

THIS WEEK AT THE ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY

September 12, 2016

Jesse White, Secretary of State and State Librarian
Greg McCormick, Acting Deputy Director

Jesse White Urges Student Readers to Enter “Letters About Literature” Competition

Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White is urging students in grades 4 through 12 to enter the 2017 “Letters About Literature” contest — a national reading and writing competition funded by the Dollar General Literacy Foundation and the Library of Congress through the Secretary of State’s Illinois Center for the Book program.

“Letters About Literature” invites students to read a book, poem or play of their choice and write a letter to the author about how the work changed their life or view of the world. Students can enter on their own or through their schools, libraries or other youth organizations.

“Every year thousands of students in Illinois enjoy participating in this inspiring competition,” said White. “Illinois has had more entries than any other state for nine years in a row. Anyone who has read past letters can see how literature inspires and touches the lives of our young people. I encourage all our students to take part in Letters About Literature, and I hope their participation leads to a lifetime of reading.”

There are three levels of participation: Level I for grades 4-6, Level II for grades 7-8 and Level III for grades 9-12. One Illinois winner will be selected for each level and receive a \$200 cash award. Teachers of the winning students will receive a \$100 cash award to purchase materials for their school library. Winners and teachers will be invited to an awards ceremony in Springfield. The state winners’ letters will be forwarded for national judging.

The deadline to enter the competition is **Friday, December 2, 2016** for Level III and **Monday, January 9, 2017** for Levels I and II. State winners will be announced in April 2017. For more information about the competition, contact [Bonnie Matheis](mailto:Bonnie.Matheis@ilsos.gov) at 217-558-2065. Information also is available at http://cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/center_for_the_book/.

FY17 School District Library Grant Application Reminder

The FY17 School District Library Grant application and FY15 Expenditure Report are available online at <http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/grants/schoolpercapgrant.html>. The deadline for submitting the FY17 School District Library Grant Application and FY15 Expenditure Report is **October 15, 2016**.

If you have questions about the grant, please contact [Pat Burg](mailto:Pat.Burg@ilsos.gov) at (217) 785-1168 or (800) 665-5576, option 2.

State Library Staff Member Giving WWI Presentation

Andrew Bullen will be presenting a lecture on Chicago’s Pullman neighborhood and the Pullman Company in the First World War on **Sunday, September 18**, at 2 p.m. Accompanying the lecture will be a performance of music from the period that illustrates each phase of wartime activities. The concert and lecture will take place at the Pullman State Historic Site. The event is free and open to the public. Contact [Andrew Bullen](mailto:Andrew.Bullen@ilsos.gov) if you are interesting in learning more about the event.

ILEAD USA: Debrief

The Illinois Heartland Library System will host the State Library's ILEAD USA Debrief of National State Partners, October 27–28, 2016 at the Edwardsville headquarters. The purpose of the meeting is to gather, reconnect, recharge and set up for the future of ILEAD USA nationwide.

ILEAD USA: Innovative Librarians Explore, Apply and Discover is a leadership program designed to connect librarians with their communities in a meaningful way. Teams of librarians, along with a team mentor and a group of instructors, met three times last year with intersession opportunities to create projects that addressed community issues. State partners planning to attend the debrief are from Delaware, Wisconsin, Maine, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Utah, New York, Ohio and Illinois.

Try-it! Illinois Returns October 1

The State Library is pleased to announce that Try-It! Illinois, the annual statewide electronic database trial, is returning October 1. The trial offers the more than 5,000 ILLINET member libraries, their staffs and patrons an opportunity to evaluate a wide variety of electronic resources. There is no charge for accessing these databases during Try-It! Illinois. To obtain the login and password between October 1–November 30, visit [Try-It! Illinois](#). Some of this year's participating vendors include:

Career Cruising
EBSCO
Gale-Cengage Learning
Gleeditions LLC
Grey House Publishing
Mango Languages
Morningstar, Inc.
Oxford University Press
Plunkett, Ltd.
Record Information Services, Inc.
Salem Press
Scholastic, Inc.
SCOLA
TeachingBooks.net
World Book, Inc.

A reminder to ILLINET/OCLC FirstSearch users:

CAMIO and ArchiveGrid are included at no charge as part of the FirstSearch package. They can be accessed using the following links:

- CAMIO – <http://camio.oclc.org/>
- ArchiveGrid – <https://beta.worldcat.org/archivegrid/about/#about>

Access is IP authenticated and require no additional authorization number or password. If you are experiencing access problems, contact OCLC Support at (800) 848-5800.

FY17 Live & Learn Construction Grant Applications Now Available

Illinois Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White is pleased to announce that applications for the FY17 Live & Learn Construction Grant Program are now available to public libraries. Information about the State Library's public library construction grant program is available on the State Library's [website](#). The website provides access to specific program information, requirements and a link to the grant application. Applications are due to the State Library by **January 13, 2017**.

A webinar is scheduled for **Thursday, September 22** at 2 p.m. During the webinar, State Library staff will provide an overview of the program to include eligibility requirements, grant categories, rules and regulations governing the program, application procedures, required supporting documentation, grant submission, review procedures and take general questions regarding any aspect of the program. Registration for the webinar must be done through [L2](#). The webinar will be recorded and archived for those unable to attend.

For more information, please contact [Mark Shaffer](#), [Pat Boze](#) or [Jay O'Dell](#).

Updated WebJunction Content and Upcoming Webinar

[Create a free WebJunction learner account](#) today to find a wide range of training topics including customer service, library management and programming through WebJunction. Attendees earn completion certificates for finishing each class. WebJunction's free e-newsletter, Crossroads, highlights upcoming webinars and new course content. [Subscribe today](#) and be part of the online learning community.

New highlighted content from WebJunction for public libraries includes:

- [Library Access for All Students: Stories from Five ConnectEd Libraries](#): In April 2015, President Barack Obama announced the ConnectED Library Challenge, an effort to "put a library card in the hand of every student." Five library systems across the U.S. that participated in the ConnectEd challenge had success with their programs. All saw dramatic increased use of library materials, stronger partnerships with school staff and new opportunities for the future. [Read this article](#) to learn more about their experiences, challenges, successes and advice.
- [WebJunction Experience: Self-paced Courses](#): Library staff frequently cite that lack of time or funds to attend in-person training is a large barrier to learning. Self-paced courses provide an opportunity to explore new learning experiences from within your library, allow you to go at your own pace and on your own schedule. With focused topics and opportunities for interaction and reflection, you can find bursts of time at your desk or sofa to explore new topics and build confidence.

Upcoming WebJunction webinars:

- [Support Small Business Development at Your Library](#), **Thursday, Sept. 15, 2016, at 2 p.m.**
- [Teen Programming: A Mover & Shaker's Recipe for Impact and Success](#), **Tuesday, Sept. 20, 2016, at 2 p.m.**

Can't attend a live session? All webinars are archived and included in the [WebJunction course catalog](#).

Check Out Continuing Education Events for September

The [Wyoming State Library Training Calendar](#) is a wonderful tool for finding continuing education events and webinars sponsored by the American Library Association, United for Libraries, Library Journal and many other organizations. Thanks to the team at Wyoming State Library for sharing this great resource.

Illinois Reads Author Spotlight

Born and raised in Oak Park, [Wendy McClure](#) currently lives in Chicago. She is an editor at Albert Whitman & Company. In addition, McClure writes books for both adults and children. Her historical series of "Wanderville" books has been called "the Boxcar Children for a new era!" The first book of the series, with the same name, is a 2016 "Illinois Reads" [selection](#) for children in grades 3-5. Teacher discussion materials and historical connection articles for the series are available on McClure's website.

[Ted Sanders](#) grew up in Northern Illinois and currently lives in Urbana where he teaches creative writing at the University of Illinois. He is the author of the series, "The Keepers" "an action-packed blend of science fiction and fantasy where friendship and loyalty have the greatest power of all." The first book in

the series, "The Box and the Dragonfly" is a 2016 "Illinois Reads" [selection](#), "The Keepers" [website](#) has book-based activity kits available for download.

To learn more about the authors, visit their author profiles in the [Illinois Authors Wiki](#), a project of the State Library's [Illinois Center for the Book](#). Secretary of State and State Librarian, Jesse White is the honorary chair of "[Illinois Reads](#)," a program of the [Illinois Reading Council](#).

Literacy Spotlight

This week's Literacy Spotlight highlights **Danville Area Community College**. A woman came to Danville from Chicago and enrolled in classes to obtain her GED. The learner's progress in school was held back by personal and financial problems. She lived with her grandmother and father, who are both disabled. A lot of pressure was put on the learner to stay at home to take care of them. However, she was determined to get a high school diploma because she knew the difference it would make in her life. She started with tutors, and before long she gained confidence and continued to improve until finally she gained her GED. The learner won the program's literacy scholarship of \$500 and now has enrolled in college courses.

GovDocInfo

Constitution Day is Sept. 17 and celebrates the day in 1787 that delegates to the Constitutional Convention signed the document in Philadelphia. The State Library's [collection](#) includes a number of federal documents related to the U.S. Constitution.

Some documents available are:

- Butowsky, Harry. "[The U.S. Constitution](#)." Washington, D.C.: Dept. of the Interior, National Park Service, 1986
- Callahan, Jr, John. "[Entrapment, due process, and the U.S. Constitution](#)." Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Dept. of Justice, 1984.
- Wheeler, Russell. "[The writing and ratification of the U.S. Constitution : an abbreviated bibliography](#)." Washington, D.C. : Federal Judicial Center, 1986.

Secretary White will host the eighth annual U.S. Constitution & Citizenship Day Celebration on Friday, September 16 at noon on Daley Plaza in Chicago. Please join him in this celebration and witness the naturalization ceremony of numerous new citizens.

Illinois Digital Archives

This week we highlight the [Illinois Veterans' History Project](#). Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White officially launched the Illinois Veterans' History Project in November 2005. The Illinois Veterans' History Project began with the collection of written information about Illinois veterans through use of the [Illinois Patriot Information Form](#). Oral histories of Illinois veterans were recorded, beginning in September 2007.

Sign up for E-News

E-News is the best way to find out what's happening at the State Library, including grant offerings, continuing education opportunities and other news. Nearly 5,000 subscribers receive E-News every Friday. To subscribe, visit

http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/about/enews_archive.html.

For more information about E-News, contact [Kyle Peebles](#) at 217-558-4029.

State Library's Comprehensive Online Calendar

To view the State Library's calendar of events and deadlines, visit

<http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/calendar/home.html>.