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A Newsletter from the Illinois State Library — Jesse White, Secretary of State & State Librarian

May/June
2012

INSIGHT

Secretary White awards \$1.4 million for school libraries

Fiscal year 2012 School District Library Program Grants totaling nearly \$1.4 million have been awarded to 648 Illinois public school districts. More than 1.7 million students served by school library media programs will benefit from the grants. The program provides funds for such things as library materials to support reading for academics and enjoyment, library subscriptions to electronic resources, or improved technology to support student research.

"As a former public school teacher and administrator, I know our school libraries are so important in helping students learn and prepare themselves for the future," said Secretary of State Jesse White. "Several studies in recent years have shown that students perform better in the classroom in school districts that have strong library media programs.

"Illinois was the first state to implement a school district grant program, and I'm pleased that we can continue to provide school libraries with some of the financial resources they need to produce well-educated students."

For a list of school districts receiving grants, visit www.cyberdriveillinois.com (click News, April).

National Library Week

Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White saluted Illinois librarians and other members of the library community during National Library Week, April 8-14.

"I am very proud to be part of a profession with so many dedicated, hard working and knowledgeable public servants. I have had the pleasure of visiting libraries throughout Illinois, and our librarians and library staff are truly committed to providing the best possible service to library users. Illinois has a network of more than 5,000 academic, public, school and special libraries and library systems that are the finest in the nation. Our libraries are so important to our communities, and during National Library Week I hope the citizens who use and enjoy libraries will thank their local librarians and library staff for their outstanding service."



SECRETARY WHITE HONORS CHERRYL WALKER — Secretary of State Jesse White honored State Library employee Cherryl Walker as the March Secretary of State Employee of the Month at a ceremony at the library. Cherryl works in the Library Automation and Technology Division, and her duties include serving as coordinator of Secretary White's Illinois Veterans' History Project.

Live & Learn Construction Grants awarded

Secretary of State Jesse White has awarded fiscal year 2012 Live & Learn Construction Grants to 16 public libraries to be used for essential capital improvements. The program helps public libraries pay for projects such as remodeling for handicapped accessibility, new heating, ventilating and air conditioning systems, and in some cases new construction or building additions.

"I am pleased to be able to award these grants through the Illinois State Library to help maintain the infrastructure of our public libraries, and help them remain the best information resource available to citizens," said Secretary White.

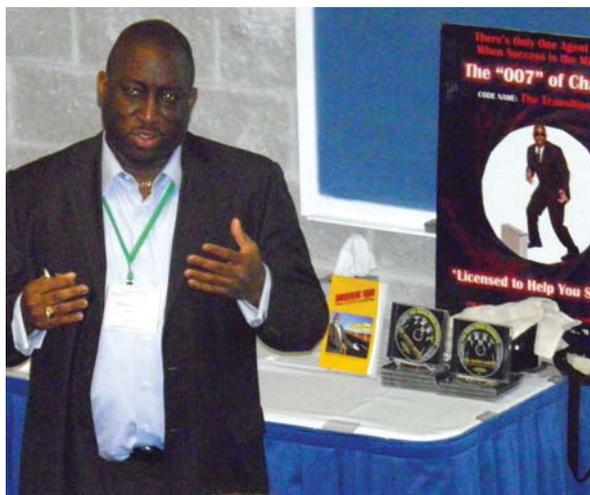
Libraries receiving grants are:

- Arthur Public Library District – \$33,188
- Athens Municipal Library – \$2,800
- Coal City Public Library District – \$40,950
- Deerfield Public Library – \$125,000
- Golconda Public Library – \$24,365
- Greenville Public Library – \$25,000
- Highland Louis Latzer Memorial Public Library – \$50,000
- Huntley Area Public Library District – \$16,526
- Lombard Helen M. Plum Memorial Public Library District – \$50,000
- Mascoutah Public Library – \$48,500
- McLeansboro McCoy Memorial Library – \$25,000
- Naperville Public Library – \$125,000
- Pontiac Public Library – \$3,000
- Savanna Public Library District – \$25,000
- Shawneetown Public Library – \$9,471
- West Frankfort Public Library – \$17,000



"On the Front Lines" conference

More than 200 participants attended the 2012 "On the Front Lines" conference in March, sponsored by the State Library at the University of Illinois Springfield. The conference is designed to equip front-line library staff with training, technology tools and techniques to effectively and efficiently meet the needs of library patrons.



ABOVE LEFT: Michelynn McKnight of the School of Library and Information Science at Louisiana State University discussed "Doing Better What We've Always Done Well."

ABOVE RIGHT: Dennis Rios from Illinois Legal Aid Online discussed how the new legal website can assist librarians in helping Illinois' growing Hispanic population.

LEFT: Johnny "The Transition Man" Campbell offered tips on dealing with change and difficult people in the workplace.

Route 66 Collection

The State Library is the Illinois representative in the eight-state Route 66 Archives and Research Collaboration (ARC), an initiative sponsored by the National Park Service. The mission of the Route 66 ARC is to make research and oral history materials accessible to the general public and Route 66 researchers for the purpose of education, preservation and management of the historic Route 66 corridor.

The State Library's resources include books, maps and periodicals about Route 66, along with links to significant Route 66 collections in the Illinois Digital Archives. The library also has the personal file of the Route 66 Association of Illinois founder, the late Tom Teague. Donated collections include Mt. Olive Service Station's ledgers and a historic run of state Route 66 Association newsletters collected by historian and author Keith Sculle. In addition, the library has a collection of aerial photographs from the U.S. Department of Agriculture showing Route 66 as it existed in Illinois between 1937 and 1941. Links to these materials can now be found on the State Library website at www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library.

TBBS grand reopening

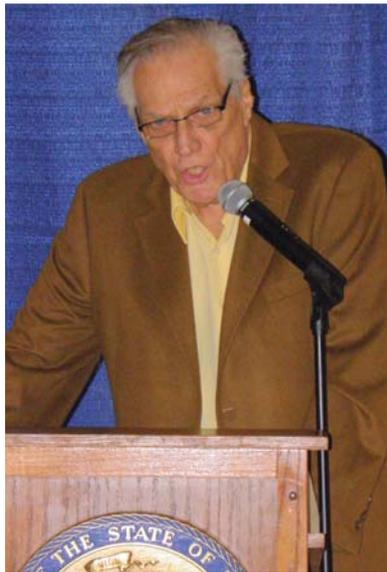
A grand re-opening was held recently to mark the completion of the move of the Talking Book and Braille Service and to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the beginning of free Braille library services for the blind. In 1931, Illinois had one of the original 19 libraries nationwide to serve the blind.

Secretary of State Jesse White says the move of TBBS from a stand-alone building in downtown Springfield into the Illinois State Library Gwendolyn Brooks Building will enhance service for the more than 29,000 persons who use the free program.

"I remain completely committed to addressing the needs of the patrons who use this program for Talking Books, Braille books, magazines, descriptive videos, an online Braille and Audio Download Service and other programs. These materials have the ability to greatly enhance the lives of citizens who cannot read regular printed material because of a visual or physical disability," said White.

In addition to TBBS in Springfield, the State Library also oversees the Mid-Illinois Talking Book Center in East Peoria; Voices of Vision Talking Book Center in Geneva; Chicago Public Library Talking Book Center, and the Southern Illinois Machine Lending Agency in Carterville.

"The Talking Book program is one of my foremost library-related priorities," said White. "I believe this move will lead to increased use of our Talking Book materials. We are providing more space for our collections and a more functional working environment for TBBS employees."



A special guest at the TBBS grand reopening reception was Roy Avers, narrator of more than 1,500 Talking Books, including such classics as *The Prince of Tides*, *The Sea Wolf*, Ken Burns' *The Civil War*, *The Winds of War* and *War and Remembrance*.

TBBS services free to eligible patrons, organizations

Although Illinois has more than 29,000 Talking Book patrons, as many as 150,000 more residents who have difficulty reading or holding regular print materials qualify for the service. Others eligible to participate include anyone who needs large print or who has macular degeneration, arthritis, dyslexia, cataracts, cerebral palsy or any other type of visual or physical impairment that limits reading. The program is available to all ages, and schools, nursing homes, hospitals and other organizations also may use the service.

Interested persons or organizations may apply for services
by completing a form at

<http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/TBBS/home.html>
or by calling
800-665-5576, opt. 5.



Emerging Writers Competition

Deadline June 30

Entry forms for the eighth annual Illinois Emerging Writers Competition, Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Award are available at illinoiscenterforthebook.org. The deadline for entering the contest is June 30, 2012.

The competition is open to Illinois residents age 18 and over. Cash prizes will be awarded for first, second and third place, and winning poems will be submitted for possible publication in *Ninth Letter*, *RHINO* and *Quiddity* magazines as well as Poetic License Press publications.

The competition is named for the late Pulitzer Prize-winning Illinois Poet Laureate Gwendolyn Brooks, and is co-sponsored by the Illinois Center for the Book and Kevin Stein, who succeeded Brooks as Illinois Poet Laureate. Stein will select the winners of the first-, second- and third-place prizes.

"Illinois has a long and rich literary heritage, and these new poets are adding to the storied tradition established by legendary Illinois authors like Gwendolyn Brooks," said Secretary of State Jesse White. "Many of our previous winners have had their works published. Great poems have the ability to enrich and enhance our lives, and I'm looking forward to discovering talented new poets in this year's competition."

Winners will read their poems and receive their prizes from Secretary White and Kevin Stein at a ceremony later this year at the State Library in Springfield.

For more information, contact Illinois Center for the Book coordinator Bonnie Matheis at bmatheis@ilsos.net or 217-558-2065.

State Library staff news

Cyndy Colletti, manager of the State Library Literacy Office, has been named **2012 Partner of the Year** by the Literacy Volunteers of Illinois.

Pat Boze has joined the State Library as the new Library Systems consultant in the Library Development Group. Pat previously worked with the Illinois Heartland Library System in Champaign.

Celebrating service anniversaries with the State Library are map librarian **Arlyn Booth** (40 years) and Talking Book and Braille Service employee **Sheri Vaughan** (10 years).

Jodi Miller has been promoted to a full-time position with the Talking Book and Braille Service.

Judy McCarthy, assistant to the deputy director in the Chicago office, retired in March. Thank you Judy for all your hard work and dedication to the State Library!



BUSINESS AND LIBRARIES: WORKING TOGETHER — Connie Frankenfeld (left) and Megan Kapusta prepare packages to be sent to 63 Illinois public libraries selected to receive “Business and Libraries: Working Together” technology grants to promote new economic growth opportunities in their communities. The packages consist of a tablet computer and a collection of business-related books totaling about \$1,000. The materials may be loaned to local businesses or used at the library.

One World, Many Stories

Family Reading Night

Read Together Grow Together

Thursday, November 15, 2012

SAVE THE DATE

August 9-19
Illinois State Fair

September 6
Illinois State Library Advisory Committee Meeting
State Library

October 9-11
Illinois Library Association Annual Conference
Peoria

The Illinois State Library will be closed
the following state holidays:
Monday, May 28 — Memorial Day
Wednesday, July 4 — Independence Day



Insight
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