



## FY2020 Member Day

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In 2014, three years into the existence of IHLS, staff began planning an in-person event for our membership. Other than automation training, it was the first time the system had dipped its toe into continuing education. Aptly titled “Member Day,” the first of these offerings was held on October 20, 2014 at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Effingham. System staff learned much from that initial effort and were prepared to build on what we had learned.

In 2015, Member Day needed more space and was moved to St. Anthony’s Grade School in Effingham---still not enough space.

Member Day finally found a home in 2017 at the Keller Conference Center in Effingham and three annual events have been hosted there. It has grown by leaps and bounds from a resource for continuing education to an offering for our members that includes solid programming, relevant vendors, and an unmatched networking opportunity. In 2019, our attendance was close to 200 people.

COVID-19 has thrown us a curve, but offered us another learning opportunity. The **2020 IHLS Member Day, “Beyond All Limits,”** will be held virtually on **November 10** through Zoom. We are excited to announce that David Lankes from the University of South Carolina will be our keynote speaker. Mr. Lankes is a passionate advocate for libraries and their essential role in today’s society. Six breakout sessions will be held in two separate time slots with topics ranging from Collection Audits to Developing a Functional (rather than Dysfunctional) Board of Trustees. A closing speaker will round out the day! Sessions will be recorded in order to allow attendees access to all sessions.

System staff is working very hard to ensure that this virtual offering will still have the special twists that have made Member Day so popular. Vendors will participate and we are working hard to ensure attendees will have the opportunity to connect with them. There will be merchandise available for purchase, games throughout the day, as well as prizes and giveaways.

From the very beginning, this event has “taken a village.” We will not be setting up tables this year or stuffing bags, but we will be helping people get registered, assigning Zoom rooms, and monitoring chats.

At the end of the day, in this most challenging time, it is most rewarding to still be able to reach out to our members and provide this annual experience. It’s going to be one for the books!