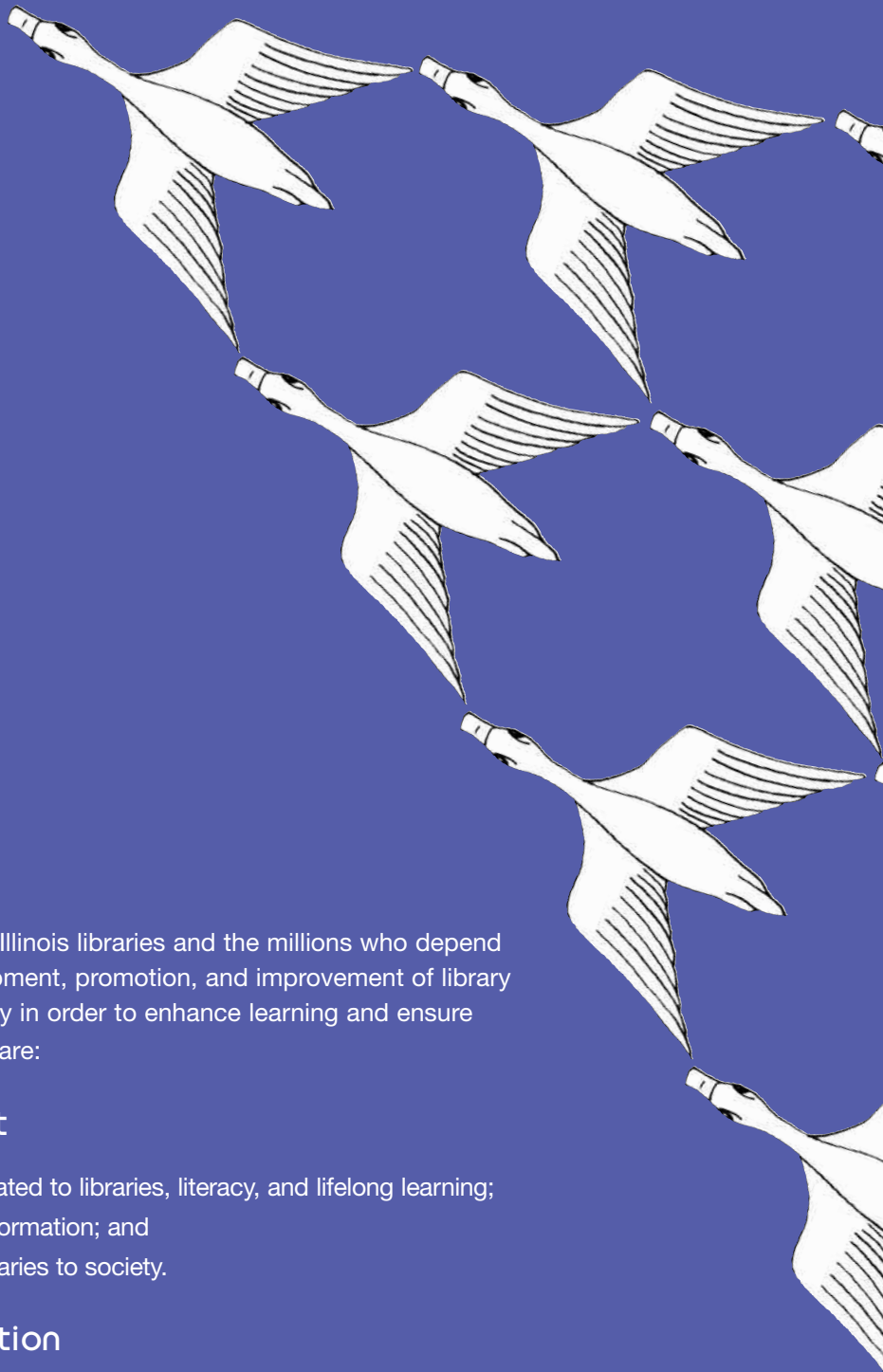


Leading the Way in Advocacy and Innovation



Annual Report 2007-2008

Illinois Library Association



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. Its primary goals are:

Advocating for the Public Interest

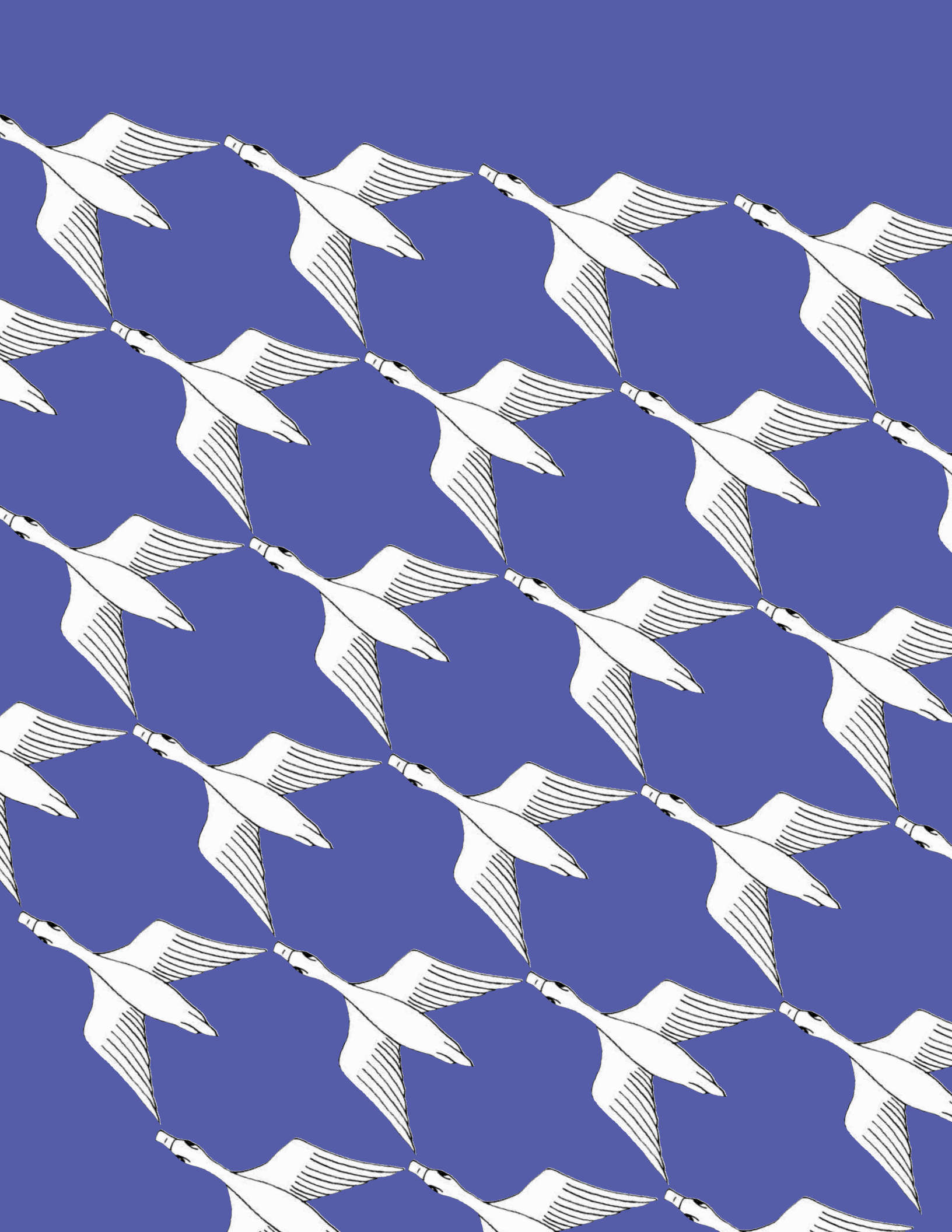
- » develop and promote strong public policy related to libraries, literacy, and lifelong learning;
- » defend intellectual freedom and access to information; and
- » increase public awareness of the value of libraries to society.

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.



The background of the entire page is a solid blue color. Overlaid on this background is a repeating pattern of white fish. Each fish is a simple line drawing with a white body, a black outline for the scales, fins, and tail, and a black eye. The fish are all oriented in the same direction, swimming towards the right side of the page. They are arranged in a somewhat staggered, overlapping pattern, creating a sense of a large school of fish.

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.

Dear ILA Members and Friends,

The proudest accomplishment of this year as your president is one that belongs to every member of this association: the development and completion of a new strategic plan for the association. Unveiled in the June 2008 *ILA Reporter*, this plan is driven by a dynamic vision for a more relevant and focused association. It is based on detailed and profound input from members, and was carefully crafted to ensure our activities maximize our resources.

This is not a modest plan that steps back from the challenges facing libraries, but a bold plan for the association to make a real difference for libraries in this environment of constant change. We are capable of that excellence and transformation, and our libraries and their patrons deserve no less.

The plan emphasizes the association's primary role in library advocacy, and confirms our overall mission, but makes several key shifts in how we conduct our everyday activities to advance these lofty goals. For example, communications will be retooled to take advantage of technology to push timely content out to members rather than expecting them to find it in static print or online formats. Our efforts in all areas will take into account what other organizations and individual libraries can do best, and limit our activities to those in which our statewide reach is unique.

One of things we do as an association, this year and every year, is lead by our example. This annual report chronicles some of those examples, ranging from our partnership with MySpace that resulted in distribution of more than two million bookmarks, providing information on making safe and informed decisions online, to receipt of a national award for our activities on behalf of intellectual freedom.

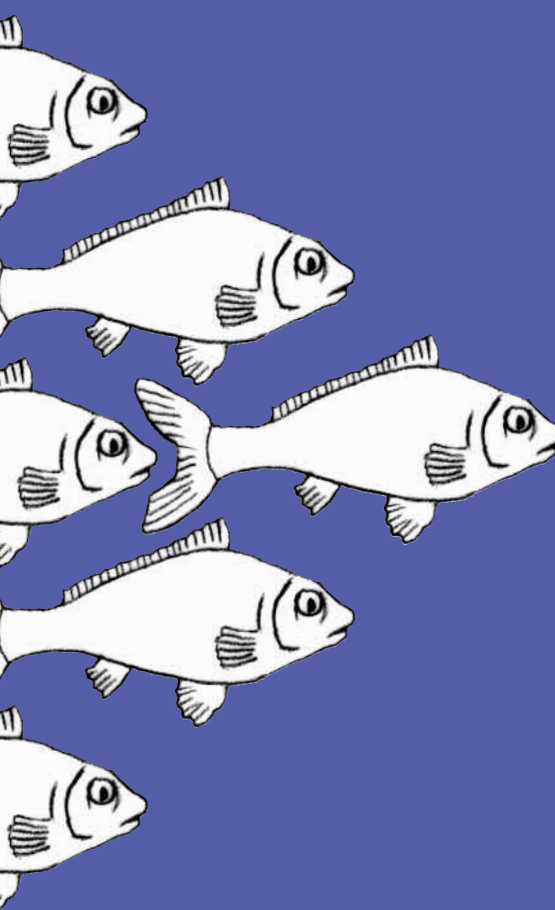
As always, we made our presence felt in Springfield and Washington, D.C., with informed and sizable delegations, advocating for the free flow of information and support for library services of all types. Our efforts were successful in defeating the sixteenth attempt to mandate statewide filtering legislation.

I look forward to the coming year and the changes it will bring to how we deliver information, and the ways in which we direct our time and energy to the tasks where the association can add the most value on behalf of our members. Most of all, I look forward to continuing to be part of the library community in Illinois and the association that works tirelessly—and indispensably—on its behalf.

Bradley F. Baker



ILA President, 2007–2008



Advocating for the Public Interest: 2007–2008

On April 10, the city of Springfield welcomed more than two hundred library supporters attending the 2008 Illinois Library Day. Sponsored jointly by the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois (CARLI), Illinois Library Association, Illinois Library Systems Directors Organization (ILSDO), Illinois School Library Media Association (ISLMA), Illinois chapter of the Special Libraries Association, and Illinois State Library, the event drew librarians from all over the state and from all types of libraries.

Library advocates met with their legislators and urged them to take action on the following bills:

- » Oppose House Bill (HB) 1727, mandating statewide public library Internet filters.
- » Support Senate Bill (SB) 2321, increasing funding for county law libraries.
- » Support House Bill (HB) 4202, allowing for disposal of withdrawn materials from Illinois academic libraries.
- » Support House Bill (HB) 4518, providing a fair process to dissolve local libraries that do not meet specific criteria (such as appropriate, elect library board, hold meetings).
- » Support House Bill (HB) 4527, increasing public library equalization and school library grants.

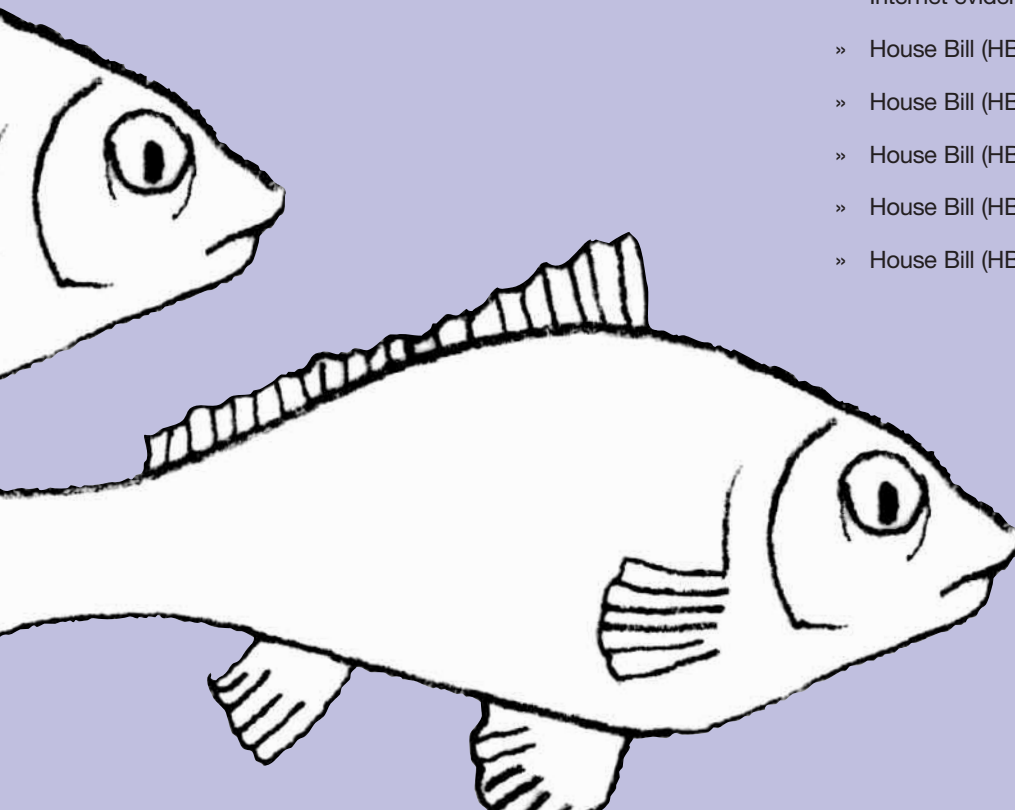
In May, Illinois again had the largest delegation attending National Library Legislative Day in Washington, D.C., with fifty-two attendees, or 13 percent of the total attendance for the event.

State Legislative Scorecard

The 2008 spring session of the Illinois General Assembly was again dominated by disputes between the governor and legislative leaders. As usual, the budget was the most contentious legislative issue. The general assembly passed a series of budget bills, but the governor vetoed almost \$1.5 billion from those budget bills. Despite efforts to override the budget vetoes in the House, the Senate refused to consider the override motions, and the governor's cuts went into effect. Legislators filed almost 3,500 individual bills. The Illinois Library Association tracked more than ninety bills and resolutions on a variety of issues including funding for libraries, intellectual freedom issues, local government operations, and other issues of importance to the library community.

The association's record in opposing legislation harmful to libraries was outstanding — all bills opposed by the association failed. Those bills were:

- » Senate Bill (SB) 1682, prohibiting social networking;
- » Senate Bill (SB) 1158, amending the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund;
- » Senate Bill (SB) 417, amending the Election Code to require that an elector subject to the Sex Offender Registration Act whose polling place is in a library or school must vote by absentee or early voting ballot;
- » Senate Bill (SB) 13, amending the property tax code;
- » House Bill (HB) 4380, amending the Board of Higher Education Act concerning student residential computer networks;
- » House Bill (HB) 2860, amending the criminal code regarding Internet evidence for law enforcement investigations;
- » House Bill (HB) 1727, mandating Internet filters;
- » House Bill (HB) 1226, mandating Internet filters;
- » House Bill (HB) 914, amending the property tax code;
- » House Bill (HB) 418, amending the property tax code; and
- » House Bill (HB) 23, amending the property tax code.



Our record for passage of bills supported by the association was nearly as impressive — four bills advanced by the association were passed by both chambers and sent to the governor, while two other bills passed in the House, but failed to advance out of the Senate Rules Committee.

- » Senate Bill (SB) 1865, sponsor: Senator Mike Noland (D-22, Elgin). Parental responsibility for minors damaging public property is currently limited to \$20,000; this bill increases the limit to \$30,000. Passed the Senate on April 17 by a vote of 54 to 0; House on May 30 by a vote of 113 to 0; and both houses May 30. The governor signed the bill on August 26 and it became Public Act 95-914.
- » Senate Bill (SB) 2321, sponsor: Senator Donne E. Trotter (D-17, Chicago). This bill allows county boards to authorize an increase in county law library fees (now, \$13) of not more than (i) \$18 in 2008, (ii) \$19 in 2009, and (iii) \$21 in 2010 and thereafter. Passed the Senate on April 17 by a vote of 42 to 12; House on May 22 by a vote of 76 to 34; and both chambers on May 22. The governor vetoed the bill on Tuesday, September 19, because it would allow local government, if they choose, to increase fees.
- » Senate Bill (SB) 2512, sponsor: Senator Terry Link (D-30, Lake Bluff). This Internet Safety Education Curriculum bill amends the School Code by providing that beginning with the 2009–2010 school year, a school district must incorporate into the curriculum a component on Internet safety to be taught at least once each school year to students in grade three or above. It further requires the State Board of Education to develop a model curriculum for educating children regarding child online safety and requires the State Board of Education to provide to each school district educational materials for parents regarding child online safety. Passed the Senate on April 3 by a vote of 48 to 8; House on May 30 by a vote of 106 to 8; and both houses May 31. The governor signed the bill on August 21 and it became Public Act 95-086.
- » House Bill (HB) 4527, sponsor: Representative Lou Lang (D-16, Skokie). Requested by the Illinois Secretary of State's Office and supported by Speaker Michael J. Madigan (D-22, Chicago), this bill changes equalization grant language in two significant areas: increases rate from \$4.25 to \$7.50 per capita and; increases minimum grant award to school libraries from \$100 to \$750. The per capita rate has not been increased since 1979 when the grant was created; the minimum grant level for schools has not been increased since 1994. Ten public libraries qualify for the equalization grants under the old limits; under the new formula, the number of public libraries that qualify will

increase to fifty-seven. In Fiscal Years (FY) 2007 and 2008, nearly 350 school districts received grants below the new minimum of \$750; it is expected that those school districts will benefit from HB 4527 in FY 09 and thereafter. Passed the House on April 3 by a vote of 108 to 0; Senate on May 20 by a vote of 56 to 0; and both houses May 20. The governor amendatorily vetoed the bill on Friday, August 15. The governor's changes take away local control and greatly add to the cost of providing local library service and ILA opposes the governor's changes. The sponsor of the bill will likely ask for an override of the governor's changes during the Fall 2008 Veto Session in November.

- » House Bill (HB) 4202, sponsor: Representative Dan Brady (R-88, Bloomington). This bill concerns the disposal of academic library materials and would amend the State Property Control Act. With respect to the transfer of books, serial publications, and other library materials to which the Act's transfer procedures do not apply, the bill adds items withdrawn from the transferring agency's library collection through a regular collection evaluation process; and adds non-profit agencies, whether located in or outside Illinois, to the list of entities to which such items may be transferred. The bill further authorizes sale of those items to the public at library book sales or to book dealers or the offer of those items through exchange to book dealers or to organizations, providing that revenues generated from such sales be retained by the agency and used for the purchase of library materials. Dane Ward from Illinois State University has been instrumental on working on this issue. HB 4202 passed in the Illinois House of Representatives by 109 to 0 on April 2, but never advanced out of the Senate Rules Committee.
- » House Bill (HB) 4518, sponsor: Representative Frank J. Mautino (D-76, Spring Valley). Referred to as "Libraries in Name Only," this bill received extensive discussion in the ILA Public Policy Committee (PPC) because of recent developments regarding four township referenda (Fall River Township, Farm Ridge Township, Freedom Township, and Wallace Township in LaSalle County) where library districts have been created without clear intention of providing library service. The bill was crafted using language recommended by ILA PPC and mirroring language in Park District laws regarding dissolution. HB 4518 passed in the Illinois House of Representatives by 112 to 0 on April 15, but never advanced out the Senate Rules Committee.

Both HB 4202 and 4518 were not controversial, as evidenced by the margins in the Illinois House of Representatives, but were victims of the current political climate in Springfield.

Promoting Professional Excellence: 2007–2008

The topical theme of the 2008 ILA Annual Conference — “Changing Libraries, Changing Communities” — focused on the practical as well as the visionary in librarianship. Michael Stephens, author of the Tame the Web blog (<http://tameweb.com>) and contributor to ALA’s TechSource blog (www.alatechsource.org/blog), presented the keynote address, “Revisioning Libraries for a Hyperlinked World.” The conference was held October 9–12 in Springfield.

Other highlights included author/illustrator Tom Lichtenheld speaking at the Youth Services Breakfast, an all-conference reception at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, and the first ever Illinois Library Book Cart Drill Team Competition. The Illinois Authors’ Luncheon featured Aaron Freeman. The comedian, actor, and journalist drew a capacity audience and helped conclude the conference on a humorous note.

ILA members and guests attended more than seventy sessions addressing topics from electronic intellectual freedom to serving ethnic populations, from passing referenda to library professional education. Conference attendance of 1,216 included 227 exhibitor representatives. A special thanks to the many sponsors and donors who made the conference possible, along with the members and visitors from around the world who made it memorable.

Continuing education across the state is a year-round event for the association. Selected examples include:

- » The Illinois Library Trustee Forum sponsored their annual Spring Workshop at the Hickory Ridge Marriott Conference Hotel in Lisle in February.
- » The Illinois Association for College and Research Libraries (IACRL) sponsored a very successful spring conference in Bloomington.
- » In April and May, the Youth Services Forum sponsored workshops in Plainfield and Edwardsville on the topic of “Tech Savvy Teens.”
- » “Show Me the Money! Financial Strategies for Your Library,” was held at the Lewis & Clark Library System in Edwardsville in April.
- » On Friday, May 9, the eighteenth annual Reaching Forward Conference of Library Assistants drew more than 1,000 attendees to the Rosemont Donald E. Stephens Convention Center. Joe Contrera, president and founder of Alive@Work, presented the keynote address, “Conquering Your Fear.”

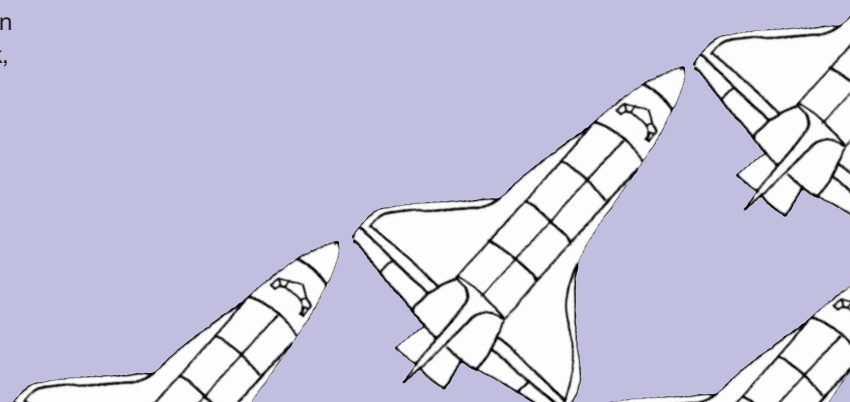
In addition to these workshops and conferences, ILA’s continuing education efforts were enhanced by the publication of *Illinois Library Laws & Rules in Effect January 2008*, and *Financial Manual for Illinois Public Libraries*.

Our public presence was underscored in a special partnership with MySpace. One million free Internet Safety bookmarks were produced and distributed in Illinois, along with another million distributed at the 2007 ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. Three different NetSafe bookmarks — *Dealing with Cyberbullies: Tips for Kids*, *Safe Blogging: Tips for Teens*, and *Social Networking: Tips for Parents* — were produced with \$60,000 in support from MySpace. Additional distribution included 3,000 free bookmarks at the 2007 Illinois Library Day in Springfield, 20,000 at the 2007 National Library Legislative Day in Washington, D.C., and thousands more to all attendees at the 2007 Reaching Forward Conference in Rosemont. ILA continued its educational efforts with the *ILA Reporter*, offering members a bimonthly window to the wider world of librarianship around the state and the nation. Special inserts in the *ILA Reporter* in 2007–2008 included:

- » *Books Challenged or Banned, 2006–2007* (April 2007)
- » *2006–2007 ILA Annual Report: Illinois Libraries: Generating Value in Dollars and Sense* (October 2007)
- » *2008 ILA Annual Conference Preliminary Program* (June 2008)

The 2008 iREAD theme, *Get in the Game, Read!*, brought Illinois libraries the colorful and imaginative graphics of Caldecott winner Tom Lichtenheld.

Finally, ILA won two significant national awards. ILA received a Google Grants award to deliver the association’s message to a targeted audience of Google users. And, the American Library Association recognized ILA’s two-pronged approach to defending intellectual freedom — advocacy in the Illinois General Assembly and U.S. Congress, and education for the library community and general public — by awarding the American Library Association’s Intellectual Freedom Round Table (IFRT) ProQuest/SIRS State and Regional Achievement Award to ILA.



Preparing for the Future: 2007–2008

It was a disappointing fiscal year for the association, which ended FY 2007–2008 with a \$9,092 deficit. A mix of economic factors contributed to the first ILA deficit in twelve years, but the general downturn in the U.S. economy is impacting libraries and our association. If these trends continue, it is foreseeable that the next fiscal year could record another loss.

The 2007 ILA Annual Conference in Springfield was \$24,180 under budget and ILA's long-term investments sustained a \$24,632 loss. ILA's long-term investments, however, did outperform other traditional market indices declining 8.07%; in the same time period, the S&P 500 Index lost 14.86% and the Dow Jones Industrial Average lost 15.36%.

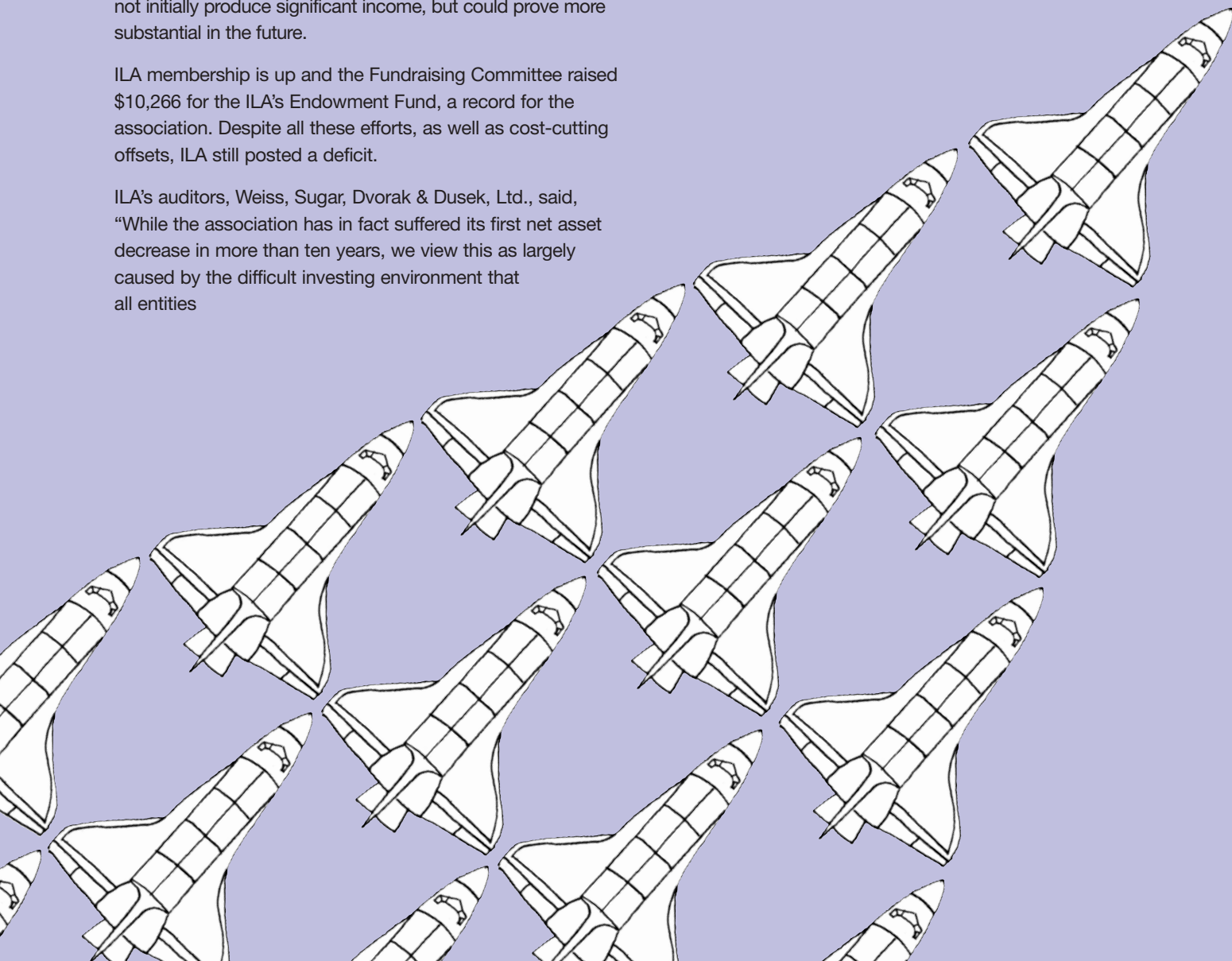
On the good news front, ILA had a successful year in publishing several revenue-generating products: the new NetSafe bookmarks, *Financial Manual for Illinois Public Libraries*, *Illinois Library Laws & Rules in Effect January 2008*, and very strong iREAD sales. The Australian Library and Information Association and ILA announced a new iREAD licensing agreement that will not initially produce significant income, but could prove more substantial in the future.

ILA membership is up and the Fundraising Committee raised \$10,266 for the ILA's Endowment Fund, a record for the association. Despite all these efforts, as well as cost-cutting offsets, ILA still posted a deficit.

ILA's auditors, Weiss, Sugar, Dvorak & Dusek, Ltd., said, "While the association has in fact suffered its first net asset decrease in more than ten years, we view this as largely caused by the difficult investing environment that all entities

(commercial and non-profit) have had to endure during 2008. If the effect of investment returns (earnings and unrealized losses) were disregarded, net assets would have increased by \$15,540. It should be noted that while your investments lost value during FY 2008, they still far outperformed the major market indices, and of course, a long-term approach to investing is necessary. The executive board and management should be commended for continuing to generate positive results from operations by partnering with Ancel Glink, MySpace, and Google in producing new opportunities and products such as the *Financial Manual for Illinois Public Libraries* and the NetSafe bookmarks despite a difficult economy and operating environment."

The ILA Executive Board pledges to continue to closely monitor and adjust association budgets to reflect market conditions. In addition to sound fiscal management, the executive board believes this year illustrates ways in which the association must continue to diversify income streams in order to maintain the financial health of the organization.



Membership

The Illinois Library Association represents all types of libraries — public, school, academic, and special libraries serving government, commerce, the armed services, hospitals, prisons, and other institutions. Its almost 3,000 members are primarily librarians and library staff, but also trustees, publishers, and other supporters.

Administration and Governance

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

Forums

Government Documents Forum
Illinois Association of College & Research Libraries Forum
Librarians for Social Responsibility Forum
Library Trustees Forum
Public Library Forum
Reaching Forward: Forum for Library Support Staff
Reference Services Forum
Resources and Technical Services Forum
Young Adult Services Forum
Youth Services Forum

Standing Committees

Awards Committee
Best Practices Committee
Conference Program Committee
Cultural and Racial Diversity Committee
Finance Committee
Fundraising Committee
Intellectual Freedom Committee
ILA Reporter Advisory Committee
iREAD Committee
Marketing Committee
Membership Committee
Nominating Committee
Public Policy Committee

2007/2008 Executive Board

President

Brad Baker, Northeastern Illinois University

Vice President/President-Elect

Donna Dziedzic, Naperville Public Library

Immediate Past President

Tamiye Meehan, Indian Trails Public Library District

Treasurer

Jamie Bukovac, Indian Prairie Public Library

Directors

Dean Bryan, Metropolitan Library System
Halle Cox, Kane County Law Library
Carole Dickerson, Freeport Public Library
Emily Guss, University of Illinois at Chicago
Robyn Hendricks, Decatur Public Library
Nancy Huntley, Lincoln Library
Julie M. Milavec, Plainfield Public Library District
Theodore C. Schwitzner, Illinois State University
Cristy Stupegia, Sparta Public Library
Jocelyn Tipton, Eastern Illinois University
H Dayle K. Zelenka, North Park University

ALA Councilor

Tina Hubert, Lewis & Clark Library System

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