

Chapter 8 Op, Pop, and Co-Op: 1960-1969

Ernestine Grafton began using LSA funding for library extension services soon after the program began, establishing field offices of the Iowa State Traveling Library in Cedar Falls, Mason City, Jefferson and Cherokee. Library cooperatives for book buying and professional advice had evolved at each location except Cherokee, and Grafton called on state legislators to fully match LSA funds so that field offices could be established in the Southeast, Southwest and East Central areas of the state as well.

The 1960 conference was a joint meeting with the Nebraska Library Association in Lincoln. Although chartered buses from Davenport and Mason City were cancelled due to low registration, the ILA-sponsored bus from Waterloo was a success with reports that Bus-master Donald O. Rod of Iowa State Teachers College "might prove to be competition for even Milton Berle" as a master of ceremonies. During humorist Richard Armour's banquet address, President Dale M. Bentz, of the University of Iowa, noticed many of his colleagues slipping away in order to catch the train back to Iowa City to see the Hawkeyes beat Purdue in the Homecoming game the next day.

On March 16, 1961, the first Iowa Citizens' Committee for National Library Week (NLW) met in Iowa City with poet Paul Engle as chair. The Committee adopted as goals: 1) the development of school library programs, including appointment of a state school library advisor, 2) establishment of a graduate library school at the University of Iowa, and 3) an adequate budget for extension of public library service.

Encouraging the last item, Ernestine Grafton had reported that "of the 158 libraries found in towns with a population less than 1,000, 156 are open less than 10 hours per week" and that more than 900,000 Iowans still had no library service. Later in the year, President James C. Marvin, of the Cedar Rapids Public Library, appointed Coe College Librarian Dr. Warren Tracy to head an ILA committee to study the library school issue.

Grant D. Hanson, of the Iowa State University Library, began 1962 in the dual roles of ILA Vice-President/President-Elect and National Library Week Director for Iowa. The NLW Citizens' Committee included First Lady of Iowa Mrs. Norman Erbe, State Representative Ray Cunningham, and representatives of the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation, the American Association of University Women, the Iowa PTA, Federated Women's Clubs of Iowa, and the *Des Moines Register*, as well as librarians. It recommended appointment of a School

Library Supervisor in the Department of Public Instruction, matching funds for LSA to permit further library extension, and a graduate library school at the University of Iowa.

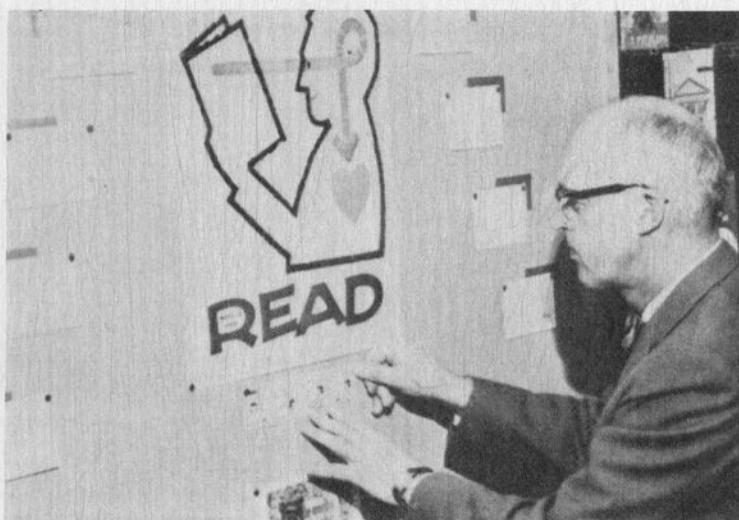
Governor Norman Erbe welcomed attendees at the 1962 District 8 meeting in Des Moines, the first of the meetings which all voted to reduce the number of district meetings from nine to six. At the District 6 meeting in Tipton, a program on "The Pros and Cons of Paperbacks in the Library" was followed by a demonstration of using paperbacks for adult book discussion groups by the Contemporary Discussion group from the Bettendorf Public Library.

Tragically, soon after he had coordinated these successful meetings, Hanson died in North Carolina of a sudden illness on his return from the ALA conference in Miami Beach. The Nominating Committee named University of Iowa Professor Louane Newsome to be Vice-President/President-Elect.

The theme of the 1962 conference was "Iowa's Libraries - And the Freedom To Read." John de J. Pember-ton, Jr., Executive Director of the American Civil Liberties Union, reviewed the legal history of obscenity in U.S. courts, including the Supreme Court's 1957 Roth decision, while Dorothy M. Broderick, Children's Consultant at the New York State Library, asked "Freedom For Who To Read What?" Arguing that the censor's 'average man' doesn't exist, Broderick continued:

Even if this average man does exist, does he resemble the picture the censor paints of him? According to this portrait, we are all on the verge of total sexual depravity, needing only Henry Miller as our guide to the final downfall. We are all potential willing victims to the Communist conspiracy; we are all about to hit the road and leave family, job and loved ones behind in exchange for a life of narcotic injections and alcoholic binges. Honestly, what kind of nonsense is this?

Less than a month after James Meredith's appearance on the campus of the University of Mississippi as its first black student provoked riots, Iowa's Judge Luther T. Glanton, Jr. spoke at the conference of his recent goodwill tour of Africa and Southeast Asia. He said he had reported that Americans were working quickly to eliminate racial discrimination and that:



Oivind M. Hovde, President 1955

organizations such as yours were shouldering their full responsibilities in telling the world through reading, mass communication and traveling that an individual should be judged by what he is morally, spiritually, intellectually and individually and not from the color of his skin nor the texture of his hair.

ILA was indeed shouldering its responsibilities. In his remarks at each of the 1963 district meetings, Vice-President Ray Smith, of the Mason City Public Library, noted with pride that Iowa and Idaho had been the only states to present resolutions at the ALA conference in Miami Beach calling upon the national organization to back up its desegregation policies with action.

Smith was also 1963 Iowa Chair of National Library Week. Honorary Chair Meredith Willson, author of *The Music Man* and creator of Marian the Librarian, urged libraries to use his slogan: "The Public Library in any community is the Fountainhead of the culture that has and is to be."

The minutes of the Executive Board meeting of November 22 record that "the meeting was adjourned at about 1:30, soon after the receipt of the tragic news of the wounding of President Kennedy in Dallas."

The speakers for the 1964 district meetings travelled in unprecedented style as Governor Harold E. Hughes placed his airplane and pilot at their disposal. His generosity may have resulted from ILA's donation of a small library for the Governor's residence at 2900 Grand Avenue. Responding to a report that the residence had no useful books, the Executive Board had supplied reference works including a dictionary and atlas, Commager's *Documents of American History*, and de Tocqueville's *Democracy in America*; the State

Traveling Library provided a collection of current titles to be updated upon request.

One of the 1961 National Library Week Committee recommendations was realized with the appointment of Des Moines school librarian Betty Jo Buckingham as State School Library Consultant. She was introduced at the 1964 conference business meeting which also voted to support establishment of a graduate library school at the University of Iowa, another of the 1961 proposals.

In his column in the January 1965 issue of *The Catalyst*, President Oswald H. Joerg, of the Davenport Public Library, warned:

Although librarians will increasingly have to become information specialists capable of understanding and using machines, the wise librarian will not become hypnotized by the halo around the machine, nor the siren song with lyrics phrased in the esoteric language of the computer.

Joerg offered a series of recommendations to ILA in his September column, including: 1) review and revision of Iowa's library laws, 2) a Governor's Conference on Libraries, 3) research on public library finance, 4) promotion of libraries in the business and professional communities, and 5) appointment of a paid executive secretary for ILA.

At the 1965 conference in Des Moines, ex-officio Executive Board member Ernestine Grafton proposed putting before the membership amendments to appoint, rather than elect, a secretary-treasurer; to eliminate the ex-officio Board membership for the Director of the State Traveling Library; and to replace these two

members with three members to be elected at large. The amendments were approved in a subsequent vote and took effect at the 1966 conference.

The Children's and Young Person's Section sponsored author Madeline L'Engle at the 1965 conference. She concluded her address by asking "What can we tell a child that will still be with him when everything else is gone? The truth!" An earlier program was a panel discussion on public library buildings followed by a visit to the new West Side Branch of the Public Library of Des Moines on Franklin Avenue.

In a May 1966 column in *The Catalyst*, President C. King Batschelet, a trustee of the Guthrie Center Public Library, declared:

The most progress in the library field in the state of Iowa over the past several years has been in the development of cooperative systems and in the extension of free public library service to the rural areas by county or township appropriations which are used to contract with existing libraries for such service. Each of these is largely the result of the federal Library Services Act and the able assistance of [the Iowa State Traveling Library.]

Also in May, the first ILA scholarship, in the amount of \$1,000, was awarded to Carolyn Kacena of Cedar Rapids. After receiving her bachelor's degree from the State College of Iowa in Cedar Falls, she used the scholarship at the Western Reserve University Library School. She wrote an informative thank-you letter published in the May 1967 issue of *The Catalyst*, reporting that she had accepted a position as a cataloger at the John Deere & Company Library in Moline, Illinois.

A goal pursued by the Iowa library community since the beginning of the decade was realized when University of Minnesota Library School Professor Frederick Wezeman was appointed on June 15 to plan and establish a graduate library school at the University of Iowa. Wezeman was well-known in Iowa, having spoken at the 1956 and 1962 conferences. He had also conducted surveys for the public libraries of Cedar Rapids, Des Moines, Sioux City and Spencer.

The 1966 conference theme was "Op, Pop, and Co-Op," comparing the trend toward library cooperation to the "strange modern" cultural phenomena of Op art and Pop music. According to *The Catalyst*:

Our 1966 conference seeks to emphasize the "strange modern" in the



Jack Tillson, Executive Secretary 1966-1971

library world and to suggest that by comparison that various forms of cooperation (though often difficult to understand and/or appreciate and perhaps even offensive to many of us and our tradition-bound concepts) are the primary solution to the problem of making all of our libraries properly functional in this era of increased output of knowledge and demand for it.

The appointment of Jack Tillson to the newly-established post of Executive Secretary-Treasurer was announced at the business meeting of this conference. Tillson, Director of the Boone Junior College Library, became the first employee of ILA after having been elected to the position of Treasurer for 14 consecutive years.

Throughout 1967, President Lee Sutton, of Parsons College in Fairfield, led the fight against an effort to enact a tighter state obscenity law. Influenced by the National Citizens for Decent Literature, censorship advocates succeeded in introducing House File 273. The bill was defeated after a strenuous lobbying effort and Sutton later commented:

I am proud of the activities of the association during this last year when we were faced with a serious threat of irrational censorship. This is a difficult area, but we handled it with firmness. People wrote letters and went out of their way to see their legislators.

He concluded that "I rather feel that those bills would not have been stopped if the legislature had not realized that they would have to fight the librarians of the state."



*Thomas L. Carney, President 1974, and
Louane Newsome, President 1963*

In September the second ILA scholarship was awarded to Thomas L. Carney, one of the first students in the recently-established School of Library Science at the University of Iowa. Carney had completed his undergraduate work at Iowa while working part-time on the bookmobile of the Cedar Rapids Public Library. He became Director at Cedar Rapids in 1970 and served as President of ILA in 1974.

President Andrew M. Hansen, instructor at the School of Library Science in Iowa City, proposed an ambitious legislative agenda at the beginning of 1968. Among his suggestions were:

equalization of permissible tax levies between cities and counties; provision for a better distribution of Iowa public documents; provision for unified government of regional libraries; changing the name of the Iowa State Traveling Library; more specific delineation of the responsibilities of the library board, the librarian, and the local governing body; and standardizing the size of library boards.

Also announced at the beginning of the year was an additional \$1,000 ILA scholarship for library school students and appointment of a committee to prepare an organization manual for ILA officers.

A comprehensive review of the development of a statewide system of library cooperatives, coordinated by the Iowa State Traveling Library and funded through LSA and its successor, the Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA), appeared in the March 1968 issue of *The Catalyst*. The ten cooperatives, dates of establishment, headquarters libraries and initial staffs were:

Eastern Area Library Coop Program (1957)
Cedar Falls Public Library
Leona Funk, Consultant
Beverly Lind, Consultant

North Iowa Library Extension (1958)
Mason City Public Library
Ann McKinley, Consultant
Susan Vaughn, Consultant

Raccoon Area Library Coop Service Program (1958)
Jefferson Public Library
Leona Lacock, Administrator
Edythe O. Cawthorne, Consultant

War Eagle Coop Service Program (1963)
Sheldon Public Library
Bruce Tanner, Consultant

Keosippi Library Development (1965)
Keokuk Public Library
Shirley Dick, Administrator
Doris Foley, Consultant

Seven Rivers Library System (1965)
Iowa City Public Library
Sallie Helm, Administrator
Nelle Neafie, Consultant

Southwest Area Iowa Library Service (1966)
Shenandoah Public Library
Edythe O. Cawthorne, Consultant

Prairie Hills Library System (1966)
Ottumwa Public Library
Wilfred L. West, Consultant

Siouxland Area Field Office (1966)
Sioux City Public Library
Renwick Garypie, Administrator

Des Moines Metropolitan Area (1967)
Public Library of Des Moines
Dan A. Williams, Administrator
Maurice Travillian, Consultant

The headquarter libraries served as field offices of the Iowa State Traveling Library and provided:

centralized ordering; cataloging; weeding; in-service training and workshops on book selection, reference books, children's literature, etc.; and professional advice to boards and librarians on any phase of good library service.

The Keosippi Library Development was part of the first interstate library service program in the United States, working in cooperation with the Great River Library System, headquartered in Quincy, Illinois, and also providing contract services to the Cumberland Trail and Kaskaskia Library Systems in Illinois. Iowa City Public Library was also serving as headquarters for a pilot project for telephone access to reference and specialized collections.

Vice-President Ethel L. Beeler, of the Public Library of Des Moines, shared her thoughts upon concluding the 1969 district meetings:

As I interpret the audience reaction, persons attending District Meetings appreciate hearing about the less theoretical, more practical aspects of library work. It seems apparent, too, that there is value in having something directed to persons both at the Librarians' desks and at the Board tables.

Upon assuming the presidency at the 1969 conference in Davenport, Beeler reported noticing "an intense seriousness of purpose which seemed almost totally to have replaced the casual exchanges" of previous conferences. However, as ILA considered the "Challenge of the Seventies," the conference theme, relief was provided by both humorist Richard Armour and *Des Moines Register* cartoonist Frank Miller.



Elaine G. Estes, President 1978, with Ernest Hertzberg at 1971 Iowa Governor's Conference on Libraries

Chapter 9 The Iowa Regional Library System: 1970-1979

The Seventies opened with a serious challenge, indeed, as President Nixon's veto of an appropriation to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare cut Iowa's LSCA funding by \$285,000. The Iowa State Traveling Library was forced to take drastic steps, terminating forty-five staff members across the state and reorganizing the ten cooperatives into seven.

Southwest Area Iowa Library Service was absorbed entirely by the Prairie Hills Library System, while the War Eagle Coop Service Program merged its reference and consulting services with the Siouxland Area Field Office as did the Raccoon Area Library Coop Service Program with the Des Moines Metropolitan Area.

The possibility of a Governor's conference on libraries emerged during discussions at the 1970 district meetings, and the idea was proposed to Governor Robert D. Ray. Plans for a Governor's conference to be held the following year were announced at the annual conference in Cedar Rapids.

Ronald Stump, of the Iowa State Traveling Library, spoke briefly at the conference on I-LITE, a teletype exchange established in October 1969, linking the cooperative systems in an interlibrary loan network. Iowa author Jeannette Eyerly defined the 'generation gap' as "the gap between how much the parent had forgotten of his own youth and how much the youngster hadn't learned" during her general session sponsored by the Children's and Young Person's Section.

After 18 years as ILA Treasurer, and four years as Executive Secretary, Jack Tillson submitted his resignation at the beginning of 1971. Noting ILA's debt to both Tillson and long-time editor of *The Catalyst* Lois M. Hunt, President Sr. Marita Bartholome proposed merging their responsibilities in a single half-time position. The Executive Board approved the plan, naming the new post Executive Assistant to the President. Former *Des Moines Register* staffer Don H. Allen and Mildred K. Allen, formerly with the Public Library of Des Moines, were appointed to share the position.

The first Iowa Governor's Conference on Libraries was held on April 30 and May 1, 1971, in Des Moines. With a theme of "Libraries Without Walls," the conference replaced the ILA district meetings and was intended to provide recommendations to a newly-established State Library Advisory Council. Governor Ray welcomed the nearly 300 attendees, proclaiming:

Our great commitment for the rest of

this century must be to knock down the wall of separation, distrust and, yes, hostility which has been built, bit-by-bit, until it threatens to divide us into adversary groups which will no longer be able to communicate with one another.

Edmund Arnold, director of the Cornell College Library and leader of one of the 13 discussion groups, proposed that: "No person in any community should be deprived of library services."

ILA Legislative Committee Chair Roderick MacDonald, of the Public Library of Des Moines, presented a draft bill at the conference, calling for a five-member state library board, appointed by the Governor, which would: 1) appoint a director for the state library agency, 2) determine regions for public library service, 3) set policies, rules and standards, 4) carry out research and planning for public library services, 5) coordinate and cooperate with other agencies, and 6) administer federal and state funds for state and regional services.

Regional systems would have elected boards which would: 1) appoint a director, 2) arrange for quarters, 3) contract with other agencies to provide or receive services, 4) set and determine regional policies within standards as recommended by the state library agency, 5) coordinate and cooperate with other agencies, and 6) adopt services on a wider than regional basis if desired. Regional directors would: 1) manage the regional system with the advice of the board, 2) hire a staff, and 3) survey the needs of the region and devise flexible programs and services to meet those needs. At the 1971 annual conference in Des Moines, Charles Stinard, Jr., Ottumwa banker and chair of the Governor's Advisory Council, announced that the Council would likely recommend:

A five-member advisory commission to hire a state library director, placing the Law Library under jurisdiction of the Iowa Supreme Court, merger of the Medical libraries of Des Moines and the University of Iowa, six to eight regional library systems, an appropriation of 90 cents per capita from the state general funds for library support (equal to about \$2,500,000) and designation of the three state university and Drake University libraries as resource centers to supplement regional libraries.

Conference attendees adopted a resolution, proposed by Sioux City Public Library Director Ronald Dubberly, calling for legislation that would protect the confidentiality of the names of library borrowers and the items they borrowed or information they sought.

The Trustees Section heard Jack Short, a member of the Connecticut Advisory Committee on Libraries report: "I consider many library boards in America today nothing but hot beds of apathy. There is a lack of communication between them and librarians."

On October 18, the Iowa State Executive Council rejected a \$6 resubscription claim for the underground newspaper the *Berkeley Barb*, submitted by the Iowa State Traveling Library. Citing a recent headline which read "Marx (the One We All Love) Says Nixon's Assassination is the Country's Only Hope," State Auditor Lloyd Smith made the motion to refuse payment, provoking fears of censorship in the Iowa library community.

ILA President Marjorie Humby, Librarian of the Waverly Public Library declared:

ILA deems this action to be a dangerous precedent to destroy free access to all information. While ILA does not necessarily endorse the editorial policy of the *Berkeley Barb* it feels that libraries have the responsibility to make available this piece of social commentary that represents contemporary life styles.

The Executive Council later approved purchase of a tape recording of the rock musical *Hair*, after Humby and Iowa State Traveling Library Acting Director J. Maurice Travillian again expressed concern.

Public hearings on the proposed long-range plan for development of Iowa library services prepared by the Governor's Advisory Council were held in six cities across the state early in March, 1972. The proposal maintained the five-member Library Commission, appointed by the Governor, as discussed earlier, but charged the Commission with responsibility for the Iowa State Traveling Library, the Department of History and Archives, the Library of the Iowa State Historical Society, the State Medical Library, and the State Law Library. Seven regional library systems, corresponding to the existing cooperatives, would cooperate with college and university libraries to provide local libraries with access to additional resources.

Discussion at the hearings included questions as to whether the \$2,500,000 annual price tag for the re-

gional systems was too high or too low. Advisory Council member Thomas L. Carney, Director of the Cedar Rapids Public Library, said that the 90 cents per capita base for the regional appropriation was a "realistic" figure politically. In debate on the method for selection of regional boards, the most often expressed position was that elected boards would be viewed more favorably by legislators.

Susanna Alexander, Associate State Librarian of Missouri, spoke at each of the 1972 district meetings. She noted that the ILA Legislative Committee recommended regional advisory boards that would be appointed rather than elected. She warned against presenting to the legislature a plan without widespread support: "Get together on a goal and don't be handicapped by disagreement over structure."

Early in the summer, J. Maurice Travillian resigned as Acting Director of the Iowa State Traveling Library, giving as a reason his \$11,500 salary, lowest of any state in the nation. Two weeks later, State Auditor Lloyd Smith released a report critical of record keeping at the Library.

Board Chair Tom Muller speculated that the controversies over the *Berkeley Barb* subscription and tape recording of *Hair*, in which Smith had been involved, had been factors leading to the audit. In a front-page story in *The Catalyst*, ILA President Humby told of harassment of Iowa State Traveling Library employees by auditors, asking: "How can they work efficiently with Big Brother peering over their shoulders. I cannot help but think of the Joe McCarthy era."

At the 1972 annual conference in Waterloo, members approved a resolution directing the Legislative Committee to submit its regional library proposal to the next session of the General Assembly. Looking back on a tumultuous term, retiring President Humby told the conference: "I am glad to forget the whole rotten year."

As the 1973 legislative session got underway, ILA retained Des Moines attorney Edward H. Jones as its first lobbyist. Jones was charged with drafting a regional library bill and working for its passage. Legislative Committee Chair Ronald Dubberly summarized the objectives of the proposal as it had been approved in Waterloo as:

1. To make every Iowan eligible for a library card that will entitle him to the full services of every public library in the state. Currently, libraries are a hodgepodge of local service areas and contractual agreements so that many people are denied access to any service and, still more...to the

library that is most convenient for them to use.

2. To insure that regional library service is built around presently existing library collections and services and to prevent the expensive and needless duplication of these services by a regional library agency. To this end specific libraries have been named in each region to provide core collections and essential services for the regional libraries (Cedar Rapids, Council Bluffs, Davenport, Des Moines, NILE, Inc., at Mason City, Sioux City and Waterloo).

3. To provide technical assistance in cataloging and processing books and other library materials. These things are done more cheaply in quantity. Most smaller libraries do not have personnel trained in the work. Regional libraries could provide this service through existing processing centers or on their own.

4. To provide expanded reference and information services which are becoming one of the most important and heavily used services provided by public libraries.

5. To provide interlibrary loan service because it is impossible for any one library regardless of size to purchase and house all of the library materials needed.

6. To provide librarians and trustees with help in the annual budgeting job.

7. To provide through regional staff library assistance the principles of librarianship and advice on keeping collections current with contents of other collections in the region in mind.

8. To produce lists of recommended books and subject bibliographies; to promote library use and reading on a regional level through sharing of materials and personnel; to help local libraries by providing ideas and know-how in producing public programs, ranging from adult education to antique identification days.

9. To provide materials and technical assistance for on-the-job training of new staff members in public libraries.

In what was described by *The Catalyst* as his 'gloss' on the proposal, Dubberly also explained that it was intended that a regional library system would provide direct library services to all residents of the region for a four-year period, including those living in areas or communities paying no taxes for library service.

As introduced by Senator E. Kevin Kelly, of Sioux City, Senate File 271 retained virtually all of the features described by Dubberly and included an appropriation of \$595,000. After the Senate passed the bill 47 to 0, the House amended it, decreasing the appropriation to a maximum of \$395,000, before passing it by a 92 to 2 vote. The Senate passed the amended bill 40 to 0, sending it to Governor Ray, whose signature created the Iowa Regional Library System.

A bill to reorganize the Iowa State Traveling Library, Senate File 196, also passed and was signed into law, after several amendments were added as a result of ILA lobbying. The Intellectual Freedom Committee opposed the original bill's provisions for the governor to directly appoint the state librarian and for members of the State Library Commission to serve at the governor's pleasure.

Arguing that these measures would politicize the Iowa State Library to be created, the committee was successful in pushing for authority for the Commission to appoint the State Librarian and for Commission members to serve fixed terms. As passed, the law provided for a Commission composed of the Supreme Court Administrator and four other members to be appointed by the governor, including a member of the medical profession. The Commission was to appoint the State Librarian and oversee a Department of Libraries, including the merged Iowa State Traveling Library, and the State Law and Medical Libraries.

At the 1973 conference in Cedar Rapids, the Iowa Library Trustees Association (ILTA) proposed that the six ILA district boundaries be redrawn to correspond to the seven new Regional System boundaries. The Executive Board approved the change at a meeting on November 29.

The new Regional System was up and running by the beginning of 1974. The seven systems, headquarters and administrators were:

Central Regional Library System

Des Moines

Marjorie Humby, former librarian of Waverly Public Library

East Central Regional Library System

Cedar Rapids

Nelle Neafie, former administrator of the Seven Rivers Library Cooperative

North Central Regional Library System

Mason City

Ann Swanson, former administrator of North Iowa Library Extension

Northeastern Regional Library System

Waterloo

Beverly Lind, former administrator of the Eastern Iowa Cooperative

Northwest Regional Library System

Sioux City

Mary Francis Harvey, former director of network services at Nebraska Library Commission

Southeastern Region

Davenport

Marie Lindquist, former director of the Bettendorf Public Library

Southwestern Regional Library System

Missouri Valley

Lucile Walensky, former librarian of Yankton, South Dakota, Public Library

ILA also was getting an office set up. Executive Assistants Don and Mildred Allen began working out of the Association's first permanent quarters in Room 401 of the Securities Building at 416 Seventh Street in Des Moines early in the year.

The Legislative Committee geared up to seek a 143 percent increase in the Regional appropriation for 1975 but was disappointed with the Governor's recommendation of \$585,065, well below the requested \$960,041. After heavy lobbying, the final appropriation was for \$762,588, representing a 93 percent increase over 1974, and an increase from 17 cents to 26.9 cents per capita. *The Catalyst* noted that:

Library association and Regional officials, however, said that the 26.9 cents isn't as munificent as it might appear because the money is to cover an entire 12 months. Most of the seven regions didn't get organized, hire administrators and establish headquarters

until nearly three months of fiscal 1973 had elapsed.

Another legislative victory was achieved when House File 1102, a new obscenity bill, was amended to exempt libraries from prosecution and to require uniform application of the state law, preventing local governments from adopting and enforcing different ordinances.

The Government Documents Section laid the groundwork for future legislative action at the 1974 conference in Des Moines. Its proposal to seek a law establishing a State Publications Distribution Center was approved at the business meeting.

At the Children and Young People's Section's breakfast, former Des Moines librarian Faith Sherman criticized the sexism she found in most children's literature: "The image of the female ranges from dull to invisible. In many children's books, the males do and the females are. Boys express themselves, girls weep." She encouraged children's librarians to build balanced collections by seeking out non-biased titles coming out from newer publishers.

In response to complaints relating to the Ames Public Library, Iowa Civil Liberties Union (ICLU) Executive Director Claudia Morrissey asked ILA to adopt a position against circulation practices, such as writing names on checkout cards, which reveal borrowers' identities. At an Executive Board meeting on February 14, 1975, Cedar Rapids Public Library Director Thomas L. Carney indicated agreement with the ICLU, but pointed out that many small libraries would be unable to afford to change over to other types of circulation systems. Carol Spaziani reported on the policy adopted by the Iowa City Public Library in 1970, to release the name of a borrower of a specific item only when ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction.

President Carl F. Orgren, of the School of Library Science at the University of Iowa, introduced a statement in the May issue of *The Catalyst* recommending use of circulation systems which protect borrowers' identities and encouraging resistance to governmental investigations into their reading habits.

Orgren also attended a reception for new members of Congress, held in Washington, D.C. on April 15, during National Library Week. He presented materials from State Librarian Barry Porter and the regional library administrators to staff members in each of Iowa's eight congressional offices, encouraging support of appropriations for an already-authorized White House Conference on libraries and for other library-related programs. He also spoke individually with Representatives Charles Grassley and Tom Harkin and with Sena-

tor John Culver. Reviewing the pros and cons of the experience in *The Catalyst*, Orgren recommended continued ILA participation in this event, then planned to be held every other year.

In its report on the 1975 session, the Legislative Committee was particularly self-critical over its unsuccessful efforts to increase regional library funding and to pass a bill for a state documents depository system. Noting that "our fine plans to expand a network of citizens to further library programs by influencing legislators in their home areas was a very dismal failure," the report called for dramatic improvement in ILA's lobbying performance.

At the annual conference in Sioux City, the Executive Board approved filing an "amicus curiae" petition on behalf of Des Moines adult book store owner Jerry Smith, in an appeal of his conviction on charges of sending obscene materials through the mail. Area 7 Media Director Beverly Hinders Trost, Chair of the Intellectual Freedom Committee, explained to the Board that librarians would be vulnerable to conviction if the Smith decision stood because federal officials could determine that items that they mailed were obscene even if state courts had not. In spite of support from ILA and ALA, the appeal was lost when the U.S. Supreme Court upheld Smith's conviction in 1977.

Grand View College Librarian Barbara Burn campaigned against sexism in *The Catalyst* as 1976 began. Criticizing captions of photos of the recent annual conference, she directed: "Leave the sexist comments for the commercial press; it's bad enough there, but inexcusable in a professional newsletter." In the first "ILA Members Forum" column in the March issue of *The Catalyst*, she argued against "insulting" racist and sexist subject headings.

The Board of Directors of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) approved the petition of ILA's College and University Librarian Section to become an ACRL Chapter affiliate for Iowa at the 1976 ALA Mid-winter meeting.

In July, a group of Iowa college libraries contracted with the Bibliographical Center for Research (BCR) for access to the Ohio College Library Center (OCLC) database. By September, the State Library announced in the *Catalyst* that it had contracted with BCR for membership for all Iowa libraries.

The theme of the 1976 annual conference in Waterloo was "Iowans Like Action" and the accent was on activism. Civil rights activist Dick Gregory reminded his audience "that in order to improve the quality of American life, they would have to provide information and

services to Americans and that they could not allow any restraints to be put on that information."

Dan Bakke of the Public Library of Des Moines, Chair of the Service to the Non-user Committee, reported that a *H.E.L.P.* handbook offering almost 200 'Hints and Examples for Library Programs' had been published and distributed by the committee. For the first time, librarians from Iowa's state institutions met at an ILA conference, learning about non-print media at a luncheon meeting.

The 1977 district meetings focused on legal issues and featured reports from State Treasurer Maurice E. Baringer on the Iowa Public Employee Retirement System and from Thomas Mann, Jr., Executive Director of the Iowa Civil Rights Commission, on affirmative action guidelines.

Also held in April was a retreat at Springbrook State Park to begin work on developing standards for public libraries. The 41 representatives of all sizes of public libraries, regional libraries, the State Library, and the library schools broke into committees to consider standards for collections, facilities, finance, personnel, and service and programs. The process eventually resulted in *Minimum Guidelines for Iowa Public Libraries*, which were endorsed at the business meeting at the annual conference in Cedar Rapids after considerable discussion. An ad hoc committee was appointed to further develop the guidelines.

Intellectual Freedom Committee Chair John M. Houlihan, Administrator of the Northwest Regional Library, reported at the conference on the publication of a *Handbook on Intellectual Freedom*, funded by a grant from the Kinney-Lindstrom Foundation. The Committee's goal for the coming year was to seek legislation protecting the confidentiality of library records.

The Legislative Committee made passage of a state documents depository system bill its top priority, following three years of failure to bring similar bills to the floor. During the 1978 session, House File 468 passed in the Senate 39 to 0, in the House 78 to 1, and was signed by Governor Ray.

Early in the year, Gayle Burdick, Executive Assistant since 1976, resigned to take a public relations position at Grinnell College. Shirley Kromann replaced her, serving only for a few months out of a new office at 817 Insurance Exchange Building in Des Moines. Naomi Stovall moved to the Executive Assistant post from a similar position with the Iowa Osteopathic Society, beginning on October 16, two days before the 1978 annual conference in Urbandale.



Executive Assistants Naomi Stovall and Shirley Kromann, 1978

The first Baker & Taylor Grassroots Grants awards, offered through the Junior Members Round Table to support attendance at the conference, were presented to two students at the School of Library Science at the University of Iowa, Randa L. Hansen and Nicola K. Stanke. Stanke would later become Administrator of the East Central Regional Library System and Director of the Carnegie-Stout Public Library in Dubuque and serve ILA as president in 1990.

The 1978 conference featured a lengthy debate at the business meeting regarding the continuing development of the *Minimum Guidelines for Iowa Public Libraries*. Amendments to the ad hoc committee's report referred the document back to the Committee for further work and plans were made for discussion of a preliminary report at the 1979 district meetings.

Waverly Public Library Director Pat Coffie was ILA's representative on the steering committee for the Iowa Governor's Pre-White House Conference on Library and Information Services held in Des Moines on March 27-29, 1979. The 145 delegates viewed multi-media presentations titled *Iowa: A Place to Grow* and *The Library: A Place to Grow* and listened to speakers including Governor Ray; ALA President Russell Shank; and Jean Ann South, of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Services.

Four working groups developed draft resolutions, of which forty-four were ultimately adopted, concerning networking, education, services, and funding. Nine delegates were elected to attend the national White House Conference on Libraries and Information Services to be held in Washington, D.C. in November.

As planned, the 1979 district meetings included further discussion of the *Minimum Guidelines for Iowa Public Libraries*. The Minimum Guidelines Committee was unexpectedly inactive during the summer, but new

Chair Dan Zack, Burlington Public Library director, oversaw preparation of a new schedule at the annual conference in Waterloo. Plans were made for hearings to be held at ILA meetings over the coming eighteen months, with the final document to be approved at the 1981 conference.

The theme of the 1979 conference, an historic joint conference with the Iowa Educational Media Association, was "Daring to Share Ideas-Daring Ideas to Share." Appropriately, many of the programs promoted cooperation. Robert Rohlf, director of the Hennepin County Library in Minnesota, declared that "cooperation means better service to library users at lower costs," but identified fear and turf protection as common obstacles to its attainment. The Health Sciences Section sponsored Lionelle Elsesser, of the V.A. Medical Center in Minneapolis, who spoke on the topic: "No Library Is an Island-Health Information Networking."

In a letter to the editor in the May *Catalyst*, Barbara Burn had called for ILA to join the Iowa ERA (Equal Rights Act) Coalition, which sought a constitutional guarantee of equal rights for women. Her motion before the membership at the business meeting passed and a contribution of up to \$50 was authorized.

Following the conference on October 29, a team of ILA and IEMA members met at the State Library to begin planning cooperative media services throughout the state. Team members hoped to build on training they had received at the National Library Media Institute in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania in late September.



1979 White House Conference delegates and alternates left to right: Beverly Lind, Edward H. Healey, Mary Wenthe, Thomas L. Carney, Lorna J. Hansen, William Burns, Gladys Benz, Earl Whaley, Phyllis Priest, Daniel J. Winegarden, Marie Wallenga, and State Senator Joseph E. Brown. Not pictured is Rosemary Olds.