

In this issue

\$1 million awarded in "Back to Books" grants

Library Construction Grants

New Talking Book Outreach Center

I LEAD USA

"On the Front Lines" registration

New ISL Strategic Directions

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

May/June
2013

INSIGHT

Secretary White awards \$1 million in "Back to Books" grants

Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White has awarded more than \$1 million in "Back to Books" grants to 230 Illinois libraries to purchase fiction and/or nonfiction books, learning CDs and DVDs, and other educational materials.

"I am pleased to be able to award these grants that will allow library users to be better educated and entertained," said White. "Our libraries perform so many essential tasks, but at their core what our libraries do best is make books and other materials available to patrons."

Libraries submitted applications specifying

the types of books and other materials they would purchase if they received funding. These include:

- Building collections in women's studies and sociology.
- Health sciences books for nursing students.
- Books and other materials to help veterans make the transition from military to civilian life.
- DVDs to provide training to firefighters.
- New materials in science, technology, engineering, mathematics and craftsmanship subjects.
- Cultural, geographical and travel books

and DVDs.

- Spanish language fiction and nonfiction books, DVDs and audiobooks.
- Large-print books for senior citizens on topics related to retirement such as health, hobbies, finances, technology and travel.

Awards range from \$2,500 to \$5,000 per library. The grants are made possible by a combination of funds from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services and state of Illinois library funds. A list of libraries receiving grants is available at <http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/news/2013/april/130416d4.pdf>.

Public Library Construction Act Grants awarded

Secretary of State Jesse White continues to travel throughout Illinois making Public Library Construction Act Grant awards designed to assist libraries undertaking major construction and remodeling projects. The Public Library Construction Act Grant Program is part of a \$31 billion capital construction program approved in 2009 by the Governor and the Illinois General Assembly. A total of \$50 million was appropriated for permanent capital improvements to public libraries.



Dignitaries including (far left) state Sen. Andy Manar, Bunker Hill Library District Director Susan Landreth and state Rep. Wayne Rosenthal (far right) joined Secretary White for a Public Library Construction Grant check presentation at the library.



Emerging Writers Competition

Deadline to enter is June 30

Secretary of State Jesse White has announced that entry forms are available for the ninth annual Illinois Emerging Writers Competition, Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Award. Illinois residents age 18 and over are eligible to enter, and entries must be postmarked by **June 30, 2013**.

"We created the Illinois Emerging Writers Competition to promote creative writing and provide a new outlet for talented, unpublished writers," said Secretary White. "Great poems have the ability to enrich and enhance our lives, and I am looking forward to discovering talented new poets with this year's competition."

The competition is named in honor of 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. Cash prizes will be awarded for first- (\$500), second- (\$300) and third-place (\$100), and winning poems will be submitted for possible publication in the *Ninth Letter*, *RHINO* and *Quiddity* magazines and *Poetic License Press* publications. Winners will read their poems and receive their prizes at a ceremony later this year at the State Library in Springfield.

Forms and more information about the contest are available at <http://illinoiscenterforthebook.org/projects/projectsb.html>.



New Talking Book Outreach Center to begin operations July 1

On July 1, the Mid-Illinois Talking Book Center in East Peoria and the Voices of Vision Talking Book Center in Geneva are consolidating their services to become the new Illinois Talking Book Outreach Center. The new Center will operate from the Reaching Across Illinois Library System building in Burr Ridge.

The new email address for staff at the Illinois Talking Book Outreach Center will be info@illinoistalkingbooks.org. Patrons may contact staff and reader advisors at 800-426-0709. The Center will serve the entire state outside the city of Chicago, whose patrons will continue to use the Chicago Public Library Talking Book Center.

There will be a new user-friendly website — illinoistalkingbooks.org — to offer more connections to databases, related service providers, various help links, book lists and news items. Patrons will continue to receive materials as they do now, and will still be able to interact with reader advisors.

Rose Chenoweth, director of the Mid-Illinois Talking Book Center, will be moving from East Peoria to Burr Ridge to serve as director of the new Illinois Talking Book Outreach Center. Karen Odean, the longtime director of the Voices of Vision Talking Book Center, is retiring.

Registration open for "On the Front Lines" conference

"On the Front Lines," a highly acclaimed continuing education opportunity sponsored by the State Library for frontline library staff, returns for a ninth time to the University of Illinois Springfield on **August 5-7**. Participants from public, academic, school and special libraries are eligible to attend. Registration is open through L2 at www.librarylearning.info/events/?eventID=14610.

"On the Front Lines" is designed to equip and enlighten frontline staff with training, exposure and the latest technology tools and techniques that will enable them to effectively and efficiently meet the needs of their patrons. There will be approximately 40 concurrent sessions. Topics will include emerging trends related to social media and libraries, e-books, 3D printers, using digital media labs, common core education standards, library apps and using sign language to promote literacy.

The registration fee is \$15 per person, which covers all programs and conference supplied meals. Scholarships will be awarded to 40 applicants to help defray the costs of attending the conference, including the registration fee and a two-night hotel stay. Travel and other incidentals are not covered by the scholarships.

Read for a Lifetime 2013-14

Read for a Lifetime is the Illinois State Library's popular reading program for high school students. Participants receive a list of 25 book titles representing a mix of classic and contemporary literature. Each student who reads at least four titles from the reading list during the school year will receive a Certificate of Achievement from Secretary of State Jesse White. The list and more information about the program is available at <http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/public/rfl.html>.

More public library grants awarded

Per Capita and Equalization Grants

Secretary of State Jesse White has awarded fiscal year 2013 Illinois Public Library Per Capita and Equalization Aid Grants totaling \$11.9 million to 611 public libraries serving nearly 12 million patrons.

"I am extremely proud of the outstanding service Illinois' public libraries provide to our communities," said Secretary White. "Our libraries are the best and most reliable information resource available to citizens, and I am pleased to be able to provide these grants each year."

Per Capita Grant funding is authorized under Illinois library law and helps ensure that public libraries have some of the resources they need for such things as materials, personnel, equipment, electronic access, telecommunications and technology. Equalization Aid Grants help public libraries with low library tax bases and ensures a minimum level of funding for library services.

A list of libraries receiving grants is available at <http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/news/2013/april/130403d1.pdf>.

Live & Learn Construction Grants

A total of \$620,800 in FY13 Live & Learn Construction Grants has been awarded by Secretary of State Jesse White to help 17 public libraries pay for essential capital improvements.

"I am pleased to award these grants to help maintain the infrastructure of our public libraries, and help them remain the best information resource available to citizens," said Secretary White. "This important program helps public libraries pay for projects such as remodeling for disabled accessibility and, in some cases, new construction or building additions."

Libraries receiving grants are:

- Carbondale Public Library
- Carlinville Public Library
- Chicago Heights Public Library
- Graves-Hume Public Library in Mendota
- Hillsboro Public Library
- Itasca Community Library
- Lawrence Public Library District
- Lena Community District Library
- Metropolis Public Library
- Norris City Memorial Public Library District
- Paw Paw Public Library District
- Pecatonica Public Library District
- Poplar Creek Public Library District, Hanover Park Branch
- Roodhouse Public Library
- Sterling Public Library
- Toluca Public Library District
- Witt Township Memorial Library

New ISL Strategic Directions

The Illinois State Library has unveiled its new Strategic Directions for 2013-14. A committee comprised of staff representing every division of the State Library examined all aspects of library operations. See the new plan at <http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/pdfpublications/lda25.pdf>.

ILEAD USA: Innovative Librarians Explore, Apply and Discover

The Illinois State Library hosted the first of three sessions of ILEAD USA in March at the University of Illinois Springfield. A continuing education initiative consisting of librarians from Illinois, Colorado, Iowa, Ohio and Utah, ILEAD USA is designed to help library staff understand and respond to user needs through the application of participatory technology tools and the creation of an easy-to-replicate model program. The State Library received a \$470,000 Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to host ILEAD USA.



Speakers and participants at the ILEAD USA March sessions included (top) technology consultant Travis Good; (center) Tina Hubert, executive director of the Six Mile Regional Library District, Gwen Harrison of the Illinois State Library, and Mary Soucie, executive director of the Three Rivers Public Library District; and (bottom) presenter Sarah Sagmoen of the U of I Springfield.

Around the State Library....

Sandra Fritz, Digital Imaging Program coordinator overseeing the Illinois Digital Archives, has been selected to take part in an important digital preservation workshop. Sandra is one of 18 librarians from Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois (CARLI) member libraries who will participate in an intensive three-and-a-half-day "Train-the-Trainer" workshop in Champaign, July 9-12. The workshop was developed and is presented by the Library of Congress Digital Preservation Outreach and Education Office. DPOE works to foster the preservation of digital content by building a collaborative network of instructors and collection management professionals. DPOE currently has 45 trainers working across six regions of the country.

After successful completion of the workshop, Sandra and the other trainers will share their knowledge of digital preservation with other CARLI libraries. Sandra will also provide training and assistance to all other ILLINET member libraries seeking to preserve their digital content.

At a National Library Service for the blind conference in Pittsburgh in May, TBBS Director **Sharon Ruda** was elected chairperson of the Midlands Region for the NLS.

The State Library's **Illinois Digital Archives** (IDA) was recognized by the Illinois State Historical Society with an Award for Superior Achievement for Best Website. The State Library received the award at the Historical Society's 2013 awards program in April at the Governor's Mansion in Springfield. The reward recognizes the IDA as a model for the profession.

Joy Dyson of Library Operations recently marked her 20-year anniversary with the State Library.

The longest-serving State Library employee, Technical Services staffer **Ethel Snyder**, marked her 45-year anniversary in May.

Deborah Aggertt has moved to the Talking Book and Braille Service as assistant manager.

Taran Ley has taken a temporary assignment as Outreach Services coordinator (Deborah Aggertt's former position).

Karen Fitzgerald has joined the Library Operations staff working in the stacks and the shipping room.

Allen Yee, **Marcus R. Birch** and **James F. Marshall** have joined TBBS as intermittent staffers.

Communications Manager **Pat McGuckin** retired May 31 following 30 years of service in state government. Pat joined the State Library in September 2000.

FY13 ILLINET survey available

The FY13 ILLINET Interlibrary Loan & Reciprocal Borrowing Statistical Survey is available at <http://il.countingopinions.com>. Data submitted should cover the fiscal year from July 1, 2012, to June 30, 2013. The deadline to complete the survey is October 31, 2013.

The ILLINET Interlibrary Loan & Reciprocal Borrowing Code (2008) states that libraries must annually submit interlibrary loan statistics to the State Library. The ILLINET Interlibrary Loan & Reciprocal Borrowing survey serves many purposes and has been a useful tool for several State Library committees as they work toward meeting the resource-sharing needs of Illinois libraries.

If you have questions, please follow these guidelines:

- **USERNAME/PASSWORD:** Contact Becky Hunter at bhunter1@ilsos.net or 217-782-7849; Gwen Harrison at gharrison@ilsos.net or 217-785-7334; Robert Jones at rjones1@ilsos.net or 217-785-1168; or call 800-665-5576, x2.
- **CONTENT/SUBJECT MATTER:** Contact Gwen Harrison at gharrison@ilsos.net or 217-785-7334; Robert Jones at rjones1@ilsos.net or 217-785-1168; or call 800-665-5576, x2.
- **TECHNOLOGY ISSUES:** Contact Counting Opinions at 800-521-4930.

SAVE THE DATE

June 17-20
ILEAD USA

University of Illinois Springfield

August 5-7

"On the Front Lines" Conference
University of Illinois Springfield

August 8

Project Next Generation Picnic
State Library

August 9-18

State Library at the Illinois State Fair

The Illinois State Library will be closed Thursday, July 4,
for the state holiday.



Insight
Jesse White, Secretary of State & State Librarian
Illinois State Library, Gwendolyn Brooks Building
300 S. Second St.
Springfield, IL 62701-1796
Produced by the Secretary of State Communications Department.