



MEMO TO: IHLS Board of Directors  
FROM: Chris Dawdy and Ellen Popit  
DATE: October 16, 2015  
RE: Member Day Report

At an approximate cost of \$2,300.00, nearly 160 staff from IHLS member libraries, IHLS staff, and vendors participated in the 2015 IHLS Member Day on Friday, October 9, at the St. Anthony's Grade School in Effingham. The agenda for the day included panel discussions on human resources, library programs for adults, school librarians, using social media to promote libraries, new directors, the Children's Choice Book Awards, Delivery, special libraries, serving teens and tweens, and concluded with a semi-annual SHARE Membership meeting.

Included among the participants were representatives from academic libraries (2), public libraries (82), school libraries (23), special libraries (3), and staff (24).

The initial response from participants to the day was very positive. IHLS staff enjoyed meeting member library staff that they had only talked to on the phone or emailed with in the past. We heard many comments from participants about the ideas they plan to implement that they learned from their colleagues in discussion groups. And we have a new offer for equipment to provide our membership from one of the participating vendors, after he spent time in discussion with our members!

Looking ahead, we will continue to look to our members to assist us in developing the best structure for Member Day, and the best day or time of year to conduct Member Day. As a staff, we will also establish working groups to assist in planning and providing the event—e.g., lunch and refreshment committee, break-out session planning committee, and so on.

We are going to attempt to move the event to a larger and more convenient location, and will be seeking corporate sponsorship to assist with funding this important aspect of the day. This move will allow us to provide more break-out sessions in order to expand the offerings, as well as provide more space for vendors.

Because discussion groups support the need for networking expressed by our members, this is the perfect venue for that. However, if funds are available, it would be even better if an engaging keynote speaker could be obtained.

The general consensus of the staff and participants involved is that we should begin planning the third annual IHLS Member Day.

We are quite pleased with this year's event!