



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

JESSE WHITE • Secretary of State

ILLINOIS CENTER FOR THE BOOK ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY

Gwendolyn Brooks Building, Room #510

Thursday, October 22, 2015

11:30

Held by teleconference at:

1-888-494-4032

MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Danczak Lyons called the meeting to order at 11:33 am.

Chair Danczak-Lyons welcomed everyone to the meeting and new members, Carrie Sheridan and Joanna Beth Tweedy were introduced and welcomed to the committee.

Roll call was taken by Jill Heffernan.

PRESENT:

Karen Danczak-Lyons

Ray Elliott

Tom Jones

Peggy Montes

Bill Seiden

Carrie Sheridan

Joanna Beth Tweedy

Michael Tyler

ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY STAFF PRESENT:

Anne Craig

Bonnie Matheis

Jeanne Urbanek

Jill Heffernan

OTHERS PRESENT:

Veronda Pitchford

Tammy Potts

MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING:

Ms. Montes moved to adopt the minutes of the May 21, 2015 Illinois Center for the Book Advisory Committee meeting. Mr. Seiden seconded. Motion passed

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Illinois State Library Director Anne Craig thanked everyone for their participation in the meeting and talked about the Ethics and Conflict of Interest Forms. It is a requirement for committee members to complete and return the forms each fiscal year.

There is still no state budget for FY16. This is unprecedented and there is no news as to when this impasse will be resolved. This is affecting the Illinois State Library in that we aren't able to pay any bills, including the committee's travel expenses. This is the reason this meeting which is normally in-person was changed to a teleconference. It also

means the Illinois State Library grant programs are unable to move forward in FY16. Given this, there are a number of grantees in dire straits as they depend on the annual grants from the State Library for operating revenue.

COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY ILLINOIS CENTER FOR THE BOOK PROGRAMS

Family Reading Night – Ms. Matheis noted that Family Reading Night is November 19 this year. The theme is “Camp Out With a Good Book!” After mailing one third of this year’s Family Reading Night orders, we were informed that the State Library’s postage budget was depleted. Director Craig contacted the library systems about this situation and we were given permission to use the Illinois Library Delivery Service for the delivery of the remaining orders.

In 2016, we are partnering with the Illinois Library Association to continue their iREAD theme from the summer into the fall with the Family Reading Night poster and bookmark graphics. The new poster should be posted to the website in December. The Illinois Reading Council’s ILLINOIS READS program continues to partner with us by concluding on Family Reading Night. Through their connections with the schools, we saw a 14% increase in poster and bookmarks orders last year.

Illinois Authors Wiki – The upkeep of the Wiki is an ongoing process. Authors are continually being added and existing author profiles updated. With the LGBT Legacy Wall Traveling Exhibit being at the State Library this month, the concentration turned to the research and adding of new LGBT authors and enriching the profiles of existing LGBT authors in the Wiki. This research was also used to create a bibliography of LGBT Illinois authors that was added to the State Library website especially for the exhibit.

Illinois Emerging Writers Competition – Normally at this time of the year, we would be in full swing for the Emerging Writers Award Ceremony. Due to this year’s state budget impasse, the announcement of the winners and the awards ceremony have been put on an indefinite hold as checks cannot be issued until the State Library receives authority to do so from the Illinois Comptroller’s office. Regardless of this, the winners have been selected and vetted. Everything is ready to go on our end once we get the word that we can move forward.

Bluestem at Eastern Illinois University is a new publishing partner that came aboard this year.

Illinois Literary Heritage Award – As the website was being updated, it became apparent that the award should be expanded to allow for more opportunities to partner and present the award to acknowledge a broader range of significant contributions to our literary culture and heritage as a whole. See Appendix B for the update.

This change allowed the Center the chance to present the award on October 19th to author and civil rights leader, Congressman John Lewis, co-author, Andrew Aydin and illustrator, Nate Powell for their collaboration on the award winning graphic novel series, *March*. The three authors were speaking at the University of Illinois Springfield for the culmination of the One Book, One UIS Program that highlighted their book series. Director Craig presented the award at a private reception before their program at the university. Jane Treadwell, Dean of Brookens Library at UIS, was acknowledged for this partnership.

Read for a Lifetime – Ms. Urbanek reported that in school year 2014/2015 there were 860 students who participated in the program who read a total of 4,769 books. 23 of the students were seniors who participated all four years and 19 of those students read all 25 books this year and 2 students read all 100 titles in the past four years. All students who participate receive certificates signed by the Secretary White. 2014/2015 was the 17th year of the program.

Website – Ms. Matheis announced that, as of today, the Illinois Center for the Book website has been converted to a new platform. It highlights the new Library of Congress states affiliate logo and has a more user friendly interface. Thanks were given to State Library Information Systems Coordinator, Jim Shepard, for his hard work on this project.

CENTER FOR THE BOOK/LIBRARY OF CONGRESS PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

It is affiliation renewal time with the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. Our renewal report is due December 31, 2015. In it, Bonnie will include a summary of the activities accomplished over the past three years and the direction of the Illinois Center for the Book for the next three years.

Affiliate Logo – The Center for the Book in the Library of Congress designed new a new logo for each of the affiliate state centers. The logos are the same format with the state name being the only difference. A copy of the logo is included on the agenda.

Letters About Literature – Last year, marked the 8th year that Illinois had the highest number of participants - 6901. Also, last year's Level III winner had an article written about her and the competition in the *Washington Post* in July entitled "How a poem helped save a suicidal teen's life."

For 2016, the program has a new national sponsor – Dollar General Literacy Foundation. The deadlines to enter are: Level III, December 4, 2015 and Levels I and II January 11, 2016. The state budget impasse has also adversely affected this program in that there is no postage to send out the annual mailer to the Illinois schools we receive from the Illinois State Board of Education. National has been informed of this. Our workaround for the hard copy mailer was to send emails to past participating teachers. While this doesn't open any new doors and there were some emails that bounced back, it at least got the new entry forms to those who support the program. As in the past, information was posted to the ISLMA and SPLMI listervs, the Illinois State Library's Weekly Enews and a Secretary of State press release was sent out on September 1st.

Little Free Library™ – In June, National called to see if we would be interested in hosting a *Little Free Library Build Day* as part of the *Little Free Library on the Road to the National Book Festival* tour which is part of a bigger tour - *Across America With Little Free Library*. The *Illinois Build Day* was hosted at the State Library on August 25. We were the second stop on the tour. A call for participants was put in the State Library's Enews. The participating groups included: Athens Municipal Library, Chenoa Public Library District, Giant City School in Carbondale, Illinois READS, Illinois Reading Council, Midlothian Public Library, Princeton Public Library, Rochester Public Library, Sherrard Public Library District, Six Mile Regional Library District in Granite City, Springfield Southeast High School and Wyoming Public Library District. The Illinois State Library received a City of Distinction Award from Todd Bol, the Executive Director of the *Little Free Library* program, for the "innovative civic implementation of *Little Free Libraries*" in recognition of the "Little Libraries" the Illinois State Library has at the state agencies. It was a very successful venture.

National Book Festival – The Festival took place September 5th in Washington D.C. This year, Bonnie was not able to attend due to the state budget impasse. After learning this, National was alerted and made arrangements for Jr. League volunteers to staff the Illinois table the entire day. Bonnie contacted other state centers to make sure a copy of Tom Lichtenheld's book, *Stick and Stone* made it to the Young Readers Center in the Library of Congress.

Each year an author from each state is highlighted by the state centers. Illinois highlights the Illinois Reading Council's Prairie State Award Winner. This year that author was, Tom Lichtenheld. As the Festival nears, Bonnie contacts the author and asks him/her to select the book to highlight. Tom selected - *Stick and Stone*, a book he illustrated.

States Idea Exchange – This annual meeting of the state centers will take place April 25 and 26, 2016. It is always a great opportunity to learn more about the projects of other state centers, share ideas and collaborate on nationwide projects and ideas under our affiliation with the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. Currently, the group is working on a collaborative author map of the nation.

PARTNERSHIPS

American Library Association – United for Libraries:

Literary Landmarks – United for Libraries is the division of ALA in charge of Literary Landmarks. Dedications are made to honor a special location in a community that is tied to a deceased literary figure. In April, we worked with the Carl Sandburg State Historic Site Association to dedicate the site as a Literary Landmark. This was a very successful partnership and we are looking for other potential partnerships to host other Literary Landmarks in Illinois.

Some of the key components to dedicating a site include having: someone dedicated to/organization responsible for maintaining the site, a dedication keynote program, a funder to pay for the cost of the plaque and pole if necessary and a complete narrative with substantial information about the author and site submitted to United for Libraries for

approval. The program for the Carl Sandburg Literary Landmark was held on April 25th, the last day of the Carl Sandburg Festival. There was much community support and the program drew people from around the world.

We are interested in dedicating other sites with organizations who would host a ceremony like we did with the Sandburg groups. Ray Elliott noted that the Handy Writers Colony in Marshall, Illinois is a Literary Landmark and that James Jones was born and raised in Robinson. Ray also noted that Irene Hunt grew up in Newton. Joanna Beth Tweedy mentioned Sallie Logan and her literary quest in Southern Illinois. She was John A. Logan's wife and the library in Murphysboro is named after her.

Illinois Library Association:

ILLINOIS READS Author Showcase – On Director Craig's suggestion, Bonnie worked with ILA staff to dedicate a day of the Illinois Author Showcase to the Illinois Reading Council's IL READS Authors. That Showcase will be held tomorrow from 11:30 to 1:30 at the Association's annual conference in Peoria. With the state budget impasse, Bonnie is not able to attend the conference but Karen Egan from the State Library and Tammy Potts from the Reading Council will be there and will help the authors at the Showcase. Five of the 2015 IL READS authors will be in attendance - Gayle Rosengren, Leanne Statland Ellis, Marianne Malone, Rebecca Makkai and Scott Gustafson.

iREAD – This is the summer reading program of the Illinois Library Association. As Bonnie mentioned earlier, we've met and worked with the Library Association staff and their artists to continue the iREAD theme through to the fall on the 2016 Family Reading Night poster and bookmark. The 2016 theme is: "Read – For the Win!" The new poster should be posted to the Center's website in December.

Illinois Reading Council:

Annual Conference – The conference was held October 1st – 3rd in Peoria. The Reading Council once again offered the Center complimentary booth space to distribute Family Reading Night materials. Bonnie also serves on the IL READS and Prairie State Award Committees and was invited to attend both ceremonies at the conference. With the state budget impasse, she was unable to attend. However, Bonnie packed up 30,000 Family Reading Night bookmarks and 200 packets with 1000 Family Reading Night posters and order forms. Reading Council member, Leslie Forsman, took them to the conference to hand out at her Librarian Roundtable and at the Reading Council booth. Last year, we distributed 23,700 Family Reading Night bookmarks and 600 posters. Tammy Potts noted the Reading Council has a very active board of directors and almost 5,000 members across the state.

ILLINOIS READS – This is a Reading Council reading initiative for all ages to read books by Illinois authors. There are six age bands with six different books each from birth – adult. Bonnie serves on the Book Selection Committee. The 2016 books and authors were selected in July. The program kicks-off in the Spring and ends on Family Reading Night in the Fall. This year, Bonnie highlighted one author each week in the ISL weekly Enewsletter. With the Center being dedicated to the literary heritage of Illinois, this program has been a great partnership in helping us recognize Illinois authors. Later this afternoon, Tammy Potts will be presenting "IL READS + Family Reading Night = A Reading State of Mind" program at the Library Association conference.

Prairie State Award for Excellence in Writing for Children – This award recognizes an Illinois childrens/young adult author whose body of work demonstrates excellence, engenders a love of literature and promotes lifelong literacy. Earlier this year, Bonnie was asked to serve on this committee. Julia Durango was announced as the 2015 recipient at the Reading Council Conference Awards Ceremony. We will, in turn, highlight Julia and a book of her choosing at the National Book Festival next year.

ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

In her role as an employee of the Illinois State Library, Bonnie has also been involved in the following ISL activities.

#Discover Will/First Folio Project – Lake County Discovery Museum is the Illinois host for Shakespeare's First Folio Exhibition February 3-26, 2016. We're helping to publicize this exhibit and will be posting information in the Library's Enews. Bonnie is serving as the State Library liaison for this program.

Illinois Senior Spelling Bee State Finals –This is a statewide program that provides Illinois adults over the age of 50 the opportunity to celebrate their spelling abilities, allow continual learning, and keep their brains active. The Spelling Bee was held on August 17 at the Illinois State Fair. Bonnie and Sharon Ruda, the Associate Director of the State Library Talking Book and Braille Service, served as judges again this year.

Illinois State Library Advisory Committee – The role of this committee is to advise the State Library in the development of state and federal library plans; provide input in addressing policies, issues and activities for library development and cooperation among different types of libraries; make recommendations concerning the evaluation of statewide services; and address the use of technology to expand access to information for the state’s citizens. Bonnie attended September 10th video conference meeting.

Illinois Veterans History Project – This project was created after Congress passed a law in 2000 authorizing the Library of Congress to collect and preserve the histories of American veterans and civilians who served in wars. The Illinois program mirrors the national program. The Illinois State Library hosted an event on September 22 and Bonnie helped the day of the event.

LGBT Legacy Wall Traveling Exhibit – The Illinois State Library is hosting the debut of the *Legacy Wall*, an interactive LGBT history exhibit featuring stories of LGBT people from diverse backgrounds. The exhibit is based on the Legacy Walk in Chicago. Bonnie worked with the Reference and Diversity Divisions of the State Library to research and create the author list for the exhibit. As stated earlier, this project also served as a catalyst to update the LGBT authors in the Wiki.

Project Next Generation – This is an educational technology initiative of the Secretary to help educate at-risk students and bridge the digital divide. Bonnie helped at the annual event hosted on August 13th at the State Library.

Bonnie also mentioned that since the creation of the agenda, she has been brought in on preliminary planning meetings for a group celebration of the Illinois Bicentennial with the State Library and the State Archives.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Before leaving the meeting, Veronda Pitchford announced she attended the meeting to see how we might partner with Reaching Across Illinois Library System, especially with their *Soon to be Famous Illinois Author Project*.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held in the spring of 2016. More information will follow at that time.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Jones moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Montes seconded. Meeting adjourned at 12:57 pm.