

Idaho Library Association  
President's Report 2004-2005  
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Throughout the past year the Idaho Library Association has continued to serve the membership and the greater Idaho library community, to provide continuing education and professional development opportunities, and to strengthen our organization.

The 2004 annual conference in Boise was very successful; the wide variety of program offerings attracted 205 registrants. The pre-conferences were attended by 33 people, and the American Association of School Librarians Leadership conference drew 25 attendees. Our Intellectual Freedom Auction raised a record \$1,485.50. We had 26 vendors offering various products and services, and their support is invaluable to the conference.

Mike Doellman, 2005 conference chair, and Cathy Gray, local arrangements chair, have prepared an exciting conference to be held in Pocatello. The programs begin with a reader's advisory pre-conference session with Nancy Pearl, and a pre-conference session on emotional intelligence with Jim Fullerton. Nancy Pearl will give our keynote address, and Carol Brey-Casiano will be our Friday luncheon speaker. Conference program topics include finding grant money, literacy and library use standards, building a positive work environment, digital library resources, public relations, search engines, storytelling, young adult literature, a legislative panel, and LiLI-Unlimited.

We look forward to the 2006 annual conference in Moscow on October 4-7, and the 2007 conference in Nampa October 3-6.

ILA developed a half-day training session for regional conference chairs, and offered it for the first time in October 2004. The session provided expanded support materials, and there was much discussion and information exchange among the incoming and outgoing chairs, the ILA vice-president, and the Idaho State Library Continuing Education Consultant. It was well received, and will be continued in October 2005.

In the spring of 2005, regional conferences were held in five of the six regions throughout the state. They were well attended, and helped provide continuing education, professional development, and networking opportunities a bit closer to home. Over the years the regional conferences have grown to the point that their combined attendance is greater than that of the annual conferences, so we are certainly filling a need. (Region 1, North Idaho, decided not to hold an ILA-sponsored regional conference in 2005.)

In the spring of 2005, Lynne Bidwell conducted a regional conference survey. The many comments and suggestions that were received are being evaluated and incorporated into future conference planning. Thank you both to Lynne and to all of those who participated in the survey.

There were four Idaho participants selected to attend the first Pacific Northwest Library Association Leadership Institute in October of 2004: Gaila Clough, Tamra Hawley-

House, Diane Rice, and Dawn Wittman. Idaho mentors were Larry Almeida and Carolyn Ruby-Weilage. The next institute will be held in the fall of 2006, and coordinated by Mary DeWalt.

The ILA Legislative Breakfast in January was well attended both by legislators and library supporters. Information packets were distributed, and library issues were discussed with the legislators. In the legislative session ILA's bill to simplify fee increases encountered unforeseen and strong opposition from real estate companies who were concerned about photocopy fee increases without adequate public notice. The Idaho State Library budget was well received, and passed. Property tax reform will be the big issue in the next legislative session, and the Legislative Committee and Legislative Advisor John Watts are monitoring this closely.

In May of 2005 ILA sent a delegation of four to the American Library Association's National Library Legislative Day in Washington, D.C.: Ann Joslin (State Librarian), Norma Jean Sprouffske (school librarian), Vicki Kreimeyer (public librarian), and Jim Fullerton (trustee). They visited the staff of all of the Idaho delegations, educating them on Idaho library issues, the PATRIOT Act, and the importance of fully funding the Library Services and Technology Act (and the impact those funds have on Idaho libraries).

ILA adopted the *Idaho Interlibrary Sharing Guidelines*, a document developed by the LiLI Advisory Board and the Idaho State Library in a working group reflecting all types of libraries. These guidelines are necessary in light of developments in technology and the increase in interlibrary loan activity since ILA's adoption of its 1983 ILL code. The new guidelines help make LiLI-Unlimited Resource Sharing a reality.

The ILA web site is the primary communication tool for the association. This year the content of the site was expanded, divisional discussion lists were created to facilitate communication within the divisions, and divisional affiliations were added to the membership list. From September of 2004 to August of 2005, there were 112,194 web site page views.

Each year the association reviews two of its committees in order to clarify and refine their charges, and to examine their roles in the overall organization. The Public Relations and Advocacy Committee defined its focus as advocacy education and awareness, and effective publicity for libraries in Idaho. ILA's relationship with the Rocky Mountain News Service was extended and refined. The Continuing Education Committee was revitalized, and adopted as their statement of purpose "To promote, support, and facilitate continuing education and professional development for the library community in Idaho." It will be working closely with the annual and regional conference committees, and coordinating with the Idaho State Library's continuing education program.

The ILA Board worked on updating various tools that help us run the association. The Policies and Procedures were updated to keep pace with reality, the divisions are in the

process of clarifying sections in their bylaws, and a new Annual Conference Manual draft is nearly ready for review (replacing the 1996 manual).

The Idaho Library Association is a volunteer organization, and every one of us works hard to provide the best service possible for our ILA members. I would like to thank every Board member, committee chair, and committee member for the many hours that they have devoted to these commitments -- the association can't function without you! Last year Vicki Kreimeyer ended her annual report by asking each of you to become involved in ILA, and I would like to repeat her challenge: "I encourage all of you to make a commitment to help ILA in some way in the coming year. The options you have are many: volunteer to be on a committee, add your library to our growing number of institutional members, contact your local legislator when they are home and when we ask you to during the legislative session, check the ILA web site regularly to learn the Association's business, read articles in the *Idaho Librarian*, offer to help on a regional conference planning committee, or annual conference arrangements when it comes to your area of the state. The association only prospers if we are responsive to your professional development needs, and we only know them if we hear from you."

Being president of ILA for the past year has been an invaluable experience, and I would like to thank all of you for being part of that. I would like to thank Vicki Kreimeyer and Lynn Baird in particular for their perspective, advice, and support.