield, VT
Jenny Fik, Chicago
Dan Grossman, Mount Prospect
Stephanie Henricks, Sycamore
Kriss Hinders, Champaign
Anne Kowalski, Chicago
Allison Lichtenheld, Crystal Lake
Whitney Martin, Winfield
Jacquelyn Martinez, Chicago
Cortney McInerney, Forest Park
Lisa McKessy, Kalamazoo, MI
Sheila Nesbit, Park Forest
Jake Pajor, Oak Lawn
Karen Sienko, Elmhurst
Macklyn Thornburgh, Chicago
Simon Trubek-Pence, Urbana
Jason Waclawik, Chicago
Grace Watylyk, North Riverside

PERSONAL MEMBERS

Emily Hernandez, Roselle Public Library District
Liz Hollendonner, Staley Library
Rachel Fischer, Cooperative Computer Services
Todd Freer, East Elementary School
Colleen Malone, CCSD 181
Michele McDaniel, Eastern Illinois University - Booth Library
Kris Nichols, Zion-Benton Public Library District

2022 Library Legislative Meet-ups by the Numbers

For the second year in a row, our annual series of Library Legislative Meet-ups took place online. Content focused on the great work libraries have been doing over the past two years; as one library director put it: “We’re now expected to do everything in person and offer services remotely—it’s like opening another branch!” Legislators were receptive to our message, with State Representative Dave Severin commenting “Other groups come to us with problems—librarians come with solutions!” Libraries’ centrality in their communities resonated: State Representative Theresa Mah commented, “Libraries’ service to immigrant communities is very important,” and State Senator David Koehler asserted “Libraries are the central gathering place for the community, and we need to recognize their importance.” We advocated for equitable e-book pricing legislation, broadband for libraries, and federal library funding. Nine state legislators committed verbally during the events to supporting ILA’s e-book pricing legislation, and State Representative Norine Hammond expressed support for the broadband initiative: “Including libraries in broadband initiatives makes sense.”

Given the shortened and frontloaded Illinois General Assembly session, we held the Meet-ups a bit earlier than usual and combined a few. We know everyone misses getting together in person and we’ll see what 2023 brings!

West Suburban Library Legislative Meet-up, January 24, 2022

2022 Attendees: 84	Legislators: 18 out of 31 or 55%
2021 Attendees: 111	Legislators: 12 out of 25 or 48%
2020 Attendees: 113	Legislators: 14 out of 26 or 54%
2019 Attendees: 113	Legislators: 12 out of 27 or 45%
2018 Attendees: 66	Legislators: 13 out of 25 or 52%
2017 Attendees: 85	Legislators: 10 out of 28 or 36%
2016 Attendees: 105	Legislators: 13 out of 29 or 45%
2015 Attendees: 76	Legislators: 17 out of 20 or 59%
2014 Attendees: 85	Legislators: 13 out of 29 or 45%

The 2022 event combined West Suburban and Chicago regions.

Central Illinois Library Legislative Meet-up, January 28, 2022

2022 Attendees: 61	Legislators: 9 out of 23 or 39%
2021 Attendees: 7	Legislators: 9 out of 23 or 39%
2020 Attendees: 39	Legislators: 3 out of 20 or 15%
2019 Attendees: 52	Legislators: 11 out of 19 or 58%
2018 Attendees: 45	Legislators: 7 out of 19 or 37%
2017 Attendees: 50	Legislators: 3 out of 18 or 17%
2016 Attendees: 51	Legislators: 4 out of 22 or 18%

South Suburban Library Legislative Meet-up, February 4, 2022

2022 Attendees: 45	Legislators: 13 out of 49, or 27%
2021 Attendees: 59	Legislators: 16 out of 39, or 41%
2020 Attendees: 57	Legislators: 6 out of 39 or 15%
2019 Attendees: 60	Legislators: 9 out of 38 or 24%
2018 Attendees: 75	Legislators: 10 out of 38 or 26%
2017 Attendees: 82	Legislators: 10 out of 38 or 26%
2016 Attendees: 66	Legislators: 11 out of 40 or 28%
2015 Attendees: 48	Legislators: 7 out of 40 or 18%
2014 Attendees: 37	Legislators: 4 out of 42 or 9%

The 2022 event combined South Suburban and Chicago regions.

Southern Illinois Library Legislative Meet-up, February 14, 2022

2022 Attendees: 72	Legislators: 5 out of 10 or 50%
2021 Attendees: 59	Legislators: 6 out of 10 or 60%
2020 Attendees: 30	Legislators: 7 out of 10 or 70%
2019 Attendees: 29	Legislators: 6 out of 10 or 60%
2018 Attendees: 35	Legislators: 5 out of 10 or 50%
2017 Attendees: 34	Legislators: 4 out of 8 or 50%

The 2022 event was combined with Metro East.

Metro East Library Legislative Meet-up, February 14, 2022

2022 Attendees: 72	Legislators: 6 out of 15 or 40%
2021 Attendees: 51	Legislators: 8 out of 15 or 53%
2020 Attendees: 47	Legislators: 8 out of 15 or 53%
2019 Attendees: 59	Legislators: 8 out of 15 or 53%
2018 Attendees: 59	Legislators: 6 out of 15 or 40%
2017 Attendees: 63	Legislators: 3 out of 17 or 18%
2016 Attendees: 58	Legislators: 5 out of 16 or 31%
2015 Attendees: 59	Legislators: 6 out of 16 or 38%
2014 Attendees: 54	Legislators: 5 out of 17 or 29%

The 2022 event was combined with Southern Illinois.

North Suburban Library Legislative Meet-up, February 21, 2022

2022 Attendees: 133	Legislators: 17 out of 44 or 39%
2021 Attendees: 116	Legislators: 19 out of 35 or 54%
2020 Attendees: 137	Legislators: 16 out of 41 or 39%
2019 Attendees: 146	Legislators: 19 out of 41 or 46%
2018 Attendees: 31	Legislators: 12 out of 41 or 29%
2017 Attendees: 141	Legislators: 14 out of 41 or 34%
2016 Attendees: 138	Legislators: 10 out of 41 or 24%
2015 Attendees: 124	Legislators: 17 out of 41 or 41%
2014 Attendees: 156	Legislators: 13 out of 47 or 27%
2013 Attendees: 150	Legislators: 17 out of 50 or 34%
2012 Attendees: 145	Legislators: 20 out of 50 or 40%

The 2022 event combined North Suburban and Chicago regions. This was the 32nd North Suburban Library Legislative Meet-up.

Northwestern Illinois Library Legislative Meet-up, February 28, 2022

2022 Attendees: 28	Legislators: 4 out of 23 or 17%
2021 Attendees: 26	Legislators: 6 out of 23 or 26%
2020 Attendees: 31	Legislators: 3 out of 19 or 16%
2019 Attendees: 21	Legislators: 7 out of 19 or 27%
2018 Attendees: 27	Legislators: 5 out of 19 or 25%

2018–2020 represented Western Illinois.

Chicago Library Legislative Meet-up

2020 Attendees: 51	Legislators: 4 out of 29 or 14%
2019 Attendees: 48	Legislators: 3 out of 28 or 11%
2018 Attendees: 38	Legislators: 7 out of 27 or 26%
2017 Attendees: 75	Legislators: 4 out of 28 or 14%

Chicago legislators and attendees participated in combined events in 2022 and did not host an event in 2021.

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New Illinois Library Luminary: Patricia Boze (1952-2020)



Patricia Jane Boze was a renaissance librarian whose career made a significant contribution to Illinois libraries. She received her M.L.S. from the then-Graduate School of Library and Science Information in 1988 at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Pat valued libraries as places where individuals and communities could come together and work toward a common goal, enriching the lives of the residents of Illinois. As an enthusiastic supporter of libraries, she spent her career working toward that goal. This was reflected in the programs she worked on at the Lincoln Trail Library System and at the Illinois State Library, from where she retired in 2018.

Pat's professional experience was wide ranging and challenging. Her strengths included organization, negotiation, staff supervision, policy development, public relations, customer service, and interpersonal skills. She had an innate ability to work with people from diverse backgrounds.

Some highlights of her professional career include:

- Manager for SirsiDynix consortium of 108 member libraries, including management of a large-scale migration from one automation system to another, as well as the implementation of additional technology products for the consortium;
- Team manager of a public library (Charleston, Illinois) during a difficult financial crisis without a director for a 4-month period;
- Consultant for libraries in areas related to legal issues; personnel and board interaction; planning, evaluation and development of library services review; managing multiple projects – from a training project for rural public libraries to statewide testing and implementation of WorldCat Local Quick Start for 700 Illinois libraries; writing successful grants; participating in strategic planning process; designing an overall public relations and marketing plan for a large-scale project and coordination regional effort to lobby legislators on library related issues; as LTLS LLSAP Manager, planned and implemented merged automation program;
- Author of professional published articles on various library topics and frequent presenter
- Professional affiliations include founding member of the Illinois State Library Small Public Library Management Institute and committee member for 17 years (1994-2011); ILEAD U Mentor; Editorial Board Member, Journal of Interlibrary Loan, Document Delivery & Electronic Review; OCLC Americas Regional Council Executive Committee Member; and Rethinking Resource Sharing (RUSA) Steering Committee.

During her tenure at the Illinois State Library, Pat brought her knowledge and professional skills to the statewide level, helping Illinois residents on all levels of service: individuals, librarians, library systems, and trustees.

She focused on resource sharing for all types of libraries. The enhanced services resulted in a new model for automation and resource sharing. She effectively worked to achieve her goals. Pat placed her own personal work philosophy as a high priority on library advocacy while progressively maintaining flexibility as society and technology changed.

Pat enjoyed her work and the challenges to help further the library community. She never said “no” to questions, new ideas, or opportunities. Pat was compassionate and caring in her life and this carried over to her professional career as a librarian.

Many, many librarians, libraries, residents, and patrons benefited from her expertise. She contributed greatly to the advancement of Illinois libraries.

Inducted March 17, 2022



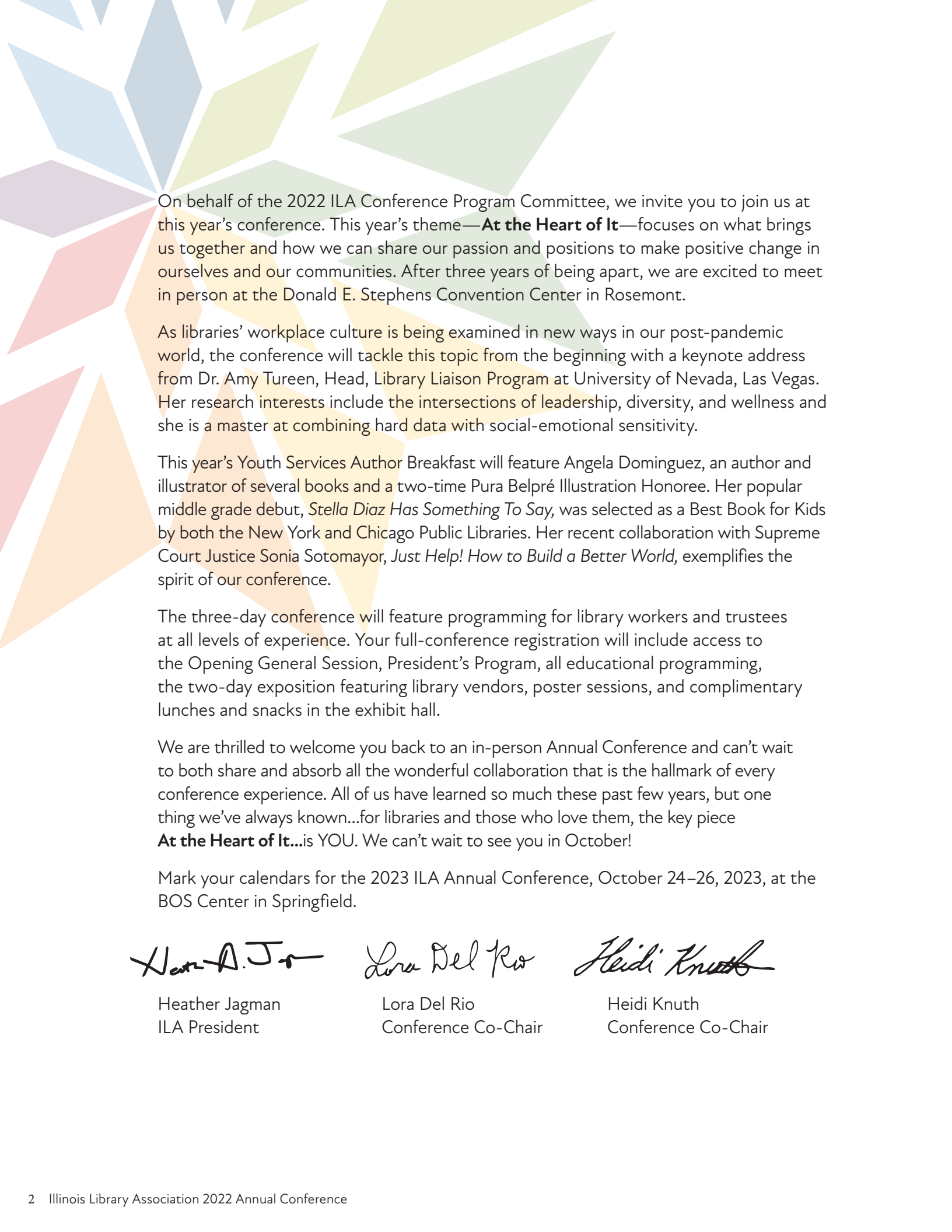
AT THE HEART OF IT

Conference Preview

2022 Illinois Library Association Annual Conference

October 18–20 | Donald E. Stephens Convention Center, Rosemont

For full conference information and to register online: ila.org/conference ▶ #ILAAC22



On behalf of the 2022 ILA Conference Program Committee, we invite you to join us at this year's conference. This year's theme—**At the Heart of It**—focuses on what brings us together and how we can share our passion and positions to make positive change in ourselves and our communities. After three years of being apart, we are excited to meet in person at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont.

As libraries' workplace culture is being examined in new ways in our post-pandemic world, the conference will tackle this topic from the beginning with a keynote address from Dr. Amy Tureen, Head, Library Liaison Program at University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Her research interests include the intersections of leadership, diversity, and wellness and she is a master at combining hard data with social-emotional sensitivity.

This year's Youth Services Author Breakfast will feature Angela Dominguez, an author and illustrator of several books and a two-time Pura Belpré Illustration Honoree. Her popular middle grade debut, *Stella Diaz Has Something To Say*, was selected as a Best Book for Kids by both the New York and Chicago Public Libraries. Her recent collaboration with Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, *Just Help! How to Build a Better World*, exemplifies the spirit of our conference.

The three-day conference will feature programming for library workers and trustees at all levels of experience. Your full-conference registration will include access to the Opening General Session, President's Program, all educational programming, the two-day exposition featuring library vendors, poster sessions, and complimentary lunches and snacks in the exhibit hall.

We are thrilled to welcome you back to an in-person Annual Conference and can't wait to both share and absorb all the wonderful collaboration that is the hallmark of every conference experience. All of us have learned so much these past few years, but one thing we've always known...for libraries and those who love them, the key piece **At the Heart of It...is YOU.** We can't wait to see you in October!

Mark your calendars for the 2023 ILA Annual Conference, October 24–26, 2023, at the BOS Center in Springfield.



Heather Jagman
ILA President



Lora Del Rio
Conference Co-Chair



Heidi Knuth
Conference Co-Chair

2022 Conference Program Committee

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COVID-19 Safety Measures

The Illinois Library Association is working closely with the Stephens Convention Center to follow state and local safety measures and provide the safest environment for conference participants. Participants at the Annual Conference — attendees, speakers, exhibitors, and staff — will be required to wear masks. Proof of full vaccination or a negative COVID-19 PCR or Rapid test result within 72 hours of the first day of the event will still be required. Please note: At home test results will not be accepted. Only negative test results from a doctor, pharmacy, or testing site will be accepted. Participants will also be required to submit an acknowledgement of personal responsibility after registration.

Due to the changing nature of the pandemic, attendance requirements may change prior to the event. ILA will continue to monitor the situation. ILA is committed to alerting all participants of any changes, but please continue to visit the website for the latest information.

For more information, visit ila.org/conference.



Featured Speakers



Amy Tureen

Opening General Session

Tuesday, October 18

9:00 – 10:30 A.M.

Amy Tureen is the Head, Library Liaison Program at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. In this role she works collaboratively with multiple stakeholders to establish, expand, and support initiatives that support student learning, research production, and the adoption of open educational resources and low-cost textbooks. She leads a team of thirteen faculty and staff members who provide extensive liaison services and manage two on-campus specialty branch libraries. In past library positions Amy has worked in circulation, ILL, collection development, space management, co-curricular programming, reference, and as a liaison to multiple subjects in the arts, humanities, and theology.

Amy holds a BA (Honors) in English from Scripps College, an MA in Gender and Cultural Studies from Simmons University (then College), and an MLIS from Drexel University's iSchool. Currently Amy is pursuing an EdD from the University of La Verne. Her dissertation will focus on stress levels and stress abatement techniques of academic library leaders.

Amy's research and general interests include wellness, leadership, diversity, and building anti-racist collections. She also has developed an increasing interest in the development of culturally responsive OER textbooks. Her most recent book, co-edited with Acadia University's Cynthia Alexander, will be published by IGI in July 2022. It is titled *Leadership Wellness and Mental Health Concerns in Higher Education*. Amy believes that managers have an integral role in creating healthy and humane workplaces for both themselves and employees.



Angela Dominguez

Youth Services Forum Author Breakfast

Wednesday, October 19

8:00 – 10:00 A.M.

Angela Dominguez is the author and illustrator of several books for children and a two-time Pura Belpré Illustration Honoree. She is also an illustrator for iREAD 2023 – Find Your Voice! Her debut middle grade novel, *Stella Díaz Has Something To Say*, was a New York Public Library and a Chicago Public Library pick for Best Books for Kids, a Sid Fleischman Award winner, and an ALA Notable. She recently illustrated the *New York Times* Bestseller, *Just Help! How to Build a Better World*, written by Sonia Sotomayor. When Angela is not in her studio or visiting schools, she teaches at the Academy of Art University, which honored her with their Distinguished Alumni Award in 2013.

Angela was born in Mexico City and grew up in Texas. She now resides on the east coast with her boyfriend, Kyle, and their petite dog, Petunia. Angela is a proud member of SCBWI, and PEN America. As a child, she loved reading books and making a mess creating pictures. She's delighted to still be doing both.



Anthony Dunbar
IACRL Luncheon

Wednesday, October 19
 12:15 – 1:30 P.M.

Dr. Anthony Dunbar is Assistant Professor in the Dominican University School of Information Studies (SOIS). He is also an equity, inclusion, and justice (EIJ) thought leader and serves as the SOIS EIJ Coordinator. Tony’s research builds on the racial and social justice frameworks of Critical Race Theory (CRT). His current efforts focus on developing curricula, scholarship, and activism to expand the CRT framework into a platform specific for Information Studies: Critical Race Information Theory (CRIT).

He is currently a member of the American Library Association’s Diversity Research Grant Committee, a 2022 co-convenor for the Association of Library and Information Studies Educator’s Innovative Pedagogy Special Interest Group, and is the DU member board representative for the Black Metropolis Research Consortium (BMRC). Dr. Dunbar recently authored a section introduction in the open access edited work, *Knowledge Justice: Disrupting Library and Information Studies Through Critical Race Theory*. Tony is also the first scholar to publish a CRT article in a peer-reviewed Information Studies journal.

And more speakers to come!

Schedule at a Glance

Tuesday, October 18

8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.	Registration Desk Open
9:00 – 10:30 A.M.	Opening General Session
10:45 – 11:45 A.M.	Program Session 1
12:00 – 1:15 P.M.	Awards Luncheon
1:30 – 2:30 P.M.	Session 2
2:45 – 3:45 P.M.	Program Session 3
4:00 – 5:00 P.M.	Program Session 4
6:00 P.M.	Dinner with Colleagues

Wednesday, October 19

8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.	Registration Desk Open
8:00 – 10:00 A.M.	Youth Services Forum Breakfast
8:00 – 10:00 A.M.	IACRL Unconference
9:00 – 10:00 A.M.	Program Session 5
10:15 A.M. – 11:45 A.M.	ILA Membership Meeting & President’s Program
NOON – 5:00 P.M.	Exhibits Open
NOON – 1:30 P.M.	Exhibits Opening Lunch
12:15 – 1:30 P.M.	IACRL Luncheon
1:45 – 2:45 P.M.	Program Session 6
3:00 – 4:00 P.M.	Program Session 7
4:00 – 5:00 P.M.	Exhibits Break

Thursday, October 20

8:00 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.	Registration Desk Open
9:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.	Exhibits Open
8:00 – 10:00 A.M.	Youth & YA Services Unconference
8:00 – 9:00 A.M.	Trustee Continental Breakfast
9:00 – 10:00 A.M.	Program Session 8
10:00 – 11:00 A.M.	Exhibits Break
11:00 A.M. – NOON	Program Session 9
12:00 – 1:30 P.M.	Exhibits Closing Lunch
12:15 – 1:30 P.M.	Trustee Luncheon
1:45 – 2:45 P.M.	Program Session 10
3:00 – 4:00 P.M.	Program Session 11

Conference Highlights

For a complete list and full descriptions of conference programs and events, visit ila.org/conference.

Tuesday, October 18

Awards Luncheon

NOON – 1:15 P.M.

Celebrate the achievements of your colleagues at the Awards Luncheon. Tickets for the Awards Luncheon can be purchased when you register. *Pre-registration is required for this ticketed event.*

Dinner with Colleagues | 6:00 P.M.

Staying over in Rosemont and looking for something to do on Tuesday night? Reconnect with old friends and make new ones! Sign up for dinner with colleagues. *Sign-up forms will be available prior to the conference at ila.org/conference.*

Wednesday, October 19

Youth Services Forum Author Breakfast

8:00 – 10:00 A.M.

Angela Dominguez, an illustrator for iREAD 2023 – Find Your Voice!, will discuss her work at this annual event. A book signing will follow the breakfast. *Pre-registration is required for this ticketed event.*

Academic Libraries Unconference

8:00 – 10:00 A.M.

Join your academic colleagues for networking, idea sharing, and a continental breakfast to discuss topics important to our everyday work. Facilitators will recommend topics for discussion, but audience members will be encouraged to contribute their suggestions as well. Attendees will walk away with innovative ideas to implement in their daily work. Academic library staff from all departments, classifications, and levels of experience are welcome and encouraged to attend!

ILA Membership Meeting & President's Program

10:15 – 11:45 A.M.

Learn more about what happened in your association in the past year and what we're looking forward to in the coming year. Non-members are invited to attend the Membership Meeting. A presentation by a Speaker to be named will follow the Membership Meeting.

IACRL Luncheon

12:15 – 1:30 P.M.

Join your academic library colleagues for a luncheon featuring Dr. Anthony Dunbar, Assistant Professor in the Dominican University School of Information Studies. *Pre-registration is required for this ticketed event.*

DiversiTEA

3:00 – 4:00 P.M.

Join the ILA Diversity Committee for tea and a presentation. DiversiTEA is open to all conference attendees.

Thursday, October 20

Trustee Day

8:00 a.m. – 4:00 P.M.

A full day of conference programming is planned for library trustees. The day begins with a continental breakfast and includes a luncheon and time in the exhibit hall. *Trustee Day registration is required in order to attend meal events.*

Youth and Young Adult Services Unconference

8:00 – 10:00 A.M.

In this discussion-based session, participants will suggest and vote on current and relevant issues or topics they are confronting in their daily work to discuss with other youth & young adult library workers. The top suggestions will be used as a starting point for multiple group-based discussions. This will be an informal exchange of information and ideas among participants.

Evening Entertainment in Rosemont

If you are staying in Rosemont for the night or catching dinner with friends before heading home, Rosemont's Parkway Bank Park entertainment district is a 200,000 square-foot complex home to 15 dining and entertainment venues offering upscale international cuisine, live music and comedy, state-of-the-art film, indoor skydiving, bowling, and more.

Conference Information

Visit the Exhibit Hall

Exhibits Hours:

Wednesday, October 19	NOON – 5:00 P.M.
Thursday, October 20	9:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.

Wednesday, October 19

Exhibits Opening Buffet Lunch	NOON – 1:30 P.M.
Exhibits Afternoon Snack Break	4:00 – 5:00 P.M.

Thursday, October 20

Exhibits Morning Coffee Break	10:00 – 11:00 A.M.
Exhibits Closing Buffet Lunch	NOON – 1:30 P.M.

Exhibits are not open on Tuesday, October 18.

Exhibits-Only Pass

One-day, Exhibits-Only passes are available for \$30 Early Bird or \$40 Advanced. Passes must be purchased prior to the conference. Exhibit-Only passes do not include attendance at conference programming.

Accessibility

ILA wants to make your conference experience pleasant and accessible.

- All conference hotels offer accessible sleeping rooms on request.
- Leader animals are welcome throughout the conference.
- Complimentary ASL interpreters are available by request.*
- Complimentary mobility scooters are available by request.*
- A Mothers Room will be available in the convention center.
- A quiet room will be available for attendees who need a break from conference activity.

**Requests for scooters and ASL interpreters must be received by September 30. Contact Cyndi Robinson at robinson@ila.org or 312-644-1896 to submit your request.*

Dietary Accommodations

When registering for a meal event, please indicate if you require dietary accommodation, e.g. gluten-free, vegan, vegetarian, allergy.

Hotels

Visit ila.org/conference for reservation information on conference hotels.

Room blocks have been reserved for Monday, October 17 to Thursday, October 20, 2022. Reservations must be made by September 26, 2022.

Embassy Suites by Hilton Chicago O'Hare Rosemont

5500 North River Road
Rosemont, IL 60018

DoubleTree by Hilton Chicago O'Hare Rosemont

5460 North River Road
Rosemont, IL 60018

Mobile App

Attendees are able to access full event schedules, rate sessions, and customize their own agendas in the ILA conference mobile app.

Professional Headshot Studio

Complimentary head shots are available at the conference. An online signup will be available in early October and photos will be shared with attendees within two weeks after the conference.

Statement of Appropriate Conduct

The Illinois Library Association (ILA) holds an annual conference to enable its members to receive continuing education, build professional networks, and discover new products and services for professional use; and hosts a number of additional continuing education opportunities and events. To provide all participants—members and other attendees, speakers, exhibitors, staff, and volunteers—the opportunity to benefit from these events, ILA is committed to providing a harassment-free environment for everyone, regardless of gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, disability, physical appearance, race, ethnicity, religion, or other individual or group identity.

For more information and to review the Statement of Appropriate Conduct visit ila.org/conference.

WiFi Access

Complimentary WiFi will be available throughout the convention center.

Registration Rates and Deadlines

Register online at www.ila.org/conference | Questions? Email ila@ila.org

The deadline to register for the conference or purchase event tickets is October 12. No registrations will be accepted onsite.

Full Conference	Early Bird (by 9/26)	Advance by (10/12)
ILA Member*	\$275	\$325
Non-Member	\$325	\$375
Full-Time Student or Retired Member**	\$175	\$225

Single Day	Early Bird (by 9/26)	Advance by (10/12)
ILA Member*	\$200	\$250
Non-Member	\$250	\$300
Full-Time Student or Retired Member**	\$125	\$200

Trustee	Early Bird (by 9/26)	Advance by (10/12)
ILA Member Trustee Day Only (Thursday, October 20)	\$200	\$250
Non-Member Trustee Day Only (Thursday, October 20)	\$250	\$300
ILA Member Trustee Day + full conference*	\$275	\$325
Non-Member Trustee Day + full conference	\$325	\$375

Exhibits Only	Early Bird (by 9/26)	Advance by (10/12)
Single Day Access to Exhibit Floor Only	\$30	\$40

Special Events	Early Bird (by 9/26)	Advance by (10/12)
Please plan to register early to save money and secure your space. No special events registrations will be accepted onsite.		
Tuesday, October 18 Awards Luncheon	\$50	\$60
Wednesday, October 19 Youth Services Forum Author Breakfast	\$32	\$42
Wednesday, October 19 IACRL Luncheon	\$40	\$50

* Attendees can register at the ILA Member rate if they have either a Personal Membership or work at a library that has an Institutional Membership. If you are not sure of your membership or member status, please email ila@ila.org.

**This registrant type applies to full time students and retired librarians. If you do not fall into that category and you register at this rate, you will be billed for the appropriate level of registration and will not be allowed to fully register for the conference until the correct registration rate is paid in full.

Conference speakers who are employed by, or a trustee of, a library (academic, public, school, special), a library agency, or library school located in the state of Illinois are required to register and pay the appropriate registration fee for the conference.

All refund requests must be received in writing by October 3, 2022. This includes refunds for conference registration, meals, and special events. No telephone cancellations/refund requests can be accepted. No refunds after October 3. All cancellations are subject to a \$15 processing fee.

If you have any questions regarding registration, please email ila@ila.org.



Illinois Library Association

33 W. Grand Ave., Ste. 401
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CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

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Here's what we're looking for:

- Articles that explore an issue, rather than promoting a particular initiative or program, with examples from more than one library or type of library
- Writing that considers a "how to think about..." approach rather than "how to do..."
- Submissions from all geographic areas of the state
- Submissions that relate to ILA's strategic goal area of a culture of diversity and inclusion, both in the profession and the association



Illinois Library Association

View submission guidelines at www.ila.org/publications/ila-reporter
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