



Membership Report

September, 2016

There are five items of note to share with the board this month:

A membership overview was prepared for the annual report and shared with the Policy and Membership Committee at the September 13, 2016 Meeting. IHLS membership breaks down as follows:

Academic Libraries:	34
Public Libraries	227
School Libraries	234
Special Libraries	30
<hr/> Total Libraries	<hr/> 525

The status of three libraries are being watched carefully:

Centreville Public Library: This library has been closed since a fire last December. Because of the length of their closure, IHLS has sent certified letters to the board president, the mayor and the library director asking them to submit a plan for reopening no later than September 30, 2016. This plan will be reviewed and discussed by the Policy and Membership Committee at their October 3, 2016 meeting. This library is a SHARE member.

Tilden Public Library: This library lost their space in a building owned by a special education district in Randolph County in the spring of this year. They have located new space, but it needs work before the library can move in. They also are without a library director. We have also requested that a plan for reopening and staffing be submitted before the October 3, 2016 meeting.

East St. Louis Community College: This library is a victim of the Illinois budget crisis. Working with a skeletal staff during the spring semester last year, this SHARE member requested that their holds be turned off. In communication with the Chief of Staff of the Illinois Community College Board, we have learned that they are interested in reopening the library. They have been sent the appropriate information regarding membership compliance and SHARE fees.

The status of the Brighton Public Library District has also been a topic of discussion. Brighton became a district in November, 2014 and currently encompasses the entire Southwestern CUSD #9 School District. A small but vocal group of citizens became active after receiving the first tax bills that reflected their participation in the new district. A question will be placed on the November 8th ballot in both Macoupin and Jersey Counties that states:

Shall all of the territory in, Macoupin/Jersey County within the boundaries of the Southwestern Community Unit School District No. 9, be disconnected from the Brighton Memorial Library District, Brighton, Illinois?

If this measure passes, it would mean the dissolution of the entire agency, not just the territory added since becoming a district.

Our second “Members Matter” meeting was held on September 6, 2016, with system staff attending from the Gilman-Danforth Public Library. Approximately 40 people participated. After system staff provided updates, two topics were introduced for general discussion; the advocacy initiative being introduced by the IHLS board and dealing with challenging patrons. Also part of the session was a round-robin at each site, during which attendees could share happenings at their libraries.

IHLS has been actively involved in supporting the statewide push to have school libraries included in the Illinois legislation that will implement the **Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)**. I spoke at the Carbondale Listening Tour and attended the session in Effingham. We do know that school libraries will be represented at each tour location within IHLS. At this writing, 14 people are registered to attend the ESSA workshop scheduled for Saturday, September, 24 that will be held via V-tell at our hubs.