



# Illinois Heartland Library System

## **Operations Board Report April 2017**

### Delivery Accomplishments

Delivery team attended Reaching Forward South which is a statewide conference for support staff and library directors. See attached report.

Delivery managers In-person meeting to check in on various practices happening in the hubs.

Still reviewing the Delivery Survey. Libraries have been contacted that had concerns.

### Building Updates

#### *Champaign*

Items are set for online surplus auction. Data uploading in process in anticipation of having the online auction in May 2017.

#### *Carbondale*

Shelving has been secured.

#### *Edwardsville*

Received three new transit vans.

## **Reaching Forward South 2017**

Illinois Library Association (ILA) sponsors a library conference called Reaching Forward that is held annually in the northern part of the state. The programming is geared towards support staff and their needs. Reaching Forward South (RFS) organically sprang out of a need for different programming that was relevant for libraries further south of Interstate 80. While initially the RFS conference was answering the needs of library support staff in smaller communities, programming has now been added for directors who often times are their own support staff.

This year's theme was "Don't Underestimate the Power of the Library" -- Star Wars was everywhere.



Harriet Zipfel/ Darth Vader

Storm Trooper

This year's conference offered many on-trend presentations:

- Every Library, an organization providing pro-bono consulting to libraries across the United States, was represented by Executive Director John Chrastka. Mr. Chrastka presented sessions in the Advocacy track and was available during "office hours" for one on one consulting. Patti Piotrowski, ILA's incoming president, was there speaking about ILAS's role in supporting libraries across the state and encouraging libraries to be active.
- IHLS's own Leslie Zavediuk shared tips on how to assist patrons with e-media.
- From Wireless hotspot lending (Janet McAllister—Rochester Public Library District and Leander Spearman—Belleville Public Library) to Community Empowerment (Diana Sussman—Carbondale Public Library) to Branding Your Library (Amy Byers—Chatham Area Public Library District), IHLS members were well represented through presentations.
- Sharon Ruda from the Talking Book and Braille Service (TBBS) shared how TBBS and the Illinois State Library provides a postage-free mail order public library of audio books and braille materials for any Illinois resident who is unable to read standard print material comfortably due to a permanent or temporary visual or physical disability.
- Ryan Franklin (Illinois State Library) spoke about the Good/Bad and Ugly of Websites and social media.
- Other highlights included Maker Spaces in Small Places, Respecting Our Patrons, Rural Libraries Unite!, NaNoWiMo: Writing and Publishing, IREAD Summer Reading Program, Healthy Staff, Active Shooter Training and Amazing Spelling BEES!

Reaching Forward South is self-funded by library contributions and donations. Volunteers from libraries from both systems are the organizers, led by Ryan Franklin from the Illinois State Library and Michael Baumann from the Toulon Public Library District. Reaching Forward South can demonstrate there is a need for a more southern conferences that encourages the broad participation of libraries from all of Illinois. IHLS supports the conference by providing the printing and some staff support. Reaching Across Illinois Library System (RAILS) donated \$1000.

All in all it was a wonderful conference and I encourage all to attend. Every year it has grown and is up to 108 registered participants. This will most definitely influence where it is held next year!

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan J. Palmer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'S'.

Susan Palmer