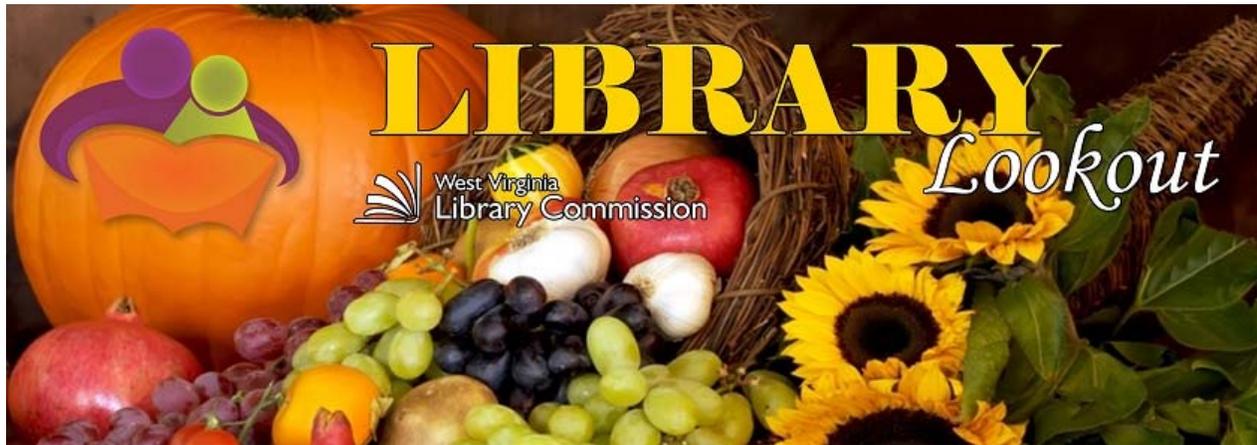


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West Virginia Library Commission (WVLC) Monthly Newsletter

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Issue 89

November 2018

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From the Secretary

November 2018

Last week the Library Commission hosted a session of the New Director Academy and meetings of Directors of Service Center and Designate libraries. These meetings emphasized the importance of library leadership. New directors and veteran directors contributed to discussions of policies, finances, technology, and more. Although these meetings were for Directors, recent conversations with Trustees, result in the same conclusion. There are many skilled, dedicated, exceptional Directors, staff, and Trustees in West Virginia public libraries.



On February 4, 2019, the West Virginia Library Commission will present **Library Champion** and **Librarian of the Year Awards** at the Library Appreciation Day reception. It was a great event last year and we are looking forward to another great event this year.

Included in this issue of Lookout is information on how to nominate candidates for these awards. I am hoping for at least twice the number of nominations we received last year. **Librarian of the Year** nominations are not limited to Directors. The only requirement is that the nominee is a current employee of a West Virginia public library who is exceptional. The **Library Champion Award** recognizes the exceptional contributions of non-library employees who support, promote, and work to improve public libraries. Last year, nominations included Trustees, Friends, and public officials. If your nominee for either award did not win last year, please nominate them again. Be sure your nomination fully describes why you think the candidate deserves the award. Do not assume anyone on the Awards committee knows the person you are nominating. Nominations from groups are also acceptable.

A link to the nomination forms is included in this issue and posted on the Library Commission website. Paper forms will be available at the Library Commission table at the WVLA Conference at Stonewall.

I know there are exceptional Librarians and Champions across the state. I've spoken and worked with many of them. I cannot nominate them, but you can. Please do. I look forward to reading all about them.



Jeanette M. Rowsey, WVLA Trustees Division Chair

Several months ago, I cited the national study [From Awareness to Funding: Voter Perceptions and Support of Public Libraries](#), updated in 2018: National support for library funding declined from 73% in 2008 to 58% in 2018.

Now that the 2018 elections will soon be in the past, West Virginia's public libraries have a brief but important "season of advocacy" to reach out to Legislators, boards of education and county commissioners. How should libraries advocate for support?

In the latest issue of American Libraries magazine, James LaRue drills down on the strategy of storytelling in ["Advocacy and the Power of Narrative: Storytelling as a fundraising tool."](#) LaRue maintains that a relevant and effective library story can be told in half a minute, but should contain six structural elements:

- **A real person.** To connect with an audience, we must be more specific: "Caiden was 3 years old."
- **A real problem.** The hook of the story is a life problem. "Caiden stuttered." This captures people's emotional attention.
- **A library intervention.** Now we introduce a supporting character—a library staff member, program, or service. "One day Caiden noticed a dog in the library. A little girl was reading to it."
- **A happy ending.** "After reading to that endlessly interested and patient dog for many months, Caiden didn't stutter anymore."
- **A single fact.** "In our state alone, more than 112 libraries offer a 'read to dogs' program."
- **A tagline.** This is a message that provides the frame for a picture that can stick in the mind of an audience. Based on research into what activates support for libraries, ALA has adopted four key messages:
 - Libraries transform lives.
 - Libraries transform communities.
 - Librarians are passionate advocates for lifelong learning.
 - Libraries are a smart investment.



Library Commission Awards

Submit your nominations today!



Nominations are now open for the Library Commission's **Librarian of the Year** and **Librarian Champions** awards.

Librarian of the Year will honor a single employee of a Public Library for his or her contributions to the library community in 2018. To be considered for this award, the nominee must be a current employee of a West Virginia Public Library. Nominations are **not** limited to library directors!

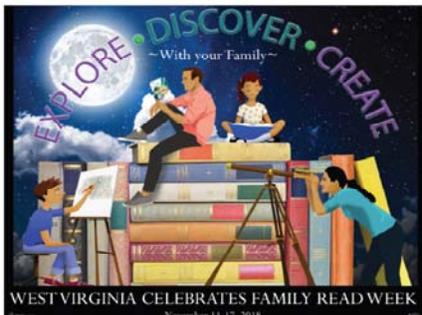
The **Library Champions** award is designed to recognize individuals, such as Trustees, local officials, volunteers, and patrons, who have made exceptional contributions to Public Libraries in West Virginia in the past year. Up to 5 nominees will be selected to receive the award. Employees of libraries and current state and federal elected officials are not eligible for nomination.

Nomination forms for both Librarian of the Year and Library Champions are available [here](#). Please be complete and thorough when completing the nomination narrative. Winners will be determined solely on the narrative you provide.

Take Part in West Virginia Family Read Week

November 11-17 is West Virginia Family Read Week, a week to promote academic success and family bonding.

According to numerous national studies, children who were read to frequently are generally more successful in the classroom:



- Children who were read to at least three times a week by a family member were almost twice as likely to score in the top 25% in reading compared to children who were read to less than 3 times a week - National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)
- By the age of 2, children who are read to regularly display greater language comprehension, larger vocabularies, and higher cognitive skills than their peers - *Child Development* (2006)
- Children growing up in homes with at least 20 books get 3 more years of schooling than children from bookless homes - *Family scholarly culture and educational success: Books and schooling in 27 nations* (2010)

According to the NCES, only 53 percent of children ages three to five were read to daily by a family member. Children who live in poverty are even less likely to be read to daily. The WVLC encourages families to visit their local library and read a book together during West Virginia Family Reading Week. Families that read together; explore, discover, and create together.



WVLA Gathers for Annual Fall Conference

The **WVLA Annual Conference** is scheduled for **November 7-9** at the **Stonewall Resort** in Roanoke, WV.

The theme of this year's conference is, "Envision: Looking Forward to the next 100 years of innovation in WV Libraries". The conference opens at 1:00 pm on Wednesday, November 7th and closes with the WVLA Executive Board Meeting and lunch at 1:15 pm on Friday, November 9th. To register for this year's WVLA Annual Conference, contact the [WVLA](#).



2018 WV Tax Forms Available for Ordering

The Library Commission will again distribute state tax booklets to West Virginia public libraries in 2018. Libraries should place their orders by December 14. We anticipate shipping orders to libraries by late December.

More details and the **2018 Income Tax Order Form** are available on the [WVLC website](#). Complete the form and email it to Woodie Dorsen at woodie.j.dorsen@wv.gov or to Gary Scott at gary.l.scott@wv.gov. You may also fax your order to **304-558-2044**.

Cabell County Public Library Races for Literacy



The Cabell County Public Library held its 5th Annual Bolt for Books Library 5K Run for Literacy last month. Dozens of runners and walkers took part at Huntington's Ritter Park, which helped raise money and awareness for the library and the Tri-State Literacy Council.

Proceeds will help both organizations to continue providing books, materials, programming, and services to the Cabell County community. In addition to helping the library, participants were awarded t-shirts, medals and gift card prizes.

Debut Book from West Virginia author Natalie Sypolt.



Natalie Sypolt's collection of short stories, *The Sound of Holding Your Breath*, is now available. The West Virginia resident makes her debut with this book, which chronicles life in twenty-first century Appalachia. Accidents and deaths, cons and cover-ups, abuse and returning veterans—Natalie Sypolt's characters wrestle with who they are during the most trying situations of their lives.

Natalie is an assistant professor at Pierpont Community & Technical College, and she also coordinates the high school workshop for the West Virginia Writers' Workshop at West Virginia University. She has also served as a literary editor

for the Anthology of Appalachian Writers.

You can learn more about Natalie and her book at <https://wvupressonline.com/node/751> and nataliesypolt.com. Natalie is also available for author presentations and you can contact her at natalie.sypolt@gmail.com.

In Case You Missed It...



The Dark Lord of the Sith and other Star Wars characters recently visited the Marion County Public Library in Fairmont, as part of the library's "Star Wars Day" celebration. The Times West Virginian chronicled the festivities in an article describing the children who dressed up as various Star Wars characters and took part in the event.

"Star Wars Day" kicked off **Star Wars Reads**, an annual event in October which promotes Star Wars themed books and comic books. Christian Cox, the library's youth services librarian said "It's a popular event because people like to come in and celebrate their love of the movies."

[Photo by Tammy Shriver, Times West Virginian]



26th Letters About Literature Writing Contest is Underway!

Letters About Literature is back for its 26th year. The annual letter writing and reading competition is sponsored by West Virginia Center for the Book, an affiliate of the National Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, and the Library Commission.



Students in grades four through twelve choose a book, poem or speech that has had an impact on their view of the world, their personal lives, or both. Then they write a letter to the author, explaining why his or her work is important to them, and how it has affected them personally. Entries are judged nationally, as well as on a statewide level.

Student entries are now being accepted and must be postmarked by **January 11, 2019**. For more information on how students can take part in the program, please visit the [Letters About Literature page on the WVLC website](#).

The Great American Read Announces America's Favorite Book



The Great American Read has unveiled America's favorite book - *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee. The national vote, sponsored by PBS, selected *The Outlander Series* as the second favorite and *The Harry Potter Series* as third.

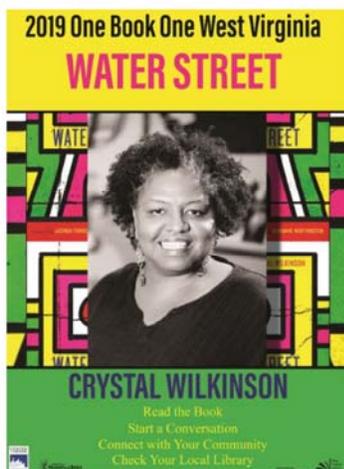
West Virginia Public Broadcasting also conducted a vote for West Virginia's favorite book, and *To Kill A Mockingbird* was the runaway winner, followed by the *Harry Potter Series*, *Lord of the Rings*, and *Pride and Prejudice*.

For a complete rundown on West Virginia's favorite book and the top picks county by county, visit the [WVLC website](#). For all of the results of the national poll, check out the [PBS web site](#).

WVLC Notices

- **November 6 - Election Day:** WVLC is closed
- **November 7- 9:** WVLA Annual Fall Conference, Stonewall Resort
- **November 12 - Veterans Day:** WVLC is closed
- **November 22 & 23 - Thanksgiving:** WVLC is closed
- **Morgan County Public Library:** Sarah Drennan has been named Interim Director
- **Gilmer Public Library:** Lisa Minney is the new Director
- **Upshur County Public Library:** Paul Norko is the new Director
- **Princeton Public Library:** Job opening for Library Director
- **Bolivar-Harpers Ferry Public Library:** Job opening for Library Director

One Book One West Virginia Returns for 2018-19



The West Virginia Library Commission and the West Virginia Center for the Book has announced the **One Book One West Virginia** selection for 2018-19. Each year, one book by an Appalachian author is selected for this prestigious honor, and this year's honoree is *Water Street* by Crystal Wilkinson. A native of Indian Creek, KY, Wilkinson offers a glimpse into small town Appalachia in a book dealing with love, loss and tragedy.

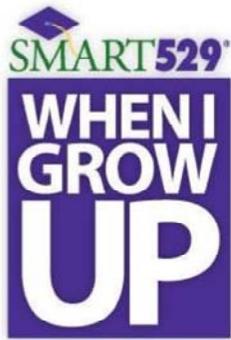
One Book One West Virginia is West Virginia's most important statewide book discussion group, and it allows readers across the state to read the same book and take part in detailed group conversations about the book's unfolding storyline. Now in its 14th year, this literary project helps support the Appalachian Heritage Writer-In-Residence Project developed by Shepherd University. West Virginia readers are urged to join book discussion groups and attend related events, such as meeting the author, character portrayals, movies, and workshops.

To join a book group discussion, readers may contact their local library, or they can connect with others through the

[WVLC statewide Facebook page](#). For more information on Crystal Wilkinson and the **One Book One West Virginia** program, visit the [One Book One West Virginia page](#) on the WVLC website.

2019 When I Grow Up Writing Contest

What does a child dream of being when they grow up? A chef, storyboard artist or interior designer? West Virginia kids can chronicle their dreams in the 2019 “When I Grow Up” essay contest with a chance to win up to \$5,000 in a SMART529 College Savings account. Parents should complete and sign the entry form, and have their child answer, in 100 words or less, “When I grow up, I want to be a/an _____ because...” Entry forms and contest rules can be [downloaded here](#). Artwork may be submitted in addition to the entry form and essay. All entries must be postmarked by 11:59 pm Friday, February 22, 2019.



The contest is open to West Virginia children in Kindergarten through 5th grade. A winner will be selected from each of three grade level categories (Kindergarten – 1st, 2nd – 3rd, and 4th – 5th) in five regions of the state for a total of 15 regional winners. Each regional winner will receive a \$500 SMART529 account, and each regional winner's school or the homeschool association of the guardians' choice will receive \$500. The 15 regional winners will be eligible to win an additional \$4,500 SMART529 account.

Regional winner selections are based on criteria including originality, creativity and the importance of post-secondary education in the chosen field.

No matter what your child's dream, college is a must. Encourage children who visit your library to dream big, and enter this year's contest! More details are available [here](#).



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

traveled all the way from Sweden just to meet her pen pal, Amy. When she arrives, however, she finds that Amy's funeral has just ended. Luckily, the townspeople are happy to look after their bewildered tourist—even if they don't understand her peculiar need for books. Marooned in a farm town that's almost beyond repair, Sara starts a bookstore in honor of her friend's memory.

All she wants is to share the books she loves with the citizens of Broken Wheel and to convince them that reading is one of the great joys of life. But she makes some unconventional choices that could force a lot of secrets into the open and change things for everyone in town. This is a warm, witty book about friendship, stories, and love.

Featured Book of the Month!

The Readers of Broken Wheel Recommends
by Katrina Bivald

Once you let a book into your life, the most unexpected things can happen...

Broken Wheel, Iowa, has never seen anyone like Sara, who



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

A Day in the Life of a Library on *Libraries Today!*

This month, the WVLC TV crew heads north to pay a visit to the Morgantown Public Library and its branches. The show explores the inner workings of a modern, public library in the November episode of *Libraries Today*. Guests include library Director Sarah Palfrey and the library's Aull Center Coordinator Mike McClung.

Check out *Libraries Today* - available the first week of November on the [Library Television Network's YouTube Channel!](#)



West Virginia Librarians Wrap-Up PLA Internship Program

50 High School juniors from across the U.S. took part in the Public Library Association's Inclusive Internship Initiative (III) this summer. The grant program is designed to present librarianship as a viable career option for the next generation of Americans by allowing librarians to mentor aspiring librarians.



Two West Virginia library interns, Rebecca Nix of Cabell County and Angelee Kokosinski of Brooke County, took part in III and, along with Brooke County PL Director Alex Eberle and Cabell County PL Assistant Director for Youth Services Breana Roach Bowen, attended the program's wrap-up session in Chicago last month.

As part of the program, the interns were required to prepare a project presentation. Rebecca's presentation focused on community care and education, while Angelee's project presentation dealt with diversity and how diverse groups can work better together. Alex says both interns did wonderful jobs in presenting to the program's mentors and fellow interns, and she is excited to do a presentation on the Inclusive Internship Initiative with Breana and Burnsville PL Library Director Beth Anderson at this month's WVLA Fall Conference.

Upgrades for WVInfoDepot.org

WVInfoDepot.org has added a new One Stop Search box! The box provides fast, simple access to all EBSCO statewide electronic resources, virtually eliminating the need to know which database to start with. West Virginia libraries (academic, public, and K12) can add this widget and a Consumer Reports widget to their websites. [Codes](#) are available. A brief, four-minute tutorial on the service is available on the EBSCO [support site](#).



[Legal Information Reference Center](#) (LIRC) is now part of WVInfoDepot.org! This resource can assist West Virginians with legal matters of all kinds. Besides having legal forms available by state, it has a large selection of Nolo legal reference books. User guides and promotional information is available on the [EBSCO website](#).



CONTINUING EDUCATION

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

	<p>View Upcoming & Archived Webinars</p> <p>CLICK HERE</p> 
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	<p>View Upcoming Webinars & Training</p> <p>CLICK HERE</p> 
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Highlighted Content from WebJunction

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

- [New Course: Media Smart Libraries](#). Children today need to be prepared for living in a digital, media-smart world and library staff are in a great position to effectively serve this need. Since digital technologies and online behaviors evolve so rapidly however, many librarians need professional development to advance their own digital and media literacy skills to better support their young patrons' development as critical thinkers and producers of digital media. This free, new course can help you meet those development goals!
- [Adult Arts and Crafts at the Library \(and 5 Cool Projects to Get You Started\)](#). An adult arts and crafts program is an opportunity to encourage creativity in a safe, welcoming space, within the context of a guided program, for people who may have found themselves long ago disconnected from their own creativity.

Upcoming Webinars

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

Small But Mighty Library Management and Innovation

Monday, November 5, 2018 ♦ 3:00 pm ♦ 1 hour

[Register here.](#)

Innovating. Meeting community needs. Managing the daily business of running a library. It can feel as though there aren't enough hours in the day to do it all. But there are powerful models like the Millvale Community Library which is acting as an agent of change in the community without sacrificing their core role as an information resource. This small but mighty library addresses their community's food desert, uses clean energy, offers a tool-lending library, and more—while operating in a financially sustainable way. Learn how they do it, and how you can, too!

Presented by: **Susan McClellan**, Executive Director, Millvale Community Library (PA)

Librarian Evolution: Libraries Thrive When We Change

Thursday, November 29, 2018 ♦ 3:00 pm ♦ 1 hour

[Register here.](#)

Charles Darwin said, "It is not the strongest of the species that survive, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change." It has never been a better time to be a librarian—especially when we recognize and act on our power to help people in our communities build better lives through learning and literacy. To do that, our identity, our education, our organizations, and our work is changing. Learn how library staff are becoming change agents to help Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library, the [2016 Gale/LJ Library of the Year](#), become an essential asset in its community.

Presented by: **Gina Millsap**, Chief Executive Officer, and **Thad Hartman**, Chief of Staff, Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library (KS)

Events · WebJunction Events Calendar

WebJunction Events Calendar

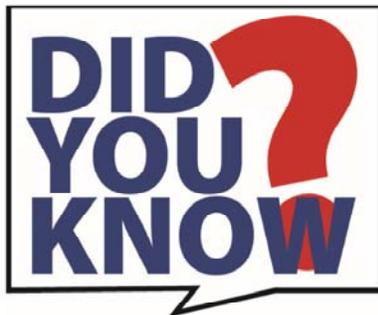
To view a complete list of past WebJunction webinars, go to: [WebJunction Event Archives](#)



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 »](#)



The Pleasants County Public Library is located on the banks of the Ohio River in St. Marys, overlooking the river and the nearby Hiram Carpenter Bridge. Founded in 1935 by the St. Marys Women's Club, the library operated with a volunteer staff in borrowed quarters for nearly 40 years. In 1974, the library finally moved into its current facility on Lafayette Street. After major renovations in 1985 and 2000, the Pleasants County Public Library now serves 7,500 residents in the St. Marys area.

Mark Your Calendar!



- November:** Picture Book Month
November: National Novel Writing Month
November: National Native American Heritage Month
November 11-17: West Virginia Family Read Week
November 13: World Kindness Day
November 15: America Recycles Day



You're the Super Star!

Have a story to tell or a photo to share?
[Click Here to Email Us!](#)

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Karen E. Goff

Executive Secretary

West Virginia Library Commission

West Virginia Library Commission

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