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By now, most of you reading this will have read or at least heard of the recent Op-Ed published (and now removed) by Forbes online. The misinformed article was written by Panos Mourdoukoutas, chair of the economics department at LIU Post in New York, and suggested that libraries should be replaced by Amazon to save taxpayers money. He cited what he said was a $495 tax bill for the year as his reasoning behind the idea. He went on to say that places such as Starbucks (another for profit business) could and even are replacing libraries already because they provide space for people to meet and offer “free” Wi-Fi to those people who are there. Although, even the Wi-Fi isn’t really free because we all know there are very few for profit businesses that would allow an individual or individuals to loiter around all day without purchasing something. You might be able to get away with it for a while before someone noticed, but at some point you would be asked to purchase something.

Of course, all of us in this profession realize this is a radically terrible suggestion because Amazon could not possibly do all of the things that a library can do. Libraries and communities all over took to their social media accounts to denounce such a preposterous idea, citing the many services provided by libraries that could not be provided by Amazon as their reasoning. The services among the articles that I have read included: meeting room space for non-profit and community events, programming for all community members that ranged from the educational to the simply entertaining, access to books, e-books, and many other forms of media, help with career training, resume building, computer classes, and other forms of economic and job skills training, pro-se legal forms and seminars from Legal Aid and other similar organizations, access to the internet and computer programs for educational and entertainment use, immigrant services, services for minorities, services for the elderly and outreach services into the community when community members can’t come to us. All of these services, and plenty more that aren’t listed, on top of the traditional literacy and educational services that are provided to our communities’ school children by trained professionals on a daily basis, could never be provided as effectively or efficiently by any for profit-business whose ultimate goal is sales dollars and not the needs of other human beings.

Those who think that libraries are just for books are clearly so privileged that they’ve never needed to walk into one to see the kinds of frankly beautiful things that are happening inside them. The ways that no person, regardless of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, political affiliation, or ability to pay, is ever turned away.

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Call to order
A meeting of West Virginia Library Association Executive Board was held at Putnam County Public Library on March 9, 2018. Attendees included Brenna Call, Megan Tarbett, Suzie Martin, Brian Raitz, Jeanette Rowsey, Leigh Ann Hood, Karen Goff, Ann Farr, Majed Khader, Lori Thompson, Gretchen Beach, Bonnie Dwire, Kelly Funkhouser, Breana Bowen, and David Owens. Members attending via telephone included Virginia Kline, Megan Shanholtz, and Cate Weber. The meeting was called to order by President Brenna Call at 10:50 AM.

Approval of minutes
Minutes of the December 15, 2017 Executive Board meeting were accepted as presented.

Reports
President’s Report: Brenna Call announced that committees for the upcoming year were finalized. A motion to approve the committee appointments was made by Gretchen Beach and seconded by Majed Khader.

A subcommittee to review association management software has been formed and provided with links Ms. Beach found last year.

A block of rooms has been reserved at Stonewall Jackson Resort. Session Proposals will be due June 29, 2018.

1st Vice-President’s Report: Megan Tarbett said the Conference Committees have been formed. In addition, she has contacted North Bend for the December meeting and has a contract ready for Ms. Call’s signature.

2nd Vice-President’s Report: Megan Shanholtz presented membership survey data. WVLA’s membership stands at 488, and she is trying to ascertain the total number of librarians in the state. Highlights from the survey include the desire for the annual conference to be held in the Eastern Panhandle and a flat membership fee. Ms. Shanholtz will work with Lori Thompson on a membership brochure. She intends to have a membership table at Spring Fling.

Treasurer’s Report: Brian Raitz presented current financial summaries and motioned for approval to pay checks 1256 to 1270. Ms. Beach seconded the motion, which carried. Mr. Raitz noted the Association is slightly in arrears on Legislative Day expenses. Majed Khader motioned for the final budget to be approved; Mr. Raitz seconded, and the motion carried.

Executive Director’s Report: Kelly Funkhouser has been exploring options for joint WVLA/ALA membership. This is available only to students. Suzie Martin motioned to approve the membership option; Megan Tarbett seconded, and the motion carried.

Trustees Division: Jeannette Rowsey created an online survey for Trustees, which had a 69± response rate. She will share data at Spring Fling.
School Libraries Division: Leigh Ann Hood said several members of the division will meet Saturday, March 54 in Jane Lew to discuss the Summer Refresher conference and other concerns. Topics of concern are the number of Praxis librarians who are entered the field without necessary skills. At minimum Ms. Hood hopes to explore raising the passing score.

Public Libraries Division: Cate Weber said arrangements for Spring Fling were complete. Gift bags cost £744.44, less than the $500.00 budgeted. The Conference Center will provide projectors. Ms. Beach and Karen Goff will coordinate laptops and speakers. Ms. Weber said roundtable meetings will occur on both Thursday and Friday to allow members to attend multiple meetings. Ms. Weber motioned that gift certificate to the WVLA store be given as prizes; Ms. Tarbett seconded, and the motion carried.

Academic Libraries Division: Virginia Kline reported that any member can search the archives at WVU Libraries for association documents. She asked that Jaime Bane be appointed co-chair but was told an election must take place. Ms. Kline will ask Ms. Weber to schedule an Academic Division meeting during Spring Fling.

Roundtables: David Owens reported that of 56 roundtables only three responded to his request for a report. He suggested that perhaps the roundtables should have a standard report form. Ms. Thompson noted that roundtables could meet outside of Spring Fling or the annual conference.

ALA Councilor: Mr. Khader reported that the MidWinter meeting had about 5444 fewer attendees than expected. He reported that ALA is restructuring, and as part of that, President Jim Neal is meeting with financial advisors and real estate agents to determine the best use of ALA’s headquarter in Chicago. Mr. Raitz asked how many people worked at the Chicago office, and Mr. Khader indicated he would find the number.

Federal Relations: Bonnie Dwire reported that five people are registered for National Library Legislative Day. ALA will hold a webinar on March 15 to prepare attendees. Ms. Beach suggested that attendees remind Shelley Moore Capito of her visit with the Librarian of Congress in Huntington.

SELA: Breana Bowen said there are still a few details to attend with the Fall Conference. She announced a summer conference in Birmingham and a Fall Conference in Greenville, SC.

Library Commission: Karen Goff updated the Executive Board on the progress of HB 8440, which would make the Library Commission a separate agency under the Executive Branch.

Legislative Committee: Ann Farr suggested that Library Legislative Day be renamed Library Appreciation Day, as many members are uncomfortable with the term “lobby.” She noted that the reception was well-attended, with eight senators and 33 delegates. Judy Rule disclosed the event fell about $2000.00 short of expected revenue. She suggested that cost may be a deterrent to attendance and noted that Cabell County’s Friends of the Library defrays 60% of the cost of staff to attend. Ms. Tarbett suggested the WVLA tables be set up prior to 8:30 to maximize exposure to Rotunda traffic.

Site Selection Committee: Ms. Beach and Mr. Raitz indicated the committee is considering the Clarion in Shepherdstown as the site of the 2019 Fall Conference. Ms. Beach noted that the Pullman Plaza in Huntington is being remodeled and may serve as a site for a future conference.
Public Relations Committee: Ms. Thompson reported that our Facebook page now has 1300 post clicks. She further noted that during her visit, Carla Hayden tweeted and tagged WVLA. Ms. Thompson said that Library Legislative Day was great publicity. She asked Executive Board members send her information for social media.

Marketing/Newsletter: Kaity Carson is looking for different merchandise to market. She indicated she would like to interview people for the newsletter and hopes to have a new edition out in March. She hopes the new chapter software will allow embedding.

Software Task Force: No report.

Unfinished business
None

New Business
None

Announcements
None

Adjournment
Ms. Call adjourned the meeting at 1:50 PM.

Lynda Martin, MLIS
Secretary

Next Board Meeting:
September 7, 11:00-2:00pm
Clarksburg-Harrison Public Library
404 West Pike Street
Clarksburg, WV 26301
Featured Local Library:

Bridgeport Public Library

The Bridgeport Public Library is located in Bridgeport, WV. Find them online at www.youseemore.com/bridgeport or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Bridgeport-Public-Library-658431364172016.

Summer Reading during Renovations

When looking for a library to feature this month, I came across this story about the Bridgeport library. They are currently undergoing major renovations and as a result have had to close their children’s program area down for much of their Summer Reading Program. They did not let that stop them from continuing to serve their community and promote reading however! I wanted to include this story in our newsletter to share that our libraries in WV continue to persever through anything! - Kaity Carson, editor WV Libraries

Stories with Stormy

Story from WDTV Bridgeport, WV
by Casey Hoolghan Posted: Tue 10:46 PM, Jul 10, 2018

HARRISON COUNTY, W. Va. (WDTV) - As Bridgeport's public library continues their renovations this summer, they've been looking to other parts of the community to hold events to keep kids interested in reading. "Because of the renovations we don't really have the space to hold a lot of programming this summer, so we're trying to do some outside programming within the city park," said children's librarian Amy Eakle. The library partnered with the non-profit On Eagle's Wings to create a special story time with one of their most popular members - Stormy the miniature horse. The kids walked the perimeter of the park with Stormy, stopping along the way to read a chapter or two of the book for. The event is designed to get kids interested in reading and learning about animals. "The goal is for them to have a more intimate experience with animals that they aren't familiar with," said Nancy Hickman, Stormy's handler and an equine specialist with On Eagle's Wings. The story time ended with the kids getting spending some quality time with Stormy. The library's next event will be in August in the newly renovated space.
LEGISLATIVE MATTERS:

Library Appreciation Day 2019 is scheduled for
Monday, February 4, 2019. Please mark your calendars!

Why Should the Library Host a Meet the Candidates Event? - submitted by Cate Weber

The Library Legislative Committee encourages libraries to host Meet the Candidate events this Fall. We cannot change library legislation in our state if we do not know and communicate with our legislators. An event in your community that gives voters the opportunity to meet the people running for office is great for your library for several reasons. It shows the library’s support for local government. It provides voters with a chance to talk to candidates before the election. It gives the candidates an opportunity to see your library and meet the people who work there, putting faces with budget line items. Finally, it gives those who work at the library the opportunity to meet candidates and ask them questions in a familiar environment, which mitigates some of the intimidation factor library workers may feel, plus it’s great practice for advocacy! Please check out the guidelines below, and good luck with your event!

How to Host a Meet the Candidates Event

1. Decide what kind of event you want to have: A Meet & Greet? A Q & A session? Will you need a moderator or will it be casual conversation? Your event can be as simple as each candidate sitting at a table and talking to people who approach them.
2. Reserve a space and set the date. October is a great time for a Meet the Candidates event!
3. Go to the West Virginia Secretary of State’s website (https://sos.wv.gov) or call them (Call toll-free: (866) 767-8683 or call the main office: (304) 558-6000). They make all of the ballots for and run all of the elections in the state of West Virginia and are your greatest resource for election information.
4. Find out which offices are being voted on this November at your state, district, county, and city levels.
5. Find the names and contact information for all candidates running for those offices.
6. Invite your candidates – a phone call or mailed invitation is great. Emails can get lost in the fray.
7. Confirm who will be attending, and advertise!

News and Announcements!

Reported from the Herald-Dispatch on July 17th, 2018 here:

CHARLESTON — The West Virginia Library Commission has presented $187,180 in state grants to 47 public libraries in the state. The grants were awarded in June, based on facility, programming, and collections proposals from each library. The maximum award is $5,000 per library. In all, 29 grants were awarded for facility maintenance, nine for collection development, nine for programming improvements, and three for other service enhancement.("These grants reflect the critical needs in West Virginia's public libraries," said Karen Goff, executive secretary of the WVLC. "They will allow libraries to improve their facilities, as well as enhance the programs and services they provide to state residents." The 2018 state grants represent a $77,087 increase over the WVLC's 2017 awards. To learn more about the WVLC, visit www.librarycommission.wv.gov or call 304-558-2041. Click here to view the list of all grants awarded.
News from ALA

Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities

2018 Public Innovators Lab for Libraries. A joint effort (ALA and The Harwood Institute) taring opportunity for libraries of all types scheduled on October 9-11, 2018 in St. Louis, MO. This training details are available at https://theharwoodinstitute.org/public-innovators-labs/


Introduction to LC FACETED VOCABULARIES FOR MUSIC RESOURCES (Workshop). In collaboration with the Music Library Association, the ALA Publishing eLearning Solutions announces an exciting new workshop on Wednesday, August 29 at 2:30pm Eastern time. Details available at http://www.ala.org/news/member-news/2018/06/new-workshop-introduction-lc-faceted-vocabularies-music-resources

Making Your Library Work for Homeschoolers Workshop. A 90 minutes workshop scheduled on Thursday August 2 from 2:30-4:00 pm Eastern time. Workshop details and more info are available at http://www.ala.org/news/member-news/2018/06/new-session-making-your-library-work-homeschoolers-workshop

Updates & General News

ALA 2018 Annual Conference and Exhibition. ALA 2018 annual conference and exhibition was held in New Orleans, LA June 21-26. More than 17,500 librarians, library staff, and library supporters including more than 5,100 exhibitors attended this year conference.

ALA Nominating Committee Extends deadline. Any ALA member interested in running for Councilor-at-Large, President-elect and Treasurer has until 9:00 a.m. Central time on Friday, August 3, to complete the form. Details are available at http://www.ala.org/news/member-news/2018/07/nominating-committee-extends-deadline

ALA Council Resolutions. Three Council resolutions adopted at the 2018 ALA Annual Conference: Resolution to Honor African Americans Who Fought Library Segregation; Resolution on Gender Inclusive Bathrooms at ALA Conferences and Meetings; and Resolution to Reunite Detained Migrant Children with their Parents. To read more about these three resolutions please go to http://www.ala.org/aboutala/selection-resolutions-adopted-ala-council

ALA-APA Workplace Wellness website. A website of “health resources that benefit library workers in all types of working environments.” For details, please visit http://ala-apa.org/wellness/

Intellectual freedom resources Guide. In response to issues concerning social media and libraries, ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee in its meeting during the 2018 ALA Annual conferee approved and published a new document titled “Social Media Guidelines for Public and Academic Libraries.” To read more, please visit http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/socialmediaguidelines

Scholarship, Awards, Fellowships, and Grants

Complete list of ALA and its divisions grant and award info is available by visiting [http://www.ala.org/awardsgrants/](http://www.ala.org/awardsgrants/). The following are examples of some upcoming opportunities.

Carnegie-Whitney Grant. A grants for the preparation and publication of popular or scholarly reading lists, indexes and other guides to library resources that will be useful to users of all types of libraries. Deadline is November 2, 2018. Grant details available at [http://www.ala.org/awardsgrants/carnegie-whitney-grant](http://www.ala.org/awardsgrants/carnegie-whitney-grant)

EBSCO ALA Annual Conference Sponsorship. An annual award consisting of $1,000 for actual reimbursed expenses is designed to allow librarians to attend the ALA's Annual Conference. Deadline is December 1, 2018. Grant details are available at [http://www.ala.org/awardsgrants/ebSCO-ala-annual-conference-sponsorship](http://www.ala.org/awardsgrants/ebSCO-ala-annual-conference-sponsorship)

Continued from front page:

Libraries have long been places that combat inequality and champion the democratic ideals of freedom of speech and of the press. This is more important than ever as the wealth gap in this country continues to grow and we see every day the accusations of fake news and assaults on the press in this country. Libraries give every individual the opportunity and ability to research and find out for themselves with no agenda beyond equal access and dissemination of information and services for all.

According to a recent study done by the Ohio Library Council, the average homeowner in Ohio pays around $65.00 in property taxes towards sustaining libraries in the state. I chose to use this example, partly because I live in Ohio, and partly because Ohio has a relatively high rate of property taxes in relation to the rest of the country. Ohio’s support of libraries also doesn’t vary much from region to region as it does in WV, due to the nature of the fact that most WV libraries are funded at the local level and Ohio libraries are funded mostly at the state level (of course this is an overly simplified explanation). The average cost of a new hardback book is $27.00. It doesn’t take an economist (or perhaps it does) to see that the $65.00 I spend in property taxes each year toward my local library is a pretty great deal considering all of the services I have access to. It is unclear now what the author meant in saying it would save tax payers money, because it wouldn’t save me any money; in fact, it would cost me exponentially more money to purchase all of these services and I would never be able to afford it.

I will end by saying it is my belief that we should never allow a for-profit business to hold all of our access to information. That company would then control what can be accessed, and essentially who can access it, based upon a price set by the company. I’m concerned that Forbes, whose audience is primarily the wealthy, would have published such a suggestion in the first place for any length of time. I’ve read George Orwell’s 1984.

- Brenna Call, WVLA President
Roundtables and Divisions:
This section will include current updates from one selected roundtable and division in an effort to further communication and involvement in our membership groups.

Division: Trustees
Chair Jeanette Rowsey
WVLA TRUSTEES DIVISON REPORT
June 14, 2018

With input and help from WV Library Commission, WVLA and many public library directors, Division Chair Jeanette Rowsey administered a survey to public library trustees across the state, using Survey Monkey. The purpose was to gauge awareness of available information channels and resources for board members, update contact information, identify learning interests pertaining to the trustee’s role, and identify those who have expertise to share with their West Virginia peers.

The survey was open from January 25-February 28, 2018. Responses were received from 133 current public library board members in 34 counties, an estimated 27% rate of response. Findings were presented in a workshop at the Spring Fling on April 5. The workshop also allowed time for WVLA website resources to be briefly shown those in attendance. (A copy of the presentation slides will be brought to the board meeting on June 15 for those who wish to review it.)

Both the survey responses and the conversation among Spring Fling workshop participants identified two key issues. First of all, many if not most library board members are not aware of the three “Trustee Academy” videos produced by WVLC and posted on its website. Since the workshop, Karen Goff has offered to help remedy this situation. Conversations have continued toward making DVD sets available in time for Fall Conference, so they can be disseminated to those in attendance.

A second issue is low conference participation by public library trustees. A number of people expressed that time commitments and costs have kept them from attending the multi-day conferences. The central location of the Fall Conference in Roanoke offers potential for higher participation if we can offer and promote a single-day Trustees Track on Thursday, November 8 featuring topics of keenest interest. The Trustees Division chair would also suggest a special day rate for Trustees who are WVLA members, as incentive both to join and to attend.

Subsequent phone and email conversations with Cabell County Library director Judy Rule, Karen Goff, Heather Campbell-Shock of WVLC, and Brooke County Public Libraries director Alexandra Eberle expanded on the survey “hot topics” and generated ideas to fill three to four workshop sessions, including a possible “panel of experts” session to cover multiple topics.

Heather Campbell-Shock will be at ALA this month and will explore the availability of a presenter from United for Libraries. Karen Goff said she would be happy to present on the funding outlook for WV libraries. Alex Eberle has done considerable work already in approaching possible presenters to address top concerns of directors/trustees and shared the following on June 12:

I have heard back in the affirmative that (the following individuals) would like to do something:
1. Michelle Lee Dougherty, Esq. from Steptoe & Johnson PLLC. She would do something on Employment Law
2. Martin J. Wright, Jr., General Counsel, from WV State Auditor’s Office. He would do a presentation about Ethics.
3. Drew A. Proudfoot, Attorney at Law, from Bowles Rice Attorneys At Law. He would do a presentation on Open Meetings Act
4. Chris Barr, Employer Reporting Assistant Manager, from WV Consolidated Public Retirement Board. He would do a presentation about PERS (do’s, don’ts, requirements, COMPASS (the system they use), etc.

Work will continue in the coming weeks to pull together strong Trustee Track proposals by the June 29 deadline, and promote them more intentionally to our trustees, with the goal of boosting conference participation and better equipping public library trustees to take on their many important tasks with knowledge and confidence.

Roundtable: Literacy
Chair Kaity Carson

In what ways does the Literacy Roundtable contribute to WVLA and what goals are they working towards?

Recently, our roundtable has been rather small with the hopes of growing. We have two members and a chair at this current time. Our current goal is to create a literacy session for an upcoming conference. In a discussion-type format, we would like to have several literacy experts, such as volunteers who teach literacy in our libraries, to discuss the different types of literacy that our libraries promote and how we can continue to improve literacy in our state.
Marshall University proudly announces its inaugural pop culture and entertainment convention, HerdCon!

HerdCon will be held on **Saturday, March 16, 2019** at the Marshall University Memorial Student Center (primary location) and the Drinko Library (secondary location) on campus from **10am until 6pm**.

This is Marshall University’s first venture into the pop culture, comic, and entertainment industry. This event will benefit both the community and local businesses by bringing new visitors to Huntington and raising the profile of Marshall University. The show will focus on four major points: Cosplay (portraying fictional characters in both costume and mannerisms), Scholarly Panels (informational sessions hosted by Marshall University faculty), Gaming (computer, pen and paper, board game, and live action roleplay), as well as local and regional businesses. Marshall students, faculty, staff, alumni, community college students, and children under the age of 18 will have free admission.

HerdCon is projecting a crowd of over several thousand! We ask for your assistance facilitating promotion of the event to enable local businesses to take advantage of the influx of visitors.

If there are any questions, please contact Heather Lauer at herdcon@marshall.edu.

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**WVL A Announcements:**

- Don’t forget to renew your membership! [Click here](#) to renew (or join!) online.

- Find our conference website [here](#)!

Want more information? Visit our [membership page](#).

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**Upcoming Events:**

- **WVL A Executive Board Meeting**
  - **September 7, 2018**
  - **11:00-2:00pm**
  - Clarksburg-Harrison Public Library
  - 404 West Pike Street
  - Clarksburg, WV 26301

- **WVL A Annual Conference**
  - **November 7-9, 2018**
  - Stonewall Resort
  - 940 Resort Drive
  - Roanoke, WV 26447