

## **THIS MONTH AT THE ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY**

### **February 2018**

Jesse White, Secretary of State and State Librarian  
Greg McCormick, Deputy Director

#### **Capital Needs Assessment Survey results submitted to the Illinois General Assembly**

Public Act 96-0037, the Public Library Construction Act, requires the Illinois Secretary of State to file a comprehensive assessment report of the capital needs of all Illinois public libraries to the General Assembly every two years. To compile report, the State Library included the Capital Needs Assessment Survey in the Illinois Public Library Annual Report (IPLAR) survey — a required submission by all Illinois public libraries. Information for the report was also gathered from 102 Illinois county clerks to compile data on Equalized Assessed Valuation trends. The results of the survey can be accessed through the State Library's [website](#).

#### **Annual Online Library System Certification ends March 31**

The annual, required library [online certification](#) will close March 31, 2018. Libraries must also complete the [ILLINET Traffic Survey](#) before completing certification. As of February 1, 1,061 libraries have completed certification.

The annual certification process is required of all library system members in order to qualify for continuing system services and grants programs from the Illinois State Library. More information about certification is available at the State Library's [Annual Library Certification](#) webpage. The page includes a link to the data and questions included in the certification form, a link to the online certification portal, an [FAQ \(Frequently Asked Questions\)](#), a [pre-recorded webinar](#) that reviews the annual certification process, and a document outlining [Library Data Entry Guidelines](#) to use in completing the certification form.

For questions, email [isl\\_certify@ilsos.net](mailto:isl_certify@ilsos.net).

#### **Try-It! Illinois 2017**

Try-It! Illinois closed Nov.30, 2017. During the trial, 290,258 requests were made by ILLINET member libraries and patrons. The State Library looks forward to another successful trial period, which runs from Oct.1 to Nov. 30, 2018. For more information regarding this statewide database trial, contact [Gwen Harrison](#) at 217-785-7334.

#### **New webinar available**

A new webinar, "Toward Tech Savvy Trustees," has been added to the State Library's webpage for [library trustees](#). This is a pre-recorded webinar offered through WebJunction. Presented by Bonnie McKewon of Iowa State Library Northwest Regional the program reviews topics that trustees can incorporate into their board meetings and committee work to move the library ahead technologically.

The link to this webinar is included below. The 55-minute webinar can be viewed at any time.

- [Toward Tech Savvy Trustees](#), recorded Jan. 26, 2017. A WebJunction account/login is required to access this webinar recording.

Several other on-demand webinars are available on the [trustee webpage](#). Links to online trustee manuals and training courses, as well as state and federal links to legislative information, are available. Contact [Pat Boze](#) at 217-782-1891 with any questions about the webinars.

## **Directors University**

Directors University will be held June 4-8 in Springfield. This weeklong training program is available to all sizes of public libraries and intended for first-time public library directors and those directors new to Illinois. The workshops will focus on training public library directors with both administrative and leadership skills. Directors University will also provide opportunities for networking, team building, small informal discussion and more.

Lodging will be available at the State House Inn, 101 E Adams St, Springfield. All workshops will be held at the State Library, 300 S. Second St, Springfield. Participants are required to attend ALL workshops. Topics for the week will include library law, policies, budgeting, board/director relations, leadership, community partnerships, employment laws, State Library and system competencies.

Visit the [Illinois Library Association](#) website for additional information.

## **Elevate Illinois Library Leadership Program — Sat., April 28, 2018, at the University of Illinois Springfield**

Elevate is a statewide library initiative to recruit and nurture future Illinois library leaders. The program is a joint project of Illinois Heartland Library System, the Illinois Library Association and Reaching Across Illinois Library System.

Effective leaders play to their strengths. This one-day program is for library staff members who want to understand the fundamentals of strengths-based leadership, including gaining insights into their own strengths. Participants will identify a leadership project that they hope to take on in their own library or with their community and receive advice from a mentor, as well as from fellow participants. Together, this program will allow participants to learn what their strengths are and how they can apply those strengths to leadership in a real-world project.

Illinois libraries of all sizes and types make a big impact on their unique communities, and Elevate should represent this diversity. Future leaders from all types of libraries (academic, public, school and special) and all parts of Illinois are encouraged to apply. Applicants are not required to hold any specific positions in their library, but should have an interest in developing as a leader. A Masters of Library and Information Science degree is not required.

The registration fee for the program is \$75 per participant. This fee covers materials and meals. Participants will be responsible for their own travel expenses. Participants will have a few hours of mandatory pre-work prior to the one-day workshop in order to best utilize our time together.

Applications are due Friday, Feb. 23. Notifications on status of applications will be sent by March 9.

Visit, [ila.org/elevate](http://ila.org/elevate) to submit your application.

## **Salute to veterans**

This issue of E-News is saluting Martin 'Bubba' Kutz. He served in the U.S. Marines during the Korean War from 1951 to 1952. Kutz was part of a patrol of 12 men who were ordered to knock out a sniper nest; unfortunately, he was one of the only two who returned to their camp. He shares this story and other experiences that he encountered during his time in combat. His Illinois Veterans' History Project interview is available at [https://youtu.be/rvMiCswb\\_jl](https://youtu.be/rvMiCswb_jl).

## **"Illinois Reads" author spotlights**

The authors and illustrators below have published a book on the 2018 "Illinois Reads" [book list](#) for children from birth to 4. Miriam Busch, Larry Day and Stacey Previn will be at the Kick-Off Festival in DuQuoin on March 10.

[Miriam Busch](#) and [Larry Day](#) are a husband and wife creative team who live in the western suburbs of Chicago. Miriam is an author and Larry is an illustrator of award-winning children's books. Their second collaboration is

titled, "[Raisin, The Littlest Cow](#)." This book is a tale of Raisin's adjustment to a new addition to her family. With characters full of expression, it is "written with empathy, a bit of drama and touches of humor," writes Booklist magazine. An online story hour kit is available.

Chicago native [Ruth Spiro](#) is a children's author and freelance writer. She is known for her "Baby Loves Science" book series. The series explores different aspects of science such as quarks and aerospace engineering in a simple manner. Her book, "[Baby Loves Thermodynamics!](#)," is another addition to this series. Like the other books in the series, it explores the world of science with bright illustrations to pique the interest of one and all.

Children's author and illustrator [Stacey Previn](#) lives in Oak Park. Before writing and illustrating her own books, Previn was an editorial and advertising illustrator for books including the "Way to Be!" series, a 2007 Teachers' Choice Award winner. "[Aberdeen](#)," her first story book, is about "a small mouse with a big sense of adventure." The book is enhanced by Previn's watercolor illustrations of little Aberdeen's outdoor escapade with a red balloon.

### **Literacy Spotlight**

This month's Literacy Spotlight highlights **Asian Human Services, Inc.** in Chicago, which runs a Secretary of State supported Penny Severns Family Literacy Program. A woman, her husband and their two children came to the U.S. two years ago from Algeria. They had never taken English classes before, so all three were excited for the opportunity, but nervous about doing well. Over the course of the year, the program coordinator and teachers at the children's school shared notes and correspondence about how Asian Human Services, Inc. could best serve the family. This correspondence resulted in a drastic improvement in the daughter's school report cards. As the year progressed the mother became more vocal with both the program coordinator and her children's teachers using her improving communication skills. The children became more acclimated to the program, were more outspoken, made new friends and their confidence level rose. The family has also become more active in the community and the mother became a leader in class and often volunteers to help other students. The children have become leaders by example, setting positive standards for the other children in class. The family has participated in International Day by setting up an informational booth about Algeria. With the help of the program, the entire family has made great strides improving their English.

### **AISLE exploring local chapters**

The Association of Illinois School Library Educators (AISLE), formerly Illinois School Library Media Association (ISLMA), is exploring the launch of local chapters across the state. These chapters will provide local networking, advocacy, support and professional learning opportunities. Local connections provide opportunities for organic discussions of issues in practice and action on local issues.

AISLE is seeking information about current groups of librarians meeting around the state and other information to assist in the planning of chapters. Please answer the following questions accessible at [goo.gl/WWts4b](http://goo.gl/WWts4b) to help AISLE determine interest and location of possible chapters. The deadline for submission is **March 9, 2018**.

### **State Library's comprehensive online calendar**

To view the State Library's calendar of events and deadlines, visit <http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/calendar/home.html>.

### **Sign up for E-News**

E-News is the best way to find out what's happening at the State Library, including grant offerings, continuing education opportunities and other news. Nearly 5,000 subscribers receive E-News each month. To subscribe to E-News or for more information, contact [Kyle Peebles](#) at 217-558-4029.