

INSIGHT

Jesse White • Secretary of State & State Librarian

Springfield to host ILA Conference — October 9-12

The Illinois Library Association Annual Conference returns to the capital city October 9-12 at the Prairie Capitol Convention Center.

On **Thursday, October 11, at 4 p.m.**, Secretary of State Jesse White will receive the ILA's prestigious Robert R. McClarren Legislative Development Award. The award is given annually to someone in the Illinois library community who has championed library legislation and consistently supported libraries through the creation of innovative library programs and services.

In conjunction with the conference, the Illinois State Library and the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois (CARLI) will mark the 10th anniversary of the federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA). Administered by Secretary White through the State Library, the program has provided important grant funding to hundreds of libraries, museums and regional library systems in Illinois.

On **Wednesday, October 10, 5:30-7:30 p.m.**, the State Library will host an all-conference reception recognizing the FY08 LSTA grant recipients.

The State Library's booth at the conference will highlight the launch of WebJunction Illinois, the online community created especially for library staff. State Library staff also will participate in a variety of conference events:

Tuesday, October 9

1:30-5 p.m. — Talking Book and Braille Service Director Sharon Ruda will moderate a session on training librarians on the Illinois Veterans' History Project.

Wednesday, October 10

9-10:30 a.m. — Library Development Group Director Patricia Norris will moderate a panel of graduates from the library's Synergy Library Leadership Initiative.

2-3 p.m. — Joe Natale will moderate a session featuring Andrew Bullen, coordinator of Information Technology at the State Library, who will provide a tour of his Pullman virtual museum.

2-3 p.m. — Connie Frankenfeld will speak on preserving online state documents.

3:30-5 p.m. — Vandella Brown, manager of the ISL Diversity Program, will moderate the annual DiversiTEA, a fundraising event sponsored by the ILA Cultural and Racial Diversity Committee.

Thursday, October 11

9-10:30 a.m. — The State Library and regional library systems are sponsoring a session on what librarians need to know about the Illinois Open Meetings Act.

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. — Reference librarian Blaine Redemer will moderate a session on the Illinois WorkNet portal.

11:30 a.m. — Map librarian Arlyn Booth will moderate a session on Depression/New Deal-era photographs, including nationwide aerial photography.

2-3:30 p.m. — Patent librarian Margaret Collins will moderate a session on what librarians need to know about intellectual property.

6-7 p.m. — All past participants of the State Library's

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ILA Conference

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State FairAsk?Away
free trial

Secretary of State Jesse White joined Jeanne Urbanek (left) and Becky Hunter of the State Library's Development Group in the Secretary of State tent at the Illinois State Fair in August. See page 2 for more State Fair photos.

Secretary White awards LSTA grants

Secretary of State Jesse White has awarded FY08 Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) demonstration grants to libraries in Athens, Chillicothe, Forreston, Harrisburg and Tuscola.

The grants invite public libraries to develop innovative methods of showing how important vital library services are to unserved library residents in Illinois. In each instance the grant recipient has identified a nearby area without library service, and will use grant funds to demonstrate how the unserved area would benefit from library service. In next February's Illinois primary election, citizens in the unserved areas will vote in special referendums to decide whether to accept tax-funded library services.

"There are nearly 1 million Illinois citizens who live in areas not served by public libraries," said Secretary White. "Illinois citizens recognize libraries as vital resources in their communities, and they should have access to tax-supported library programs and materials." The grants will allow the five libraries to make the case for expanding their service areas and taxing districts and welcoming new library patrons.



(ABOVE) — Vicki Davenport, director of the Southern Illinois Radio Information Service, was one of the volunteer workers who welcomed Secretary of State Jesse White to the State Library's Talking Book and Braille Service booth at the Illinois State Fair inside the Senior Building.

(LEFT) — The high-flying Jesse White Tumblers entertained an enthusiastic crowd at the annual pre-State Fair picnic for participants of Project Next Generation, Secretary White's statewide mentoring program administered through Illinois public libraries.

(BELOW) — Kankakee (left) and Champaign Project Next Generation participants enjoyed meeting Secretary White at the pre-Fair picnic. Nearly 200 students and mentors from 10 PGN programs attended the festivities.



Letters About Literature contest adds new incentives

Deadline for entries: December 14

Secretary of State Jesse White is encouraging students in grades 4-12 to enter the 2008 Letters About Literature contest, a national reading and writing contest sponsored by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress and the Illinois Center for the Book in partnership with Target.

An added incentive to this year's contest is a \$10,000 grant to the school or local library of each of the six national winners, to be used for reading promotion for children and young adults. Also new this year is the addition of 12 national honorable mentions. Each national honorable mention will receive a \$1,000 grant for reading promotion for their community or school library.

"Every year thousands of Illinois students join students from across the nation in writing letters to authors, living or deceased, describing how a certain book has influenced their lives," said Secretary White, who serves as honorary chair of the Illinois Center for the Book. "Anyone who has read these moving letters can see how literature truly inspires and touches the lives of our young people. The annual Letters About Literature contest combines reading and writing, two skills that will benefit students for the rest of their lives."

Each participating state will select a winning letter for each competition level: Level I — grades 4, 5, 6; Level II — grades 7, 8; Level III — grades 9-12. The winners of each state will receive a \$50 gift card from Target and other prizes from the Illinois Center for the Book. They will advance to national judging where two national winners and four national honorable mentions will be selected from each competition level. Along with a grant for the community or school library, the national winners will receive a \$500 gift card from Target, and the national honorable mentions will receive a \$100 gift card.

The deadline to enter the competition is **December 14**. State winners will be announced in March and national winners will be announced in May. Official guidelines and entry coupons are available at www.loc.gov/letters. For more information, contact Bonnie Matheis at 217-558-2065 or bmatheis@ilsos.net. Information on the Illinois Center for the Book is available at www.illinoiscenterforthebook.org.

Free trial for Ask?Away

Curious about the popular Ask?Away virtual reference program at www.askawayillinois.info but haven't signed up yet? Now you can try Ask?Away absolutely free through a trial offer available until Dec. 15, 2007. Academic and school libraries are especially encouraged to participate. For more information, contact Natalie Tagge, ISL Virtual Reference coordinator, at ntagge@ilsos.net or 217-557-6329.



Blue Books dating back to 1900 available on Illinois Digital Archives

Secretary of State Jesse White has announced that every *Illinois Blue Book* ever published, from 1900 to the 2005/2006 issue, has been digitized and is now available through the Illinois Digital Archives at www.idaillinois.org.

"The *Illinois Blue Book*, published biennially by my office's Communications Department, is an invaluable reference and educational tool for persons seeking information about state government, history and facts," said Secretary White. "More than a century of our state's rich and storied history is encapsulated in *Blue Books* dating back to the early 1900s. Creating online versions of every *Blue Book* was a mammoth task, and I am thrilled that Internet users can now access all the *Blue Books* for informational, educational and entertainment purposes."

The State Library's Automation and Technology Division worked about 18 months on the project. Original hard copy versions of the *Blue Books* from the library's collection were scanned at a high resolution, then the digital images underwent optical character recognition processing to create keyword searchable text files. The text is incorporated in the metadata for each page of each volume. The project involved digitizing more than 41,000 hard-copy pages.

The Illinois Digital Archives also is part of a new initiative called **Digital Illinois** at <http://digitalillinois.org>. Digital Illinois contains exciting digital collections from libraries, historical societies, museums and other cultural institutions in Illinois. In addition to the contents of the IDA, Digital Illinois contains well-known collections from Digital Past, developed by the North Suburban Library System. Other hosting institutions include Augustana College, Barrington Area Library, CARLI, DePaul University, Illinois State University, Lincoln Trail Libraries System and the University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign.

SAVE THE DATE

October 9-12

ILA Annual Conference
Springfield

November 1-3

Illinois School Library Media Association
Fall Conference
Springfield

November 6-8

Synergy: The Illinois Library Leadership
Initiative
Hickory Ridge Marriott Hotel, Lisle

November 15

Family Reading Night
Statewide

The State Library will be closed on
the following state holidays:
October 8, Columbus Day
November 12, Veterans Day
November 22-23, Thanksgiving

ILA Conference

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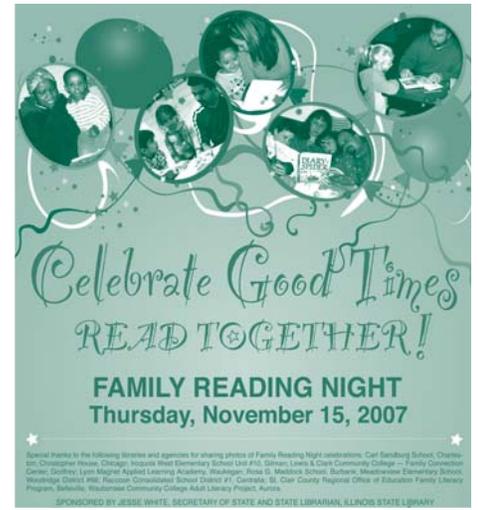
Synergy Library Leadership Initiative are invited to a reunion at Lincoln Public Library, 326 S. 7th St.

Friday, October 12

9-10:30 a.m. — Karen Egan will moderate a session on WebJunction online continuing education opportunities.

9-10:30 a.m. — Vandella Brown will conduct a Diversity Café Dialogue and Eye Exam.

11 a.m.-noon — State Library Director Anne Craig will moderate a discussion on getting the maximum value from an Illinois Century Network connection.



ISL employee recognition

Donna Mayberry, Automation & Technology Division, was named Secretary of State Employee of the Month for September.

Dennis Weller, Reference Department, and **Arlyn Booth**, map coordinator, were honored for 35 years of service with the Secretary of State's office. For

both, all 35 years have been spent at the State Library. Also receiving service awards were: **Earl Huston**, Cataloging—30 years; **Suzanne Schriar**, ILLINET/OCLC Services—20 years; and **Deborah Hurley**, TBBS, **Fred Hicks**, Cataloging, and **Jeanne Urbanek**, Library Development Group—all with 10 years of service.



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Jesse White, Secretary of State and State Librarian.
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