

THE Envoy

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ICfL Welcomes New Commissioner

Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) welcomes Mark Alldredge to the ICfL Board of Library Commissioners. Alldredge, a certified public accountant in Boise, was appointed by the Governor’s Office for a term ending June 30, 2019. He fills the Board position that represents southwest/south central Idaho.

An Idaho native born and raised in Caldwell, Alldredge earned his bachelor’s degree in accounting from the University of Idaho. In addition to audit and accounting skills, he has experience in

performance management, strategic planning, budgeting, and relationship building. He is excited for the opportunity to apply his skill set to this new position, which aligns with his interest in libraries and literacy.

Always an avid reader, Alldredge benefitted from numerous library programs as a child, so he is well aware of the role that libraries play in lifelong growth and development. He recognizes the challenges Idaho libraries face in reaching underserved audiences in a geographically vast and highly rural state. He believes that libraries can leverage technology to further expand their base of library users and increase opportunities for people to take advantage of their services.

In his spare time, Alldredge enjoys outdoor activities such as skiing, camping, and mountain biking. And, of course, he enjoys reading—outdoors or in. A new parent, he already reads to his four-month-old son daily and



Mark Alldredge, ICfL Commissioner

looks forward to taking him to his first story hour.

We are pleased to have Alldredge on the Board and welcome the new perspective, ideas, and skills he will bring to the table.

The Board of Library Commissioners is the policymaking body for ICfL. Idaho Code 33-2503 lists the Board’s powers and duties.

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Idaho Commission for Libraries

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<http://libraries.idaho.gov>

Mission:

The Idaho Commission for Libraries assists libraries to build the capacity to better serve their clientele.

Commissioners:

Mark Alldredge, John Held,
Dave Mecham, Pat Raffee,
and Sara Staub

State Librarian

Ann Joslin

Commission Contacts:

- Ben Bibikov, web designer
- Danna Angevine, state publications, cataloging, and acquisitions librarian
- Dian Scott, office services supervisor
- Edgar Correa, web developer
- Gina Persichini, technology and access services consultant
- Jan Wall, northern Idaho library consultant
- Jeannie Standal, school library consultant
- Kevin Tomlinson, southwest/south central Idaho library consultant
- Kristina Taylor, grants/contracts officer
- Marjorie Hooper, associate state librarian
- Pam Bradshaw, program supervisor
- Patrick Bodily, eastern Idaho library consultant
- Roger Dubois, administrative services manager
- Shirley Biladeau, continuing education consultant
- Staci Shaw, reading programs coordinator
- Stephanie Bailey-White, reading programs coordinator
- Sue Walker, Talking Book Service consultant
- Teresa Lipus, public information specialist

The Envoy is mailed quarterly to all public library directors and trustees listed in the ICfL online library directory. PDFs are available at: libraries.idaho.gov/publications/trustee-news.

2015 “What a Deal” Tax Credit Fact Sheet Available

The “What a Deal” Idaho Tax Credit fact sheet for 2015, designed to help you promote donations to your public library or library district, is available on the Idaho Commission for Libraries website at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/public-library-contribution-tax-credit>. Please copy the fact sheet freely and use it to encourage members of your community to donate to your library.

The credit is limited to the smallest of one-half of the amount contributed, 50% of the individual’s income tax, or \$500 (\$1,000 on a joint return). If you have questions, check with your accountant or the Idaho State Tax Commission for complete information.

To receive a deduction for 2015, individuals or corporations must donate to the library by December 31, 2015.

Idaho Day, March 4, 2016

In 2014 the Legislature established an official Idaho Day, to be observed each year on March 4 with a proclamation from the governor, ceremonies, programs, and activities to honor Idaho’s heritage. For 2016, the theme is “Heroes: Past and Present.”

(ISHS) and Idaho Commission for Libraries. Last year libraries displayed Idaho-themed books, had Idaho trivia quizzes, and took photos of readers with their favorite Idaho books. To discover more ways to commemorate Idaho Day on March 4, 2016, visit the web pages on the ISHS website at history.idaho.gov/about-idaho-day. More information and ideas will be added to this site in the coming months.

Idaho Day is supported by online resources and activity ideas from a number of state agencies, including the Idaho State Historical Society

Your Library’s Web Presence

Web presence is important. The website is how many users get information about what services, content, and programs are available through the library. Specifically, the following should be on your site: library name, address, phone number, email address or online contact; hours of operation; names of board members; link to the online catalog; link to the LiLI portal (www.lili.org), and library services. See more about web presence at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/blogs/ginapersichini/your-librarys-web-presence-making-grade>.

And, if your library’s website could use some updating, a WordPress version of the eBranch program is now available from the Idaho Commission for Libraries. New features include:

- Multiple themes
 - Themes responsive to any mobile device
 - Multiple plugins and widgets
 - Easy WordPress customizer for creating content
 - Documentation and support
 - Same domain and web hosting as current Drupal sites.
- See more at <http://ebranch.lili.org>.



ICfL FY2017 Budget Enhancement Request for STEM Support

As 2016 approaches, the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) is preparing for another year of helping libraries build the capacity to better serve their clientele. Recently, ICfL's Board of Library Commissioners submitted budget enhancement requests (requests for new funding) to the State of Idaho Division of Financial Management (DFM) for the next fiscal year, July 2016–June 2017. The requests include \$183,700 in funding to substantially increase our support for the implementation of hands-on science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) programming in Idaho libraries.

We began incorporating STEM content in our programming for libraries in 2008, and are now in year three of rolling out “Make It at the Library,” which is largely STEM-based. As with other successful Commission programs, our staff did the research, development, piloting, and evaluation of the Make It initiative, and provided extensive training so local participating library staff can customize and implement Maker activities for their own communities. The initiative is in 28 public libraries across the state; all have trained staff and tools including electronics, robotics, and 3D printers to support entrepreneurs in their local communities.

Our Make It initiative has been highly successful, attracting new audiences to public libraries. Participating librarians report that entire families are coming to create

together and local residents are volunteering to share their specific expertise with their community.

With this growing success, we cannot meet the current or projected demand. Idaho's public libraries are well-placed to provide STEM programming at the local level for preschoolers, students during their out-of-school time, and adults in need of new skills. However, most are unable to design, provision, and sustain such programs on their own.

This new ongoing funding, if approved, will enable the Commission to:

- coordinate and oversee implementation of STEM programming and staff training in more Idaho libraries and sustain the program in the future;
- promote hands-on STEM activities for all ages through best practices in libraries;
- align library-based out-of-school learning opportunities with Idaho's education and workforce development initiatives;
- support quality out-of-school STEM learning opportunities to help ensure every Idaho student is college and career ready; and
- participate in state and national STEM networks and collaborate with other agencies and organizations in STEM program development.

The funding will help cover:

- operating expenses;
- a support staff position to help with training and meeting

arrangements, production of support materials, procurement, inventory control, and compilation of evaluation data; and

- a project coordinator to lead the STEM team, evaluate emerging technologies to incorporate, identify providers and trainers, identify specific underserved audiences and their support groups, evaluate the program, and communicate/collaborate with Idaho agencies and organizations focused on K-career education and workforce development.

The enhancement requests were submitted to DFM in September. In January 2016, the Governor will give the State of the State and Budget Message, and make recommendations regarding state agency budgets. Following that, ICfL's Budget Hearing in front of the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee (JFAC) will be scheduled. JFAC will consider both the Governor's recommendations and our requests, and make the final decision on our budget.

We continue, along with the Idaho Library Association and proactive library leaders, to help raise the profile of Idaho libraries and raise awareness among our state policymakers about the valuable role Idaho librarians have in enhancing literacy skills and providing community development resources.

Ed Hershberger—2015 ILA Trustee of the Year

Ed Hershberger, of the McCall Public Library Board of Trustees, was named the 2015 Trustee of the Year by the Idaho Library Association (ILA). ILA awards honor exemplary service by members of the Idaho library community. To be recognized for the Trustee of the Year Award trustees must, among other things, demonstrate a strong commitment to their library through outstanding leadership and achievement, display leadership in their community, and advocate for their library in a constructive manner.

Hershberger, a retired engineer, was recognized for his 16 years of service as a fiscally responsible, passionate advocate of libraries and literacy. McCall Public Library Director Meg Lojek said, “He is always there when we need him,” and Board Chair Jacki Rubin added, “Ed is always stellar. He is our dependable support system and a trustworthy voice of reason.”

Hershberger is a firm believer in the power of public libraries, calling them “gardens in which children grow to love books and learning.” In their nomination letter, McCall library trustees said, “He is passionate about library services and every decision he makes as a Board member addresses issues that could be barriers to access to library services. Simply put, he wants to see everyone reading, and he advocates for all members of our community based on one simple value: literacy.” Hershberger believes libraries help increase literacy, and the ability to read is the basis of our democracy.



From McCall Public Library, left to right: Meg Lojek, director; Ed Hershberger, ILA Trustee of the Year; and Jacki Rubin, board chair

Among the many things that Hershberger values in the McCall library are the children’s programs—which get children involved in learning—and the events that bring adults into the library. Board member Lynn Lewinski said, “He walks the walk. Ed regularly participates in statewide Let’s Talk About It programs, Book Clubs, Film Society, and Travelogues at the McCall Public Library, activities which take his participation beyond lip service into true participation and action.”

Outside of the library board, Ed is a leader in the McCall Hiking Club, where he recently won Hiker of the Year. He was also instrumental in documenting innumerable local hikes into formats that the public can access in the library.

Recently, Hershberger initiated and implemented the new Investment Policy to best care for funds to be used for a library remodel and expansion in the near future. He is spearheading efforts for a new library and all serving trustees are “proud that he is part of our team and confident under Ed’s leadership.”

Hershberger said he was honored to receive ILA’s Trustee of the Year Award. When accepting the award he was short and to the point, “Libraries are great,” he said. “We do our best.”

Congratulations to Ed Hershberger, and many thanks for all you do to improve library services in Idaho!

And congratulations to all of the following 2015 ILA award winners who do so much for the Idaho library community:



- **Public Library of the Year:**
Garden City Public Library
- **Friend of the Year:**
Nancy Rollins, Friends of the Garden City Library
- **Paraprofessional of the Year:**
Vanessa Fisher, Garden City Library
- **Special Services to Libraries:**
Dr. Roger Stewart, Boise State University, College of Education
- **School Librarian of the Year:**
Cora Caldwell, Gooding School District
- **Librarian of the Year:**
Dr. Lynn Baird, Dean of the University of Idaho Libraries
- **Legislator of the Year:**
Representative Julie Van Orden, Blackfoot
- **Idaho Library Association Scholarship:**
Justin Prescott, Meridian Library District
- **Gardner Hanks Scholarship:**
Josephine Bradford, Boise Public Library
- **2014 Idaho Book of the Year Award:**
All the Light We Cannot See, by Anthony Doerr
- **Honorable Mention:**
Idaho's Place: A New History of the Gem State, edited by Adam M. Sowards

See Award Banquet photos on ILA's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/IdahoLibraries.

State Librarian Speaks at ILA Conference

State Librarian Ann Joslin addressed attendees at the Idaho Library Association (ILA) All-Member Annual Business Meeting, Thursday, October 1. She gave a brief overview of some of the work that Idaho Commission for Libraries, ILA, and Idaho libraries have done this past year: the Read to Me School Library Access Mini-Grants to increase access to books for young students; Libraries Building Community Summit to explore the aspects of

community building and project management; Library Leadership Advisory Committee (LiLAC) to develop a framework for leadership development in the Idaho library community; Make It at the Library project to support the creation of Makerspaces in Idaho libraries; Summer Summit for school libraries to learn new ways to integrate free tech tools into their library programs, experiment with makerspaces, and support Idaho Core Standards

from the library; Special Projects Library Action Team (SPLAT) Summer Adventures to get new technologies into the hands of library staff throughout the state, Microsoft IT Academy to offer free coursework in Office programs, and numerous College and Career Ready activities. The Idaho library community has certainly done some impressive work in the past year! For links to these programs visit <http://libraries.idaho.gov/blogs/state-librarian-speaks-ila-conference>.

LiLI.org Updates

Idaho Commission for Libraries recently made some improvements to LiLI.org:

Database Buttons: We updated the database lists to include the unique logo for each database, helping users more easily identify the tools they need.

Addition of LearningExpress Learning Centers: In addition to linking to LearningExpress Library (LEL), we now link to the individual learning centers within the LEL tool, allowing users to link directly to a needed area of LEL.

Adjusting Content for some Users Groups and Topics: We adjusted which databases and tools show up in various User Group and Topic pages and added related LearningExpress Library Learning Centers to various User Groups.

Social Media Links: We've added quick links to LiLI's Facebook and Twitter accounts. Use those for quick access to follow LiLI.

Explora Public Libraries: Explora for Public Libraries is our

new place to do a very wide search of the databases. Every database that could be linked has been linked to Explora Public Libraries. Explora is in the Featured Resources on the main LiLI.org page for easy access.

If you have suggestions and ideas to improve the user experience at LiLI.org, contact gina.persichini@libraries.idaho.gov. We're always looking for opportunities to improve!



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Developing Partnerships

Here are a couple of sites to explore to learn more about how to develop partnerships within and throughout your community:

- *Heart and Soul Field Guide* is at www.orton.org/. Produced by the Orton Family Foundation after 10 years of research, this website provides a wealth

of information from the *Field Guide* itself to webinars and tools to use in the process. The Idaho Commission for Libraries has used this in our Libraries Building Community Summit for the past two years.

- *Libraries Transform* at www.librariestransform.org is the

American Library Association's new public awareness campaign and source for information about developing partnerships and building your community. This site provides information about trends in library services as well as a toolkit to get started.

Trustee Workshop in Southwest Idaho: January 9

The Idaho Library Association Division for Trustees and Friends, in conjunction with the Idaho Commission for Libraries, is sponsoring a free workshop for library trustees in southwest Idaho:

When: Saturday, January 9, 2016, 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon

Where: Idaho Commission for Libraries, 325 West State Street, Boise, Idaho 83702

Topics:

“Staying Out of Trouble”

Presented by Jim McNall, Risk Management Specialist Idaho Counties Risk Management Program (ICRMP)

“Bragging About My Library”

Led by Idaho Commission for Libraries staff

Please RSVP and direct questions to: ilatrusteechair@gmail.com.

Annual library statistical report is open!

Due date for report and signed Board Certification page:
January 1, 2016

Available at:
<http://collect.btol.com>

Login ID and Password:
same as in previous years

For help or login info, contact:
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