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

November/December

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# INSIGHT

## Secretary White hosts Veterans' History Project ceremony

Secretary of State Jesse White hosted a ceremony at the State Library in September commemorating the success of the Illinois Veterans' History Project. The initiative was spearheaded by White to provide a permanent database featuring the names and stories of Illinois war veterans and civilians who served during times of war.

"In 2005, we created the Illinois Veterans' History Project," said Secretary White. "Today, there are more than 6,000 records from veterans who have submitted their stories to the project."

Secretary White served as a paratrooper in the 101st Airborne Division of the U.S. Army, as a member of the Illinois National Guard and as a reservist. Following the ceremony he was interviewed and added his own memories to the Veterans' History Project.

"Countless words have been written and spoken about the brave men and women who have served our nation. But I believe the most important words are those written and spoken by the heroes themselves. The Illinois Veterans' History Project provides a permanent home to honor our country and our veterans, and also reminds us of the men and women who gave their lives and made the ultimate sacrifice."

About 100 veterans attended the ceremony, which recognized the ongoing partnership between the Veterans' History Project, the Department of Illinois Disabled American Veterans (DAV) and the Illinois Court

Reporters Association. The DAV has arranged for veterans to be interviewed for the project, and volunteer court reporters are recording and transcribing the interviews.

Secretary White thanked James McDermott, commander of the Department of Illinois DAV, and Nancy LaBella, president of the Illinois Court Reporters Association, for their members' contributions to the success of the project. Also taking part in the ceremony were members of the Macon County Honor Guard and the Chatham Glenwood High School Titan Fever Show Choir under the direction of Jeff Gemar.

The State Library also hosted a visit from Susan Eleuterio of the American Folklore

Society, who conducted a workshop for Illinois librarians on how to interview veterans for their own local veterans' history projects and the Illinois Veterans' History Project. Participants learned basic oral history interviewing techniques and received an overview of audio and video documentation and Veterans' History Project guidelines.

For more information about the Illinois Veterans' History Project, visit [www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/public/veteransproject.html](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/public/veteransproject.html). Interviews and written stories are stored in the Illinois Digital Archives at [www.idaillinois.org](http://www.idaillinois.org). See page 2 for more photos of the ceremony.



Secretary of State Jesse White greets members of the Macon County Honor Guard during the Illinois Veterans' History Project ceremony at the State Library in September.

# Illinois



Veterans' History Project



Secretary of State Jesse White addresses attendees of the Illinois Veterans' History Project ceremony at the State Library in September. See story on page 1.



The Chatham Glenwood High School Titan Fever Show Choir sang patriotic songs during the ceremony.



Members of the Macon County Honor Guard took part in the ceremony.



Susan Eleuterio of the American Folklore Society conducted a workshop for librarians on how to interview veterans for the project.

## Live & Learn Construction Grants

### Applications due January 11

Public libraries may now apply for FY13 Live & Learn Public Library Construction grants. Applications and information are available at [www.cyber-driveillinois.com/departments/library/grants/livelearn\\_construction.html](http://www.cyber-driveillinois.com/departments/library/grants/livelearn_construction.html). Grants will be awarded in three categories:

#### Remodeling for Accessibility — Grant award range: \$2,500-\$50,000

- 70-100 percent of total project funds must be used specifically for remodeling an existing building for compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA).
- State's share will be a maximum of 50 percent of the project's total cost, for a maximum of \$50,000.
- Local matching funds are required.

#### Mini-Grants — Grant award range: \$2,500-\$35,000

- Available to public libraries with limited funds and incomes of less than \$15 per capita (see Eligibility Requirements).
- Remodeling or refurbishing existing library buildings.
- Projects include new carpeting and floor coverings, new furnishings (shelving excluded), remodeling, energy conservation, electrical, roofing, elevators, ceilings, HVAC, plumbing, doors/windows, fire protection, book drops, circulation desks, security systems, technology wiring, and interior or exterior painting.
- Libraries must address legal requirements for making the building ADA compliant.
- Local matching funds are not required.

#### New Construction/Remodeling — Grant award range: \$25,000-\$125,000

- New library construction.
- Additions to and/or remodeling of existing library buildings.
- Conversion of existing buildings not currently used for library services.
- State's share will be a maximum of 50 percent of the project's total cost, for a maximum of \$125,000.
- Local matching funds are required.

## LSTA waiver request granted by IMLS

The State Library has received important news from federal funder the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) that a requested waiver from the Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirement has been granted. This means that FY13 federal LSTA funding the State Library receives to support Illinois libraries *will not* see a reduction based on recent state cuts to library funding. Congress could still decide to make a reduction in funding to all libraries in FY13, but IMLS's decision to grant the State Library's request for the MOE waiver means there will be no reduction targeted specifically at Illinois' LSTA Grants to States Allotment.

This is the second straight year the State Library has requested and received a waiver from the MOE requirement, and library staff is very appreciative of the favorable decisions from IMLS.

## SPLMI returns!

The State Library's popular Small Public Library Management Institute is returning in 2013! SPLMI will be held **June 2-7** at the University of Illinois Springfield. This continuing education initiative is designed for directors of small public libraries and directors who are new to Illinois or to the library profession. Only about 50 individuals will be selected for the institute. Applications will be available early next year. For more information, contact Pat Boze at [pboze@ilsos.net](mailto:pboze@ilsos.net) or 217-782-1891.



## Emerging Writers Competition winners announced

Secretary of State Jesse White has announced the winners of the eighth annual Illinois Emerging Writers Competition, Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Award. Greg Harrell of Homewood was named first-prize winner of \$500 for his poem *Rum Runner*. Dane Hamann of Steger won second prize and \$300 for his poem *Daniel Hudson Burnham*. Hannah Kucharzak of Chicago is the third-prize winner of \$100 for her poem *Anatomy Index*. David Lipowski of Tinley Park was Honorable Mention winner (no cash prize) for his poem *The Heart*.

"I created the Illinois Emerging Writers Competition to promote creative writing and provide a new outlet for talented, unpublished writers," said Secretary White. "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. Many of our previous winners have had their works published. Great poems have the ability to enrich and enhance our lives, and I'm pleased to congratulate this year's talented winners."

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 and selected the winners. The winning poems will be submitted for possible publication in *Ninth Letter*, *RHINO* and *Quiddity* magazines and *Poetic License Press* publications. The poems are available for reading at [www.illinoiscenter-forthebook.org](http://www.illinoiscenter-forthebook.org).



### New ISLAC members

The Illinois State Library Advisory Committee (ISLAC) met recently, and State Library Director Anne Craig introduced new committee members (left to right) Kevin Stein, Illinois Poet Laureate, Peoria; Karen Danczak Lyons, Evanston Public Library; and Thomas R. Jones, J Publications, Springfield. New members not pictured are Mary Jo George of Western Springs and Illinois Library Association President Pam Van Kirk.



## Project Next Generation Grants awarded

Nearly \$200,000 in FY2013 grants has been awarded to 19 Illinois public libraries hosting Project Next Generation programs. Project Next Generation was created by Secretary of State Jesse White and is the first-ever statewide mentoring program to be administered through public libraries. Project mentors work with students to develop technological skills and guide students in developing life skills, such as effective communication, goal-setting and conflict resolution. More than 9,000 students have completed the program since its inception in 2000. About 600 mentors have generously offered their time to provide training to help students obtain skills that put them on the path to careers and lifelong learning.

### Libraries receiving PNG grants are:

Beardstown Houston Memorial Public Library  
Bloomington Public Library  
Carbondale Public Library  
Centralia Regional Library District  
Champaign Public Library  
Danville Public Library  
Decatur Public Library  
Elmwood Park Public Library  
Mendon Four Star Public Library District  
Freeport Public Library  
Harrisburg Public Library District  
Alton Hayner Public Library District  
Joliet Public Library  
Kankakee Public Library  
Springfield Lincoln Public Library  
Collinsville Mississippi Valley Library District  
Peoria Public Library  
Richton Park Public Library District  
Sparta Public Library

## LSTA long-range plan approved

The Institute of Museum and Library Services has approved the long-range plan (2013-2017) submitted by the State Library, which outlines plans on how the library will spend any Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds received. The plan is available at [www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/grants/pdfs/lstalongrangeplan.pdf](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/grants/pdfs/lstalongrangeplan.pdf).

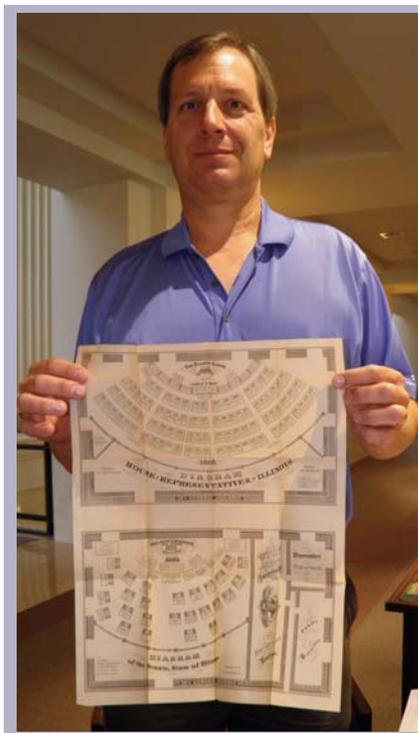
## State Library staff news

Technical Services consultant **Barbara Klintworth** retired this fall following nearly a decade of outstanding service with the State Library.

**Megan Kapusta** has moved from Library Operations to the Talking Book and Braille Service.

**Jenny Heisel** has joined the Administrative staff as a secretary.

The article "History of the Fletchers, McElvains and Dixons," written by State Library employee **Dan Dixon**, was published in the Fall 2012 *Illinois State Genealogical Society Quarterly*.



### 19TH-CENTURY LEGISLATIVE MANUAL DONATED TO STATE LIBRARY

Arnold Hoffman, an Illinois native now living in North Carolina, stopped by the State Library during a visit back home to donate a copy of the *1869 Illinois Legislative Manual* to the library's collection. Unlike the State Library's other two copies of the manual, this one includes a folded chart of General Assembly seating. Hoffman said his grandfather from Waterloo had the manual for many years. The State Library thanks Arnold and his family for their generosity in donating the manual to the library.



### NATIONAL BOOK FESTIVAL

Illinois Center for the Book coordinator Bonnie Matheis (second from left) represented the Illinois State Library at the National Book Festival in Washington, D.C., this fall. Joining Bonnie are Susan Hildreth (second from right), director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and two Junior League of Washington, D.C., volunteers.



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