



Bridging the Gap

Dear ILA Members and Friends,

I want to take a moment and say thank you for a wonderful year. Serving as your president will be one of my most treasured memories as a professional librarian. I was always proud to introduce myself as the president of the Illinois Library Association (ILA) and to promote the wonders of ILA.

I will be biased and say that libraries in Illinois remain the best. The bar is set high on every standard, policy, event, and message that we develop and advocate. As you all know, ILA led the way for many, many wonderful things to happen in Illinois libraries this last year, despite the challenges we faced in terms of the state's budget impasse.

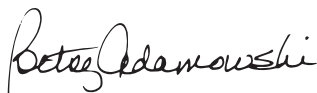
A few favorite moments:

- Serving with ILA Executive Board members Allen Lanham and Richard Kong as mentors for the Illinois State Library Synergy Program, and thrilled to see that there are some Synergy graduates on the incoming ILA board as well as on committees and forums.
- Using my role on the Statewide Public Library Management Institute (SPLMI) committee to recruit participants to become more active in ILA, especially Celeste Choate, library director of the Urbana Public Library. She joined the ILA Advocacy Committee and led the way, along with Susan Franzen, to host the first legislative meet-up in the central Illinois region!
- While I was saddened to see Kip Kolkmeier change his ILA lobbyist role, I was thrilled to work with our new lobbyist, Derek Blaida. I am proud of the work that our advocacy leaders, David Seleb, Denise Raleigh, and Jim Deiters did to successfully advance advocacy events and legislation. I am personally proud that district libraries are now able to serve liquor at library events—maybe it all started with pub strolls at conferences!
- I know we can all agree that one of the proudest ILA moments was participating in the first combined statewide library conference, A Library State of Mind. I am a big believer that professional librarians, from all library types, will speak louder if they speak with one voice and not many. This conference was a tribute to that belief.
- The Illinois Library Luminary program is definitely a success story. Watching it grow in leaps and bounds this year, under the leadership of Fundraising Committee Chair Alex Todd, made me proud.
- The Reaching Forward Conference has been a favorite of mine for many years. I had the honor to not only thank the founders and co-chairs, Tobi Oberman and Tom Rich, but also, sadly, wish them good luck in retirement.
- Last, but not least, the work that was done to make the Illinois Leadership Summit happen on July 11–12, 2016, is a wonderful tribute to the work and support that ILA offers to Illinois libraries.

As I write this I am thinking of more and more highlights, but I think you get it: it was a great year and being president was definitely an honor. My thanks to fellow board members for all the hard work they do to make things happen, and thanks to the ILA staff for ALL their hard work, vision, and patience.

I promise, I will sit back and quietly watch next year. It is going to be another great year, I can feel it already!

Sincerely,



Betsy Adamowski, ILA President, 2015–2016

Bridging the Gap

2015–2016 will long be remembered as the year the state of Illinois failed to pass a budget for the entire fiscal year. One of the major consequences of that failure to act has been individuals and organizations stepping up to try to fill the gap left by this vacuum in leadership, and the Illinois Library Association has been no exception. From hosting a series of meetings with legislators around the state and launching a new online advocacy portal, to collaborating with others to host events and programs, to keeping its own financial house in order, ILA ended the 2015–2016 fiscal year poised for new beginnings.

Illinois achieved an important distinction in 2016: the last state in the nation to approve a state budget. With only hours remaining in fiscal 2016, the governor and general assembly finally agreed on June 30 to a spending plan for the past year. For fiscal 2017 that began at midnight on July 1, the governor and general assembly could only agree on a six-month budget. Still, in light of the year-long deadlock over 2016, even a six-month 2017 “stopgap” budget was an improvement.

It is difficult to precisely calculate the damage to state services, programs, and the economy as a result of the budget stalemate. It has been estimated that over one million Illinois residents failed to receive needed services. The state failed to pay vendors, state facilities were shuttered, and capital programs were delayed or cancelled. State colleges and universities lost students and were forced to lay off hundreds of employees. The state's credit rating continued to fall and borrowing costs continued to rise. The state came within days of having to close prisons because it couldn't pay for electricity or food.

Looking back, Illinois public libraries, school libraries, and library systems received about half of the grant funds in 2016 that they received in 2015. Looking forward, that same partial grant funding is all that has been approved for fiscal 2017. While ILA will continue to demand full funding for library grants, we must face the possibility that partial funding may be the new normal.

For higher education, the story is also muddled. Ultimately, the state approved funding for student Monetary Award Program (MAP) grants for 2016, but has not done so yet for 2017. State colleges and universities did get an infusion of about \$1 billion, but have no certainty of funding for 2017.

The one bright spot in the state budget is K–12 education. Not only was K–12 education funded for all of fiscal 2017, but school districts will also receive about \$360 million in additional funds over fiscal 2016. All K–12 schools will open without delay this fall, and all districts will receive at least as much in state funding as they did the previous year.

Significantly, the 2017 budget legislation included none of the governor's “Turnaround Agenda”—no legislator term limits, no redistricting reform, no changes to workers' compensation or collective bargaining rights, no tort reform, nor a property tax freeze. The 2017 stopgap budget simply further delays the tough issues until after the November 2016 election. It does nothing to pay down the current \$8 billion in past due bills. It does not include pension reform that would decrease the state's unfunded liability. It does not change current court orders, which require spending in excess of current revenue. The budget agreement does represent some bipartisan progress, but it is unclear if, or when, further budget progress might be achieved.

In adjourning the Illinois House of Representatives, Speaker Michael Madigan forcefully noted that this budget compromise was only possible when the governor was willing to set aside his personal agenda. This point was echoed by Illinois Senate President John Cullerton. In acknowledging that the budget deal did not include his proposed reforms, Governor Bruce Rauner called the agreement “a bridge to reform.” Governor Rauner suggested that there will be a chance for a grand compromise on state budget and reform issues following the November election.

As one would expect, the budget impasse overshadowed all other legislative activity. As a result, there were few major non-budget issues of concern to ILA members. There was good news on the intellectual freedom front. No legislation passed that would restrict access to information or infringe on privacy rights. The general assembly did pass legislation (House Bill 5902) explicitly recognizing the First Amendment rights of high school “student journalists.” House Bill 5902 passed the general assembly unanimously and has been sent to the governor.

Illinois political leaders have now turned their attention to the November election. Illinois voters will elect a United States Senator and the state comptroller, and legislative races will be decided for about a third of the state senate districts and all state representative districts. It is unlikely that the November election will result in a major shift in the political balance between Democrats and Republicans. However, it is hoped that once the election is over, there will be an opportunity for greater compromise.

Advocacy is Alive and Well... Even During State's Deadlock

- The annual roster of “meet-ups” with Illinois legislators grew to five this past year with the addition of a central Illinois site and the time frame stretching from February 12 to 19, 2016. Breakfast and lunch meetings were held in Tinley Park, Oak Brook, Buffalo Grove, Edwardsville, and Normal. Kudos to the ILA Advocacy Committee and all the local event teams that made sure librarians, trustees, legislators, and legislative staff were invited and urged to attend. Many of these same advocates converged on Capitol Hill in May for the annual National Library Legislative Day, making visits to the Illinois congressional delegation and meeting with other library supporters from across the country.
- Besides these in-person meetings, ILA members kept the pressure on elected officials using ENGAGE, the new advocacy contact platform installed on www.ila.org. If you haven't explored this convenient way to look up key issues, positions, and send messages to your personal representatives just by entering your zip code after signing in to your member profile, now's the time to start.
- Even though not officially signed into law until July 15, 2016, both houses of the Illinois General Assembly acted to amend the Liquor Control Act of 1934 to make it legal for libraries to serve alcohol during educational or cultural events. Thanks to ILA's advocacy efforts, Senate Bill 399 became law, permitting the sale of alcoholic beverages within any building owned by a library district if its board of trustees approves. Under the provisions of this proposal, each library's board of trustees is required to have a written policy governing how and when alcohol can be sold, and provide proof of insurance before approval of liquor sales at a specific event. This bill allows library districts to generate much-needed revenue to be reinvested back into our libraries.



A Library State of Mind

- The first-ever joint conference for ALL types of librarians—A Library State of Mind—met in Peoria, October 22–24, 2015. ILA partnered with the Illinois School Library Media Association (ISLMA); Illinois Association of College and Research Libraries Forum (IACRL); and Special Libraries Association, Illinois chapter (SLA-IL) to hold a single conference.

Shankar Vedantam of NPR's Hidden Brain series got everyone thinking at the opening session and author Daniel Handler, aka Lemony Snicket, wrapped things up at the closing session. In between, there were exhibits to visit, programs to attend, awards to be given, new friendships to be formed, and old ones to explore. A preconference, Better Together, took a look at Illinois libraries past, present, and future. The conference drew 1,694 participants, including attendees, presenters, and exhibitors.

Anderson's Bookshops, Dewberry, LIRA, Rainbow Book Company, Sikich, and TBS led the way as Platinum sponsors, with a host of others at Gold and Silver levels, as well as numerous award sponsors. The traditional ILA Awards Luncheon adopted the ISLMA tradition of an evening awards gala with 2010 ILA President Gail Bush (who originated the idea of a combined conference during her presidential year) presiding over the festivities.

- Other continuing education events throughout the year included the Youth Services Unconference (August 6), Trustee Workshop (February 13), IACRL Conference (March 18), Illinois Youth Services Institute (April 1–2), and the Reaching Forward Conference for Library Staff (May 6).
- Looking forward, several ILA members and other library leaders from around the state explored the issue of leadership development for Illinois librarians. Synergy, the leadership training institute offered by the Illinois State Library from 2002 to 2010 and again in 2015, was not held in 2016, due to the ongoing state budget stalemate. A steering committee led by ILA President Betsy Adamowski met throughout the year and convened eighty Synergy alumni in early July 2016 with support from the Illinois Library Association and several other sponsoring organizations. The goal is to develop a new training model by 2017.



Nuts and Bolts: The Work of the Association

- As always, ILA chose new leadership through elections held in the spring. President-Elect Melissa Gardner of the Palatine Public Library District, along with other newly elected Executive Board members Jason F. Kuhl, Arlington Heights Memorial Library; Nanette Donohue, Champaign Public Library; Leander Spearman, Belleville Public Library, and Sarah Keister Armstrong, Fremont Public Library District, will all serve three-year terms, beginning July 1, 2016.
- A task force, charged with reviewing the current ILA membership dues structure and recommending revisions, was led by Jamie Bukovac, Indian Prairie Public Library District, with members Alyssa Williams, Morton Public Library District; Lindsay Harmon, Lewis University; Tabatha Anderson, Barrington Area Library, and ILA Executive Board liaison Jeannie Dilger, La Grange Public Library. The task force conducted surveys at the 2015 joint conference and online, met with and interviewed both members and non-members, and presented a series of recommendations to the ILA Executive Board in March 2016. After extensive discussion and some minor revisions suggested by the board, the recommendations were finalized and will be presented to the full ILA membership at their meeting in October 2016 for approval. The primary goal is to simplify and clarify membership categories while preserving revenue, with a longer-term goal of making membership more appealing to a wider base of library professionals and supporters.
- Communicating with members remains at the center of ILA's work. The recently relaunched website (www.ila.org) continued to evolve with new features, including member-only content on Legal Issues for Libraries covering topics such as non-resident library cards for teachers, Fair Labor Standards, Tax Increment Financing (TIF) reimbursement, and local government transparency. The irregularly published *ILA E-Newsletter* keeps members informed on timely topics and provides a vehicle for legislative alerts.

ILA's flagship publication, the *ILA Reporter*, continues to see improvement in content developed by the *ILA Reporter* Advisory Committee, chaired by Kara Kohn, Plainfield Public Library District. Articles on library referenda, measuring outcomes, library architecture, and gardens as a new library outreach strategy were among articles developed by committee members and other contributors. Topics of interest to the profession, from readers' advisory to community engagement, going fine-free to library architecture, appeared in the six issues published from August 2015 through June 2016.



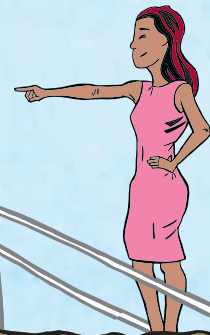
Revenue, Reading, and 'Rithmetic

- The iREAD® summer reading program reached libraries and readers in all fifty states and dozens of foreign countries in 2016 and helped all participants “READ for the Win!,” with artwork by award-winning children’s book illustrator Bob Staake and others. iREAD remains the official summer reading program of the U.S. Department of Defense libraries on military bases worldwide, contributing significant income to ILA programs and activities, including legislative advocacy.
- The third time was the charm for author GERALYN HESSLAU MAGRADY, who was named the winner of the third annual Soon to Be Famous Illinois Author project for her novel *Lines*. James Hosek and Amanda Meredith were the two other finalists from a field of forty entries. More than eighty Illinois libraries have participated in the project, with librarians reading and nominating writers from among their patrons.
- The Illinois Library Luminaries program, which raises money for the ILA endowment while recognizing the achievements of library leaders in the state, set new records in 2016 with a total of \$20,822 raised for six new luminaries—Carolyn Anthony, Kathy McSwain, Barbara Ford, Allen Lanham, Jesse White, and Kiplund Kolkmeier.
- Other revenue sources that also provide significant benefits to ILA institutional members are the Fund for Illinois Libraries and the Libraries of Illinois Risk Agency (LIRA). The fund provides 501(c)(3) eligibility for tax-deductible contributions to libraries that do not have their own foundations, and LIRA is a group insurance pool established in 2013 that currently offers savings on property, casualty, and workers’ compensation coverage to forty-three ILA institutional members.

“The Berwyn Public Library became a place where my sons and I bonded, where I learned about their interests and what topics brought them joy.

Books became a part of who they were.”

—Geraldyn Hesslau Magrady, 2016 Soon to Be Famous
Illinois Author



ILA Fiscal Report Year Ended June 30, 2016

Revenue

General Operations	\$ 69,511
Membership	\$ 308,406
Conference	\$ 438,056
Publications	\$ 2,191,525
Public Policy	\$ 4,000
Awards	\$ 9,060
Endowment	\$ 23,572
Workshops/Projects	\$ 96,354
Reaching Forward	\$ 123,381
Total Revenue	\$ 3,263,865

Expenses (before allocation of staff salaries, taxes, and benefits to functional areas)

General Operations	\$ 680,554
Membership/Directory/Reporter	\$ 94,859
Conference	\$ 353,092
Board	\$ 14,783
Publications	\$ 1,734,685
Public Policy	\$ 71,890
Awards	\$ 10,348
Workshops/Projects	\$ 100,601
Forums	\$ 4,870
Reaching Forward	\$ 108,634
Total Expenses	\$ 3,174,316

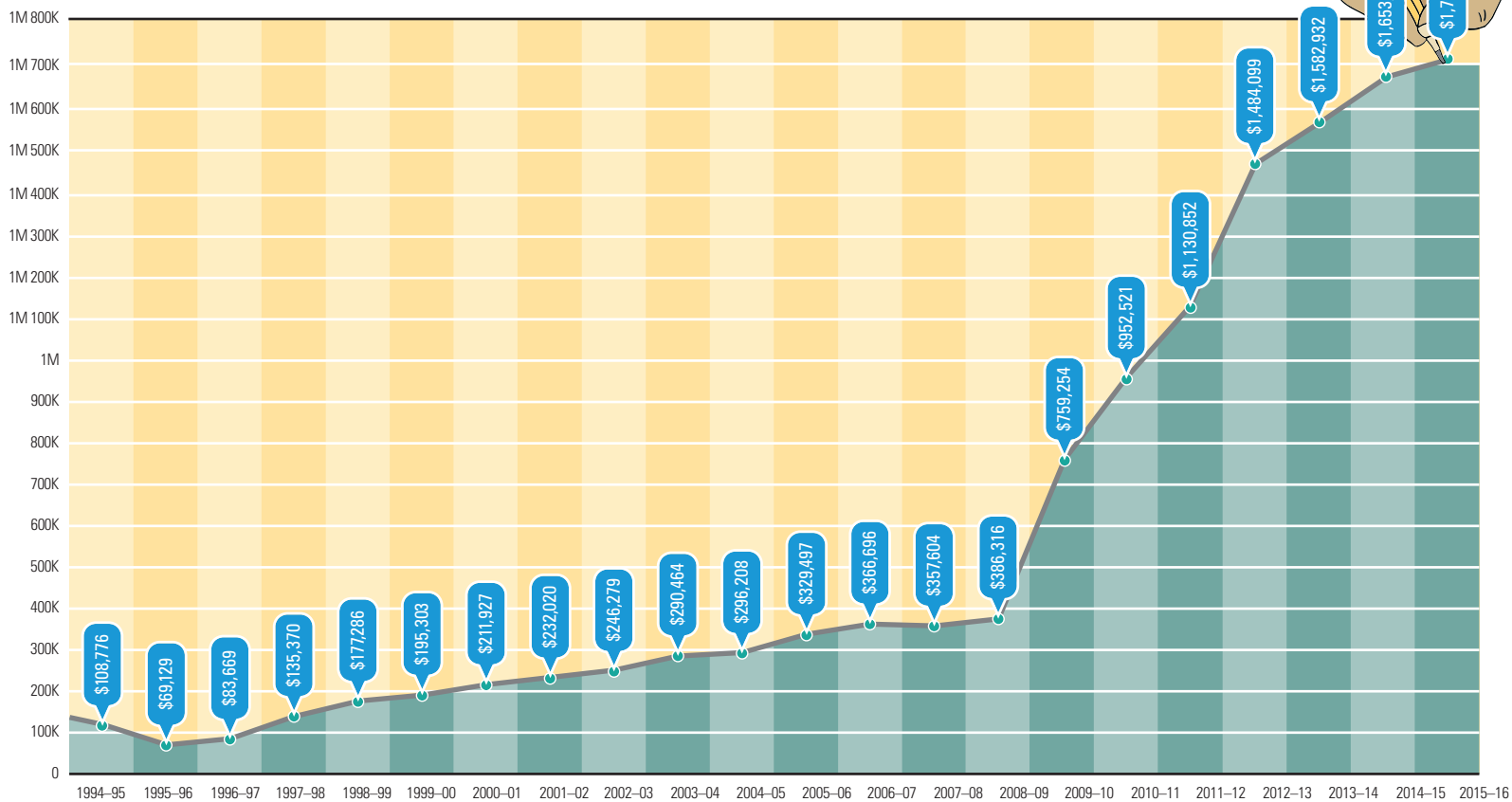
Net Income Before Gain (Loss) on Long-term Investments	\$ 89,549
Gain on Long-term Investments	\$ 2,819
Net Income	\$ 92,368
Net Assets at end of FY 2015	\$ 1,653,354
Net Assets at end of FY 2016	\$ 1,745,722

Net Assets Comprise:

Unrestricted Net Assets	\$ 1,604,437
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	\$ 9,712
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atkinson Memorial Award (\$3,140) • deLafayette Reid Fund for Continuing Education (\$4,283) • Robert R. McClarren Award Fund for Legislative Development (\$252) • Sylvia Murphy Williams Fund (\$1,297) • Legal Defense Fund (\$675) • Preiser Award (\$65) 	
Permanently Restricted Net Assets	\$ 131,573
Total Net Assets at end of FY 2016	\$ 1,745,722



Historical Overview of Net Assets



Cumulative Surplus

The growth in ILA's net assets has been a conscious strategy over the past twenty years, with the goal of producing an annual budget surplus.

From 2009 to 2013, annual budget surpluses were largely used to build an operating reserve equivalent to 50% of ILA's annual budget, a directive from the executive board. Once that milestone was reached, the board redirected resources to updating and building infrastructure to support future growth and stability.

The strategies that have contributed to realizing these goals include a focus on earned income projects, such as summer reading and our group insurance program, and also on operating with a small staff and holding overhead and other costs down.

During this same period, other professional associations have faced declines in their traditional sources of revenue—membership, conference, and publications. The need for innovation and entrepreneurial efforts within ILA is as strong as ever.

2015-2016	\$ 92,368
2014-2015	\$ 70,422
2013-2014	\$ 98,833
2012-2013	\$ 353,247
2011-2012	\$ 178,331
2010-2011	\$ 193,267
2009-2010	\$ 372,938
2008-2009	\$ 28,712
2007-2008	\$ -9,092
2006-2007	\$ 37,199
2005-2006	\$ 33,289
2004-2005	\$ 5,744
2003-2004	\$ 44,185
2002-2003	\$ 14,259
2001-2002	\$ 20,093
2000-2001	\$ 16,624
1999-2000	\$ 18,017
1998-1999	\$ 41,916
1997-1998	\$ 51,701
1996-1997	\$ 14,540
Total	\$1,676,593



Mission Statement

The Illinois Library Association is the voice for Illinois libraries and the millions who depend on them. It provides leadership for the development, promotion, and improvement of library services in Illinois and for the library community in order to enhance learning and ensure access to information for all. This access is essential for an open democratic society, an informed electorate, and the advancement of knowledge for all people. Its primary goals are:

Advocating for the Public Interest

- develop and promote strong public policy related to libraries, literacy, and lifelong learning;
- defend intellectual freedom and access to information; and
- increase public awareness of the value of libraries to society.

Promoting Excellence and Innovation

- provide outstanding programs of continuing education and leadership development;
- support the recruitment, retention, and professional development of a culturally and racially diverse workforce for libraries;
- produce high-quality publications and communications; and
- celebrate the achievement of excellence and innovation on behalf of the membership.

Managing the Present to Prepare for the Future

In order to achieve these goals, ILA will use its resources wisely and maintain a flexible structure that promotes the diverse interests and broad participation of members.

Vision Statement

The Illinois Library Association is indispensable in leading efforts in library advocacy and collaboration, and serving as a springboard to innovation and excellence in library services.

2015-2016 Executive Board

President

Betsy Adamowski, Wheaton Public Library

Vice President/President-Elect

Pattie Piotrowski, Illinois Institute of Technology

Immediate Past President

Jeannie Dilger, La Grange Public Library

Treasurer

Jeremy Dunn, Chicago Public Library

Directors

Christine Barr, Fabyan Elementary School

Veronica DeFazio, Plainfield Public Library District

Keshia Garnett, Berwyn Public Library

Richard Kong, Skokie Public Library

Dennis Krieb, Lewis & Clark Community College

Nancy Maloney, John Deere Library

Rick McCarthy, StudioGC

Rob Morrison, National Louis University

Brian Shepard, Indian Trails Public Library District

Amanda E. Standerfer, The Lumpkin Family Foundation

Christina Stoll, Indian Trails Public Library District

ALA Councilor

Allen Lanham, Eastern Illinois University

Ex Officio

Anne B. Craig, Illinois State Library

Robert P. Doyle, Illinois Library Association

2015–2016 ILA Staff

Robert P. Doyle, Executive Director

Cynthia M. Robinson, Conference and Continuing Education Manager

Tina Koleva, Member Services Manager

Linda Bostrom, Administrative Coordinator

Jon Daniels, Controller





A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Robert P. Doyle".

Robert P. Doyle
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