



# Illinois Heartland Library System

## Membership Considerations

In December of 2015, the building that housed the Centreville Public Library in St. Clair County was damaged by fire. The library director relocated to City Hall.

In September of 2016, in response to a letter sent via certified mail, IHLS was informed in writing that the library would reopen on November 30, 2016. That never happened.

Several attempts were made to determine the library's status in November and December of 2016 through communication with the library director, but no real information was forthcoming.

In January of 2017, IHLS aggressively began to reach out to Centreville stakeholders. These individuals included the library director, the board president and the mayor. During the 1<sup>st</sup> week of January, we were informed that the library director was no longer employed in that position. Another certified letter was sent to the board president and mayor, along with several e-mail communications. The only "real" contact we could establish was with the mayor's administrative assistant who would take phone calls. At one point, at her suggestion, a conference call was set up, but no one from Centreville participated.

We do know that they did file a tax levy for the upcoming year in the amount of \$5,000.00. However, they did not apply for Area and Per Capita Grant and Equalization funding from the Illinois State Library. For the previous fiscal year, the library received over \$34,000.00 through this grant.

At the February meeting of the Membership and Policy Committee, a motion was made and approved to recommend suspension of the Centreville Public Library from the Illinois Heartland Library System.

A letter was sent to the board president and the mayor informing them of this committee action and no response to IHLS has been received to date.

Submitted by Ellen Popit, IHLS Staff  
February 22, 2017