



ILA:
Transforming
Challenges into
Opportunities





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.



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,

One of the challenges of the past year for just about everyone — libraries, individuals, governments, not to mention banks and automobile companies! — has been finding a way to stay positive in the face of sometimes daunting economic news. For the world as a whole and Illinois in particular, the election of Barack Obama to the presidency marked a new direction, one many of us have embraced: a commitment to face problems head-on, invest in our futures, and do the hard work needed to chart a new course. In short, to transform challenges into opportunities.

I, for one, feel fortunate to have had my own presidential year coincide with such a significant time for our state and nation. The association has faced challenges this year, as well, but we have met them with as much style and grace as we could muster and wrested several victories from the jaws of defeat.

The Illinois Library Association (ILA), in cooperation with Illinois Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White, commemorated the election of Illinois Senator Barack Obama as our nation's first African American president with the official Illinois Barack Obama license plate. Initially available only to owners of Illinois vehicles, these unique commemorative plates have attracted orders from almost every state in the nation, as well as Canada, France, Germany, and the Netherlands. Proceeds support the association's activities including iREAD, ILA's summer reading program, and the plates have already become the most popular special event plate in Illinois history. If you don't have a set, it's not too late: www.ila.org/obama.

One of the earliest initiatives of the Obama administration was passage of a massive federal stimulus package, designed to jump-start the faltering economy with public works projects that would put people to work and put dollars into circulation as quickly as possible. In December 2008, ILA compiled the *Illinois Library Shovel-Ready Construction/Renovation Projects* in anticipation of possible federal economic stimulus funds or a state capital bill. Since being sent to both state and federal officials, the list resulted in the passage of House Bill 312, Public Act 096-0035 and Senate Bill 1221, Public Act 096-0039, funding more than \$113 million in library capital projects.

And speaking of style, ILA hosted the first ever library-inspired fashion show at last fall's ILA conference with "Style from the Stacks: *Project Runway* at ILA." Thirty-six models walked the runway in fashions inspired by libraries and literature, modeled by librarians and library staff. Conceived by Maria Pontillas of the Glenview Public Library, the hugely successful event was reprised when several of the models served as hosts for the fortieth anniversary gala of the Freedom to Read Foundation, celebrated as part of the American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference held in Chicago on July 12, 2009.

One of ILA's own, Peggy Sullivan, received ALA's highest designation, being named an Honorary Member at the previous year's ALA Annual Conference in June 2008. In recognition of this achievement, the ILA Fundraising Committee launched a campaign to encourage \$50 contributions to the ILA Endowment in Peggy's honor, an amount inspired by her fifty years of service to the profession. As of June 30, 2009, donations totaled \$11,975 — congratulations, Peggy, and thanks to all her great friends and supporters in the profession.

The ILA E-newsletter launched in December 2008 and twenty-one issues have been published by June 30, 2009. The publication focuses on library-related stories appearing in local Illinois news media, alerting and informing ILA membership about issues and events considered significant by the general media. Previously, these clips were shared with the ILA leadership; this new vehicle allows broader distribution to any interested members.

This year's challenges have led to many opportunities, and we've done our best to capitalize on them as they presented themselves. One final opportunity, in the form of an LSTA grant, is being explored through a *Statewide Planning Proposal*. Dee Brennan, ILA member and director of the Oak Park Public Library, proposed this review of library cooperation in light of the many changes in libraries, technology, the information industry, society, and funding in recent years. This \$13,700 LSTA project will present the opportunity to gather library stakeholders to discuss the needs of Illinois residents and how libraries of all types can work together to strengthen their collaboration, to meet the fiscal challenges, prepare for the future, and meet the needs of Illinois residents in the most effective and economical ways possible.

My thanks and appreciation to my colleagues on the executive board, the ILA staff, and all the members who have made this challenging year one to remember. The experience has changed me in ways I couldn't have imagined, and I look forward to many more transformations to come — in libraries and in all of us.



Donna Dziedzic
ILA President, 2008–2009

Advocating for the Public Interest: 2008–2009

This year, one hundred and forty-two library supporters made their voices heard in Springfield on April 10 at the 2009 Illinois Library Day. Under the joint sponsorship of the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois (CARLI), Illinois Library Association (ILA), Illinois Library Systems Directors Organization (ILSDO), Illinois School Library Media Association (ISLMA), Illinois chapter of the Special Libraries Association, and Illinois State Library, librarians from all over the state and from all types of libraries made the case for libraries and freedom of information to Illinois's legislators and their staff members.

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

- Support **House Bill 49**, allowing for disposal of withdrawn materials from Illinois academic libraries.
- Support **House Bill 146** and **Senate Bill 103**, increasing funding for county law libraries.
- Support **House Bill 211**, 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 793**, amending the Open Meetings Act to permit an Illinois library system with jurisdiction over more than 4,500 square miles

to include members participating in a videoconference when determining the physical presence of a quorum at an open meeting.

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

State Legislative Scorecard

The 2009 spring session of the Illinois General Assembly was again dominated by budget disputes. The state's budget deficit was approximately \$9 billion. The general assembly and the governor failed to reach a budget deal by the scheduled adjournment date and once again the legislative session went into overtime. The major issue was whether to approve an increase in the state income tax. Finally, in mid-July a budget passed that did not include an income tax increase. The massive state deficit will be closed through \$3.6 billion in short-term borrowing, at least \$1 billion in budget cuts, a delay in \$3 billion in state vendor payments, and another \$1 billion appropriated but to be kept in a reserve. It is likely that the general assembly and governor will have to revisit budget issues as this fiscal year progresses.

Legislators filed over 7,000 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:

- **House Bill 1312**, would have created the Social Networking Web site Access Restriction Act. This legislation would have been impossible for social networking sites to comply with, and would have resulted in less access to such sites.
- **House Bill 3800**, would have amended the Criminal Code to make it illegal for a child sex offender to knowingly be present in a library or to knowingly loiter within 500 feet of a library. ILA argued that this was a potentially unworkable and unfunded mandate. The position of the ILA Executive Board is that access to library facilities and services are a matter of local control best left to individual libraries.
- **Senate Bill 1294**, would have prohibited child sex offenders to be present at any portion or area of a public library facility designated by the library's governing board of library trustees or by the library commission for use primarily by children under the age of eighteen, as well as any program in the public library facility directed toward children under the age of eighteen.
- **Senate Bill 2078**, would have amended the Illinois Local Library Act to provide that any non-resident, and that non-resident's immediate family, who owns taxable property within a city, incorporated town, village, or township that has established a public library is entitled to the same services and benefits of the library as a resident cardholder. The ILA Executive Board opposed changing the current rules on access by non-residents.



Our record for passage of bills supported by the association was nearly as impressive — seven bills advanced by the association were passed by both chambers and signed by the governor.

- **House Bill 49**, Public Act 96-498. This legislation amends the State Library Act and the State Property Control Act. It permits the Illinois State Library and state academic libraries to routinely manage their collections and properly dispose of library materials. It specifically permits the sale or transfer of library materials to nonprofit agencies as well as the sale of materials through book sales to dealers and other appropriate organizations. The legislation would require that the proceeds from such sales be used only for the purchase of new library materials.
- **House Bill 146**, Public Act 96-227. This legislation permits Illinois county boards to adjust county circuit court clerk filing fees in support of county law libraries. The fees are capped at a maximum of \$18 in 2009, \$19 in 2010, and \$21 in 2011 and thereafter. If a county board decides to adjust this local fee, the board would have to pass an ordinance through a public process and the revenues must be used to support the county law library. Judges, attorneys, and litigants use county law libraries. Increasingly pro se litigants are turning to the county law library for assistance. The costs for library operations and services have increased dramatically, especially for new and expanded electronic resources.
- **House Bill 211**, Public Act 96-500. This legislation amends the Illinois Local Library Act to provide a procedure to dissolve a public library that has failed to operate or comply with the Local Library Act. The dissolution process was modeled after an existing statute for dissolution of a non-functioning park district. A library may be dissolved by court order after a finding

that the library does not comply with the statutory requirements. It is important to have a process for dissolving a non-functioning library. While not providing service but still officially recognized, library patrons in that service area are denied library privileges at neighboring libraries. Essentially, these patrons have no library service available. Dissolution of a non-functioning library will permit patrons in that service area to seek privileges as a non-resident at the nearest library.

- **House Bill 242**, Public Act 96-501. This legislation brings consistency to the Property Tax Extension Limitation Act (tax caps). Currently tax caps allow a small annual adjustment in the aggregate extension levy for operational purposes. This annual adjustment is equal to the lesser of 5 percent or the consumer price index. However, the debt extension levy has been frozen without any annual adjustment since 1995. House Bill 242 allows the debt extension levy to be adjusted by the same small amount as the operations levy. This legislation is prospective only, but will greatly benefit units of local government as they pursue job-creating capital projects.
- **House Bill 793**, Public Act 96-664. This legislation amends the Open Meetings Act to permit an Illinois library system with jurisdiction over more than 4,500 square miles to include members

participating in a videoconference when determining the physical presence of a quorum at an open meeting. Currently, only a public body with statewide jurisdiction may include members participating in a videoconference when establishing a quorum. Library systems with vast territory such as these make it virtually impossible for their boards to establish a physical quorum in one location. These unpaid board members must travel long distances at great hardship. All meetings and all sites are still open to the public in all other respects.

- **Senate Bill 1285**, Public Act 96-648. This legislation amends the General Not For Profit Corporation Act of 1986 to provide that voting members or their proxies, belonging to a not-for-profit corporation, may conduct elections for directors, officers, or representatives by mail, e-mail, or other electronic means if the corporation's bylaws so provide (instead of conducting elections for directors and officers exclusively by first-class mail only).
- **Senate Bill 1390**, Public Act 96-649. This legislation amends the General Not For Profit Corporation Act of 1986 to provide greater flexibility to associations in conducting business via e-mail or any other electronic means.

Promoting Professional Excellence: 2008–2009

The 2008 ILA Annual Conference theme of “Libraries = Access: Provide, Promote, Protect” focused on the challenges facing libraries in the current technological, economic, and philosophical climate. The conference was held September 23–26 in Chicago.

Jamie LaRue, director of the Douglas County (Colo.) Libraries, presented the keynote address based on his book, *The New Inquisition*. LaRue, who writes a newspaper column as well as a blog and has long worked to incorporate the public into public librarianship, discussed how librarians can be effective advocates for intellectual freedom and patron privacy while maintaining a positive relationship with elements of their communities who may disagree. He advocates getting to know and understand the challengers to library materials and making every library function, from collection building to community outreach, an opportunity for engagement.

Other highlights included author/illustrator Patrick Girouard speaking at the Youth Services Breakfast, an entire day designed specifically for library trustees, and the second Illinois Library Book Cart Drill Team Competition. The Illinois Authors’ Luncheon featured Bill Barnes and Gene Ambaum, the creators of *Unshelved*, the library comic strip. Their presentation, “A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Library,” helped conclude the conference on a humorous note.

The conference scene-stealer, however, was “Style from the Stacks: *Project Runway* at ILA,” drawing its inspiration from the Bravo hit television series. Disproving the staid and quiet image much of the public holds about our profession, the thirty-six librarians who modeled their creations included “Due Date Maternity Wear,” “Charlotte the Webrarian,” and concluded with “And They Lived Happily Ever After,” a wedding dress fashioned out of romance novels.

ILA President Donna Dziejczic compared the challenges of the television designers to those of Illinois librarians: “Shrinking budgets, growing workloads, inadequate staffing, changing technologies, and a demanding public challenge our libraries. But, as evident in the fashions displayed here tonight, our creativity, dedication, and resourcefulness prevail and, in the end, we always pull it together with style.”

ILA members and guests attended more than seventy sessions at the conference addressing a wide variety of topics. Conference attendance of 2,187 included 407 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.
- In May, the Youth Services Forum sponsored workshops in Bolingbrook and Edwardsville on the topic of “Legal Issues Facing Today’s Librarians.”
- On Friday, May 1, the nineteenth annual Reaching Forward Conference of Library Assistants drew more than 1,000 attendees to the Rosemont Donald E. Stephens Convention Center. Michael Stephens, assistant professor, Dominican University and author of the blog *Tame the Web*, presented the keynote address, “Hyperlinked Library Services for Everyone.”

In addition to these workshops and conferences, ILA’s continuing education efforts were enhanced by the publication of *Serving Our Public 2.0: Standards for Illinois Public Libraries*.

On the publishing front, ILA introduced a new service — ILA E-news — reducing design, printing, and mailing costs for the *ILA Reporter* and minimizing the association’s environmental footprint. The electronic newsletter incorporates the following sections, now published only in online form: In the News, Announcements, Committee and Forum News, and the Calendar, as well library-related stories appearing in local Illinois news media. For the last seven years, these newspaper articles had been shared on an almost daily basis with the ILA leadership to keep them abreast of library issues, and the same information is now available to the full membership at no additional cost.

These changes are part of a more cost-effective communications plan that includes a slimmer, more colorful, and thought-provoking *ILA Reporter*. Lead articles in 2009 highlighted exemplary Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grants with the goal of inspiring librarians to say, “We can do that!” Illinois libraries are a fertile ground of

Preparing for the Future: 2008–2009

experimentation, with more LSTA grants than any other state in the nation. These projects benefit not only the individual grantees, but build a stronger foundation for all libraries that are inspired by these models of excellence and innovation, refining and adapting them to their own use. Special inserts in the *ILA Reporter* in 2008–2009 included:

- *Books Challenged or Banned, 2007–2008* (April 2008)
- *2007–2008 ILA Annual Report: Leading the Way in Advocacy and Innovation* (October 2008)
- *2009 ILA Annual Conference Preliminary Program* (June 2009)

Finally, joining Judy Blume, Judith F. Krug, Sidney Sheldon, Frank Zappa, and many others, ILA's Executive Director Robert P. Doyle was inducted into the Freedom to Read Foundation (FTRF) Roll of Honor. The award was presented at the 2009 American Library Association Annual Conference during its Opening General Session at McCormick Place in Chicago. The FTRF Roll of Honor was established in 1987 to recognize and honor those individuals who have contributed substantially to FTRF through adherence to its principles and/or substantial monetary support. This recognition extends to the work of the association on behalf of these core values of the profession.

"Bob's reputation as a fierce advocate of intellectual freedom is known throughout the library world. He has successfully shepherded ILA through quite a few legislative attempts to restrict intellectual freedom, and under his leadership, ILA has trained countless librarians on their rights and responsibilities under the First Amendment," said Roll of Honor Committee Chair Kent Oliver. Doyle's name was added to the Roll of Honor for his "stellar support of the Freedom to Read Foundation as a pillar of this organization — as staff, trustee, advisor, organizer, donor, and advocate — for three decades."

Despite the economic downturn, the association ended FY 2008–2009 with a \$28,713 surplus, an exceptionally good performance in an extremely difficult climate. As with the rest of the world, ILA's long-term investments sustained a significant \$53,574 loss, but still managed to outperform other major economic indices. The association's portfolio loss of 15.05 percent compares favorably with losses of more than 28 percent for the Standard & Poor's 500 index and more than 25 percent for the Dow Jones Industrial Average. ILA's membership dues also declined by \$10,592.

New sources of revenue, such as the Obama Special Event License Plates and a successful 2008 ILA Annual Conference in Chicago that exceeded budget expectations, contributed to the association's economic health. A special initiative of the ILA Fundraising Committee raised \$11,975 for the Endowment Fund, a record for the association. In addition, cost-cutting offsets were employed wherever possible to guard against potential shortfalls and contributed to the overall budget surplus.

ILA's auditors, Weiss, Sugar, Dvorak & Dusek, Ltd., said, "The executive board and management should be commended for a very successful annual conference and creative cooperative venture with the Illinois Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White enabling the association to post a surplus for the year, despite

sustaining a net loss of \$53,574 from long-term investments during FY 2009. Investments still outperformed the major market indices, and of course, a long-term approach to investing is necessary."

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.



ILA Fiscal Report

Year Ended June 30, 2009

REVENUE

General Operations	\$ 43,165
Membership	\$ 330,587
Directory/Reporter	\$ 27,632
Conference	\$ 434,442
Board	\$ 0
Publications	\$ 144,339
iREAD	\$ 226,494
Public Policy	\$ 4,000
Awards	\$ 3,737
Endowment	\$ 11,975
Workshops/Projects	\$ 24,147
Reaching Forward	\$ 111,792
Total Revenue	\$ 1,362,310

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

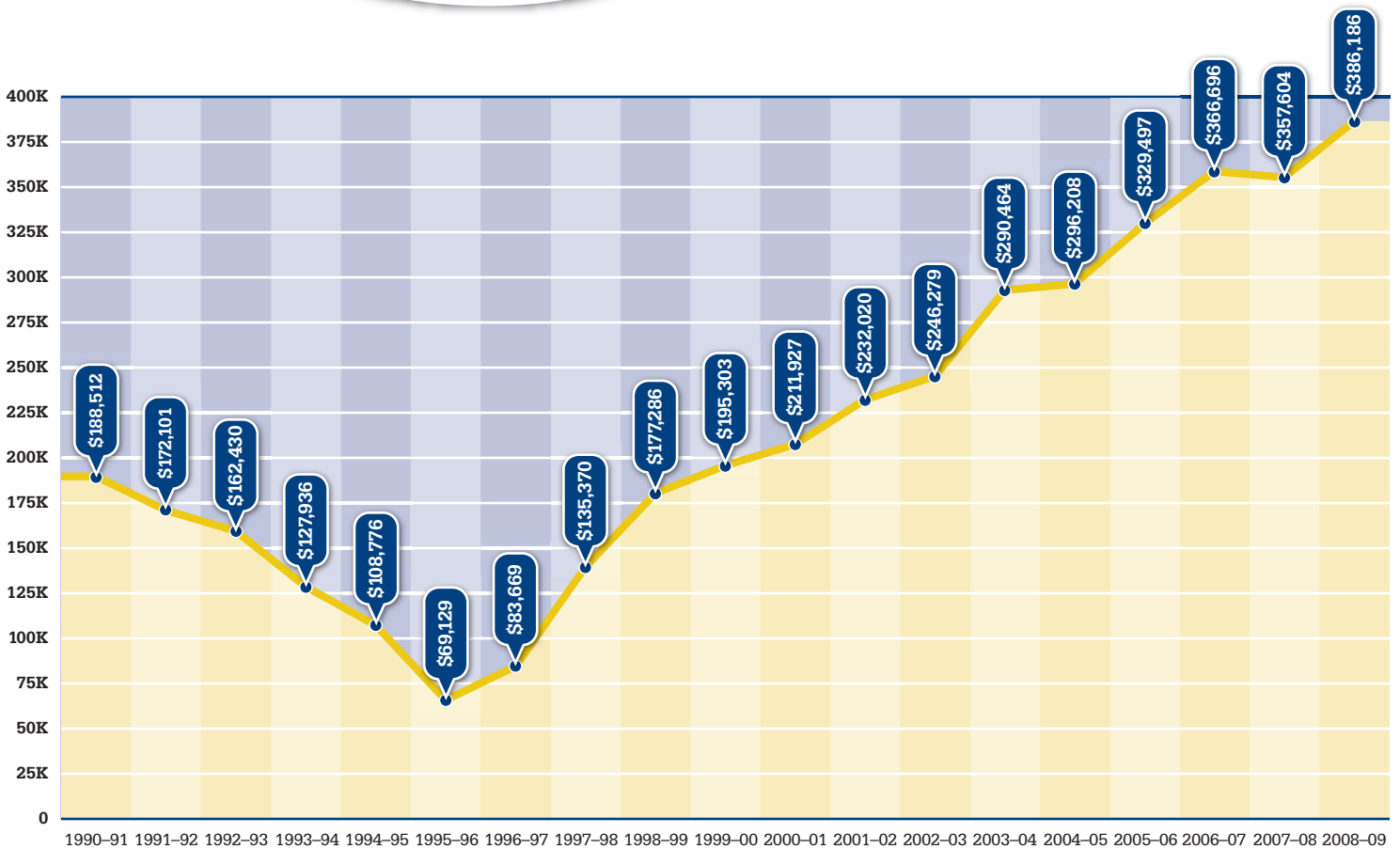
General Operations	\$ 415,823
Membership/Directory/Reporter	\$ 102,818
Conference	\$ 281,430
Board/Committee	\$ 5,046
Publications	\$ 71,015
iREAD	\$ 208,500
Public Policy	\$ 63,161
Awards	\$ 9,964
Workshops/Projects	\$ 23,549
Professional Development	\$ 1,005
Forums	\$ 610
Reaching Forward	\$ 97,103
Total Expenses	\$ 1,280,024

Net Income before Loss on Long-Term Investments	\$ 82,286
Loss on Long-term Investments	\$ -53,574
Net Income	\$ 28,712
Net Assets at end of FY 2008	\$ 357,604
Net Assets at end of FY 2009	\$ 386,316

Net Assets are Comprised of:

Unrestricted Net Assets	\$ 322,259
Temporarily Restricted Assets	\$ 25,015
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atkinson Memorial Award (\$3,677) • Student Librarian Scholarship (\$2,979) • deLafayette Reid Fund for Continuing Education (\$4,283) • Robert R. McClarren Award Fund for Legislative Development (\$848) • Sylvia Murphy Williams Fund (\$5,831) • Legal Defense Fund (\$555) • Preiser Award (\$2,104) • Illinois Library Day (\$4,738) 	
Permanently Restricted Assets	\$ 39,042
Total Net Assets at end of FY 2009	\$ 386,316

Historical Overview of Net Assets



CUMULATIVE SURPLUS

After thirteen years of expanding services, reduced staffing, and aggressive cost controls, the association has ended the last thirteen fiscal years with surpluses totalling \$317,187.

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	\$317,187

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 Trustee Forum
Public Library Forum
Reaching Forward: Forum for Library Support Staff
Reference Services Forum
Resources & Technical Services Forum
Young Adult Services Forum
Youth Services Forum

STANDING COMMITTEES

Advocacy Committee
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

2008/2009 EXECUTIVE BOARD

PRESIDENT

Donna Dziedzic,
Naperville Public Library

VICE PRESIDENT/PRESIDENT-ELECT

Carole Medal,
Gail Borden Public Library District

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Bradley F. Baker,
Northeastern Illinois University

TREASURER

Jamie Bukovac,
Indian Prairie Public Library

DIRECTORS

Betsy Adamowski,
Itasca Community Library

Halle Cox,
Kane County Law Library

Carole Dickerson,
Freeport Public Library

Emily Guss,
University of Illinois at Chicago

Dianne Happ,
Peoria Public Library

Robyn Hendricks,
Decatur Public Library

Theodore C. Schwitzner,
Illinois State University

Cristy Stupegia,
Sparta Public Library

Diana Brawley Sussman,
Southern Illinois Talking Book Center

Jocelyn Tipton,
Eastern Illinois University

H Dayle K. Zelenka,
North Park University

ALA COUNCILOR

Tina Hubert,
Lewis & Clark Library System

EX OFFICIO

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