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West Virginia Library Commission (WVLC) Monthly Newsletter

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From the Secretary

March 2018

The 2018 Regular session of the West Virginia Legislature ends March 10th at midnight. As of now, I am not anticipating any reductions in the Library Commission budget for fiscal year 2019. The key words are “as of now”. Also, HB 2890 and SB 440, the bills establishing a Library Facilities Improvement Fund have each passed their houses of origin. On February 22 the House bill was considered by the Senate Finance Committee and recommended for passage. We are now waiting for the next steps in the bill to law process. There is a very good chance that legislation establishing the fund will be passed this session.

The [Facility Assessment Survey Report](#) that was posted on the WVLC website February 20 illustrates the need for the fund. Data on facility conditions, needs, and public meeting spaces was collected from September 11-30, 2017 and supplemented with data from Bibliostat reports and State Library Network reports. The report supports the conclusion that many West Virginia library facilities require major repairs and many others require extensive renovation or replacement. This is not surprising news to any of us, but it is now news supported with data.

Please take time to read the report and look at the tables. Use it as you plan for the future. Share it with your funding authorities. If you have questions, let me know and I will do my best to answer them.



TRUSTEE TIPS

How Does Your Board Compare to the National "Snapshot?"

Jeanette M. Rowsey, Trustees Division Chair

With a few days left until the deadline as of the time of this writing, I have received an impressive number of surveys from West Virginia's public library trustees - 126 surveys from at least 34 counties! Thank you to all who took part! I look forward to analyzing the results and sharing our findings in the near future, including upcoming issues of the *Library Lookout*.

In the meantime, I just came across an overview of a new national Library Trustee Survey conducted in 2017 by United for Libraries and the Library Journal, as I was reading *The Voice for America's Libraries*. Their survey is different from the one developed for WVLA, and UFL promises to share some interesting results and trends in the coming months in "The Voice." For now, here is a brief snapshot of what the "average" library board looks like in the United States, based on UFL's respondent data:

- Average board size is 7.3 members
- Nearly 80% of the libraries have a Friends of the Library group
- Nearly a third have a library foundation
- Average board member age is 56
- In all but the largest libraries, women outnumber men two to one
- Forty-one percent of board members are retired
- Sixty-nine percent of members are appointed by a local government or entity, while 31% are elected
- Average trustee tenure is 5.9 years
- Average meeting length is 92 minutes
- Average trustee spends 7.4 hours/month on board duties

When asked what prompted them to join their board in the first place, the most common answers were to "improve library service," "solve known problems," and "serve the local community."



WVLC Announces 2018 Award Winners

The West Virginia Library Commission is proud to announce the winners of its **2018 Librarian of the Year** and **Library Champion** awards. The awards were established this year to recognize librarians and library volunteers who have made exceptional contributions to libraries and library life in West Virginia.



Paulette Kirby, the director of the Monroe County Library in Union, is the recipient of the WVLC's



first **Librarian of the Year** award. Known for her friendly smile and engaging personality, Paulette was honored for her leadership in providing children's and youth programs, as well as adult education classes, to the Monroe County community. She also was cited for her fundraising work for the library and for her role as a community leader.

The WVLC also introduced its **Library Champions Award** in 2018, designed to recognize individuals who promote public libraries in West Virginia.

Our first time winners are:

- Former state delegate **Jim Morgan** of Cabell County for his fund raising efforts for the Salt Rock and Cox Landing libraries and for his work to promote libraries statewide;
- **Mina Goodrich** of Jefferson County for her leadership in raising over two million dollars for a new library building in Shepherdstown; and
- **Jeff Pyle** of Mineral County for his volunteer repair and maintenance work for the Keyser-Mineral County Library.

Congratulations, and thanks, to each of our inaugural winners!

WVLA Spring Fling is set for April 5 - 6



The West Virginia Library Association holds its annual spring conference at the **Summersville Arena and Conference Center** in Summersville, **April 5th and 6th**.

To register, visit the [WVLA web site](#).

Librarian of Congress Visits WVLC



Dr. Carla Hayden, U.S. Librarian of Congress, paid a visit to West Virginia last month. After visiting Marshall University, West Virginia State University, and the Kanawha County Public Library, Dr. Hayden dropped by the WVLC on February 22nd. She spoke during a reception in her honor and sat down with the WVLC TV crew to tape a segment for an upcoming episode of the commission's TV show - *Libraries Today*.

Dr. Hayden, the first woman and first African American Librarian of Congress, discussed her role as the nation's top librarian, some of the events that shaped her career, and her belief that public libraries have a very bright future in the 21st century.



Nominated by President Barack Obama, Dr. Hayden was sworn in as the nation's 14th Librarian of Congress in September 2016. She was appointed to a 10 year term.

In Case You Missed It



The Putnam County Public Library was also featured in a front page story last month - in the Charleston Gazette-Mail's Putnam Herald newspaper. The story centered on the library's celebration of National Library Lover's month. Library Director Megan Tarbett set up displays throughout the building and the library hosted a "Blind Date with a Book" event. Patrons could select a book to read, but the books were covered with newspaper so patrons couldn't see the title or anything about the book. Megan said the event was a fun way to not judge a book by its cover.

Parkersburg-Wood County Library Holds Grand Re-Opening



After months of work, major renovations to the Parkersburg & Wood County Public Library



were completed in January, and the library held its grand re-opening on February 17th. The 6 month project relocated the circulation desk and the young readers section, and installed a new entrance near the parking lot. Library Director Brian Raitz said the renovations have improved access to the library and made the building more adaptable for future renovations.

In Case You Missed It



The Brooke County Public Library was recently featured in a front page story in the Brooke Scene newspaper. The library was touted for its project to make technology easier and more accessible for its patrons. In the article, Library Director Alex Eberle discussed new computer keyboards with larger keys and letters which were acquired through a \$5,000 grant from the Comcast Corporation. Alex said the library also acquired

10 new computer towers from the Kanawha County Public Library, and is working on a \$1,000 grant from the WVLC to allow patrons to check out Kindles.

Congratulations!



Cris Spradling is the WVLC's new Director of Network Services. A long time member of the Network Services team, Cris replaces the retired Harlan White as head of the department. Cris began his career with the WVLC in 1985, serving in the commission's TV studio before moving on to Network Services.

Congratulations Cris on a well-earned promotion!

Condolences to the Family of Olivia Bravo

Retired Librarian Olivia Bravo passed away on February 21, 2018 in Cross Lanes, WV. Olivia was a long time employee of the Kanawha County Public Library and was always active in the library community, even in retirement. Olivia was 69 years old.

PLA Announces Internship Program for 2018

Last summer, the Public Library Association (PLA) piloted the Inclusive Internship Initiative (III), which was designed to present librarianship as a viable career option for the next generation of Americans. Through III, PLA sponsored, paid, and mentored public library internships for 50 high school juniors and seniors at 39 host libraries across the U.S.

The project was a tremendous success in all facets, and, with the support of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), PLA is offering the III program once again for the summer of 2018. Public libraries are invited to apply to host a high school intern through III this summer.



To enroll your library in the program, visit the [PLA website](#).

Join Libraries Across the Nation Celebrating National Library Week

Libraries across the nation highlight how they lead in their communities during National Library Week, April 8 through the 14, 2018. For the celebration, the Library Commission is organizing two contests and a Facebook promotional frame.

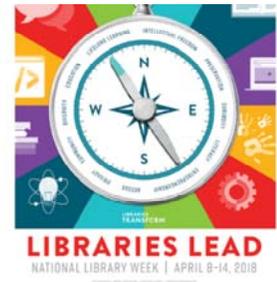
The for-all-ages contests include a bookmark design challenge and an essay competition. Links for both are available on the [WVLC website](#).



The Facebook promotional frame will be available during National Library Week on the WVLC Facebook page. As part of the promotion, the agency will be using the hashtag #wvlibrarieslead to promote activities across the state.

WVLC will also have a photo booth at Spring Fling on April 5 and 6, so librarians can participate, inquire about the contests, or pick up additional handouts.

For any additional information, please contact Heather Campbell-Shock at 304-558-2041.



Library Grant Opportunities

Baker & Taylor Entertainment Audio Music/Video Product Award

The purpose of the Baker & Taylor Entertainment Audio Music/Video Product Award is to promote the development of a circulating audio music/video product collection in public libraries and increase the exposure of the format within the community. The grant was established in 1997 and is sponsored by Baker & Taylor.

Any public library is eligible, with one exception: Public libraries having employees on the current Baker & Taylor Entertainment Audio Music/Video Product Award Jury are ineligible to receive the Baker & Taylor Entertainment Audio Music/Video Product Award.

For more information on how to apply for this grant, visit the [Public Library Association website](#).



Stories From The ALA

A letter from Jill to the Wickliffe, Ohio Public Library



When I first set out to home school my then 13 year old son several years ago, I was completely at a loss for where to begin. I am not a trained teacher. As a single mother with a degree in nutrition, curriculum design had always been far from my mind, but I did know his interests and how he learns. Apprehensive but hopeful, I turned to our local library. They did not disappoint. I was able to easily search topics throughout the entire Clevnet system in a variety of modalities including books, videos, cds, and audiobooks.

Then, I was able to read reviews on the materials, put them on hold

and renew them from my home computer. I turned our living room into a carnival of educational materials and my son began to experience the joy of learning!

The library offered not only books I could use to teach my son, but books I could use to teach myself how to teach my son. In addition, the library offers a comfortable meeting space in which my son and his tutor have been able to make astounding amounts of progress in a clean, safe, and caring environment. The library's friendly atmosphere is curated by a tight-knit staff who know my son by name and have done a remarkable job of fostering his self-advocacy skills. The regular library patrons have played a significant role in helping to teach social skills while sharing their knowledge on select topics. Some days, it is comparable to a day in the life of Mr. Rogers!

Our library has given us a place to turn when it seemed as though so many doors were closing. I continue to be amazed by all it has to offer, the continued growth in what is being offered and commend the staff on creating a place where everybody knows your name and you're always glad you came! Thank you!!

Learn More

Useful Webinars

Many a webinar has been shared and discussed regarding the reference interview in the past, but it seems the interest in improving this skill is now considered an antiquated task. Staffs seem discouraged with directional questions and they assume the follow up question is a request for more Internet time.

Reference questions are still at large today in person, over the phone and digitally. They have evolved into the ever dreaded "how to" question. Patrons don't want library staff to find a resource, they want you to be the resource as described in [How do I? The New Reference Question](#) webinar.

As a new director, the reference interview may not be your priority because there is Bibliostat and payroll and programming. Plus, the glorious reference collection behind the desk has lost its prestige. We now use Google and search databases. So just how are we to be the best resource for our constituents?

Here are a few thoughtful, philosophical webinars on the subject:

- [Reference Services: Tried, True and New](#): Presenter Vanessa Irvin Morris offers a fresh look at an old profession;
- [Discovering Possibilities in Every Encounter: Strategies for Achieving Reference Service Excellence](#): Consultant Marie Radford talks of the teachable moment and explains "peeragogy."

Melissa Brown

WVLC Continuing Education Consultant



- **March 10** - Final day of the 2018 Legislative session
 - **WVU Libraries**: Job opening for an Electronic Resources Manager
 - **Bridgeport Public Library**: Job opening for a Children's Librarian
 - **Fayette County Public Library**: Job opening for a new director
 - **Hamlin-Lincoln County Public Library**: Job opening for a new director
 - **Louis Bennett Public Library**: Job opening for a desk clerk
-

Borrow Books from WVU Libraries-Morgantown for FREE!



WVU Libraries-Morgantown pays postage both ways for all West Virginia public libraries interlibrary loan book requests. There is no cost to the requesting library.

If you've never requested from WVU Libraries before, just send an email to illdowntown@mail.wvu.edu, and WVU Libraries will set up an account for your library with a username and password (ILLiad account). Once your library has an account, logon and enter all requests online at:

https://illiad.lib.wvu.edu/lending/lending_logon.html.

If you have any questions, please contact WVU Libraries at 304-293-0368 or send an email to illdowntown@mail.wvu.edu.



**WVLC Book
Discussion
GROUP**
JOIN
and
ADD
to the DISCUSSION!

Featured Book of the Month!

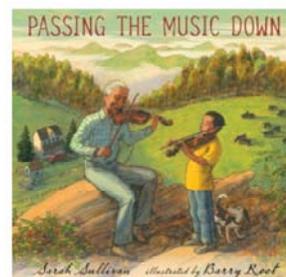
Passing the Music Down

by Sarah Sullivan

A young boy travels to the hills of Appalachia to meet the old-time fiddle player whose music he has admired, and so sparks a friendship that will forge a bond between generations. The boy develops under the man's care and instruction, just as seedlings grow with spring rain and

summer sun. From playing on the front porch to performing at folk festivals, the two carry on the tradition of passing the music down.

This touching, lyrical story, inspired by the lives of renowned fiddlers Melvin Wine and Jake Krack, includes an author's note and suggested resources for learning about the musicians and the music they love.



Contact Library & Development Services to request this book for your book group at 304-558-2041 or at susan.p.bailey@wv.gov.

Programming and Civic Engagement Opportunity

If you are looking for a way to show how the library contributes to resolving problems facing your community, consider collaborating with law enforcement, public health, and other local organizations on a public screening and discussion of **Heroin(e)**. **Heroin(e)** is the Oscar-nominated documentary directed and produced by West Virginia native, Elaine McMillion Sheldon. The documentary follows the efforts of three women—a fire chief, a judge and a street missionary—as they battle West Virginia's devastating opioid epidemic in Huntington.



The 39-minute film is available free from Netflix along with a Field Guide and other resources for hosting a screening. Click here for details. <http://heroinethefilm.com>.



2018 PBS Kids Writers Contest

The Basic Rules

- Entrants must be in grades K-5 and only single author entries
- Only one story per person
- Stories can be fact or fiction, prose or poetry
- Stories must have at least 5 original, clear and colorful illustrations.

3 winners at each grade level receive Amazon gift cards (100.00, 75.00, and 50.00) and all winning stories are published on wvpublic.org. All entries must be submitted by March 31st. For full details and contest rules, visit the WVPB website.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

New Director's Moment

by Melissa Brown, Continuing Education Consultant

When a patron approaches the library's front desk for assistance, you probably notice that databases are not the first source of information your staff may use. In all probability, it's because they feel uncomfortable using the search platform for those resources. Systematic practice rooting around in the source will make staff more comfortable.

For honing InfoDepot skills, patron catalog interface, or Youtube searches, consider the useful approach of Elizabeth Fraser, Kanawha County Public Library's Head of Reference. Ms. Fraser sends a monthly email challenge that poses questions staff answer using the databases offered or the online catalog. She says that she finds the catalog challenges helpful because staff then can see what the patron sees and the challenges they face. Some months the rules require that a specific database be used instead of a general database search, and always the rules require the source cited and a deadline.

At your discretion (and time permitting), give hints or prompts for almost-correct answers. Correct responses receive a certificate of completion that may count as a predetermined amount of CE credits: example: 11 certificates=one hour of CE. Consider a prize drawing for correct entries -- chocolate? Best parking spot for a month?

To brainstorm ideas about this or other creative library things, please contact melissa.i.brown@wv.gov or call 1-800-642-9021.

[Click Here to Read More About the WVLC Continuing Education Requirements for Directors & Staff](#)

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|  | View Upcoming & Archived Webinars CLICK HERE  |
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|  | View Upcoming Webinars & Training CLICK HERE  |
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Highlighted Content from WebJunction

These resources can help you strengthen your library and services to the community, explore them today!

- [Take a Walk, Read a Book, Have an Adventure](#): The East Bonner County Library District wanted to combine outdoor fun and reading to serve their community in a unique way. They found an opportunity to deliver a family-friendly programming activity when a local land trust approached them with the idea of a StoryWalk partnership.
- [Training Opportunity from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine](#): Applications for the free, online training program, "Stand Up for Health: Health and Wellness Services for Your Community" are due on February 23. The program is designed for public library staff and participants receive a certificate upon completion.

Upcoming Webinars

If you can't attend a live session, all WebJunction webinars are recorded and available for free in the [course catalog](#).

Visualizing Funding for Libraries: You've Gathered the Data, Now What?

Wednesday, March 14, 2018 ♦ 3:00 pm ♦ 1 hour

[Register here](#).

In 2017, the [Visualizing \(and Finding!\) Funding for Libraries](#) webinar introduced you to a dynamic and freely available [data-visualization tool](#) that enables library professionals and supporters to search for institutional funding for libraries at national, state and local levels. This webinar will re-familiarize you with the tool and then explore how to take the next steps with your data visualizations. Presenters will connect key data findings from the tool to national trends in philanthropic support for libraries. Using the tool to leverage networks and relationships, learn how to generate a viable list of potential funders to research further in order to determine the right fit for your library. You'll also learn the action steps to take after identifying a funding prospect that will get your proposal to the top of the pile.

Presented by: **Kate Tkacik**, Manager of the Funding Information Network, the [Foundation Center](#); and **Ellen Jacks**, Grants and Reference Librarian at University of Wisconsin-Madison

Intergenerational Programs at the Library: Connecting Generations for Healthy Communities

Tuesday, March 29, 2018 ♦ 3:00 pm ♦ 1 hour

[Register here](#).

Walk into almost any public library and you'll see people of all ages engaging in the community space. When libraries

offer programs and services that intentionally spark connection between generations, they contribute to more vibrant and cohesive communities. Learn how your library can develop inviting opportunities to encourage more intergenerational connections on a day-to-day basis. This webinar will discuss why intergenerational relationships are important and will help you develop skills to foster intergenerational communication in your library. We'll explore ideas and resources that will turn your library into a community intergenerational catalyst.

This webinar is hosted in collaboration with the [Association for Rural and Small Libraries](#).

Presented by: **Jennifer Kulik**, Ph.D., Founder and CEO of [Silver Kite Community Arts](#); and **Wendy Pender**, Older Adults Project Specialist, King County Library System (WA)

Events · WebJunction Events Calendar

WebJunction Events Calendar

To view a complete list of past WebJunction webinars, go to [WebJunction Event Archives](#)



WebJunction webinars are live audiovisual programs that are conducted online via WebEx web conferencing. Anyone who has an internet connection can participate, listening to the audio broadcast through speakers or headset, or via phone. These **free** events allow you to meet and learn from library leaders and fellow library practitioners.

WebJunction's catalog of courses and webinar archives on library topics is now open to all library workers and volunteers across the nation. A certificate of completion is provided after you have completed any course or webinar that you enroll in [Catalog >](#)

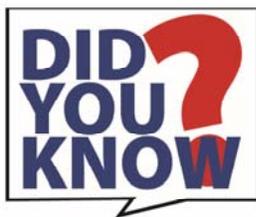
[Click to View »](#)

Information School at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Webinar Series

UW-Madison is offering a series of **FREE** webinars as part of its 2018 Webinar Series:

- **March 13** at 1 pm: **The Entrepreneurial Road to Building the Catholic News Archive.** Jennifer Younger ('71) Executive Director, Catholic Research Resources Alliance
- **April 3** at 1 pm: **Legal Reference Services: Helping Access To Justice.** Jaime Healy-Plotkin ('04), Cataloger, Wisconsin State Law Library
- **April 17** at 1 pm: **Budget-Neutral Digital Projects for Small Institutions.** Lauren Gottlieb-Miller ('14), Librarian, The Menil Collection
- **May 1** at 1 pm: **Tutorial Creation 101.** Stephanie King, ('13), Public Services Librarian, Illinois Valley Community College
- **May 15** at 1 pm: **Academic Library Space Planning.** Charles Forrest ('79), 21st Century Libraries Consulting

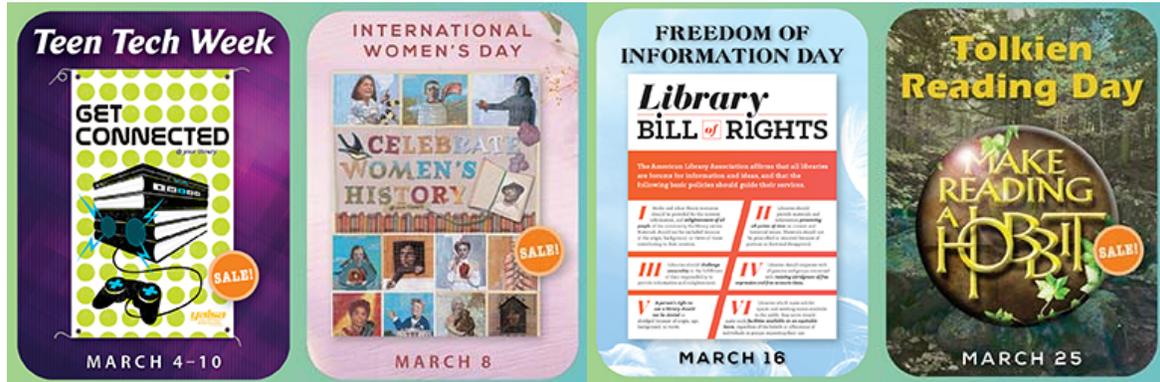
Read full descriptions at the [UW-Madison website](#).



The Clarksburg-Harrison Public Library was established in 1907 as a reading room with a few hundred books. It moved to Clarksburg's Waldomore House in 1930, which continued to house the library for more than four decades. A new building was constructed adjacent to the Waldomore site and the library moved most of its operations into the new building in 1975. The library now serves nearly 57,000 residents in Clarksburg and Harrison County.

Mark Your Calendar! 

- March 2:** Read Across America Day
- March 4-10:** Teen Tech Week
- March 8:** International Women's Day
- March 10:** International Day of Awesomeness
- March 16:** Freedom of Information Day
- March 25:** Tolkien Reading Day
- March 31:** National Crayon Day



You're the Super Star! Have a story to tell or a photo to share?
[Click Here to Email Us!](#)

Any mention of services or products in this newsletter does not constitute an endorsement or recommendation. The use of any services or products should be evaluated on an individual basis. The West Virginia Library Commission provides no guarantee as to the security, reliability, or accuracy of information provided herein. Funding for West Virginia Library Commission programs and services, including this newsletter, is provided by the State of West Virginia. Funding for this newsletter is also provided by the U.S. Institute for Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Grant to States Program as administered by the West Virginia Library Commission.



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Karen E. Goff
 Executive Secretary
 West Virginia Library Commission

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