**Overview**

The Wisconsin Valley Library Service (WVLS) will offer four scholarships for directors or branch managers of a member public library to attend the 2020 Association of Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL) Conference. This year’s conference will be held Sept. 30 – Oct. 3 in Wichita, Kansas. The 2020 conference will feature pre-conference workshops, concurrent sessions, dine-arounds, and an exhibit hall with companies/vendors relevant to the profession. **Completed applications must be received by WVLS by March 23, 2020.**

The ARSL conference is specifically designed for rural library staff. Previous conference topics have included building community advocacy, effective trustee recruitment, safety procedures, inexpensive programming ideas, innovative web services, customer service, and more.

More conference details can be found on the ARSL website: <https://arsl.info/2019-conference-news/>

**The Scholarship**

The ARSL scholarship is a full scholarship valued at $1,800, and includes the following:

* A one-year membership in ARSL
* Conference registration
* Transportation to/from the conference
* Conference lodging
* Meals

**Eligibility and Requirements**

* Applicants must submit a completed and signed application before the scholarship deadline.
* Applicants must work at a small or rural library branch serving a municipal population of 10,000 or less in the WVLS 7-county service area.
* Applicants must have one year of experience working as a public library director or library branch manager prior to application deadline.
* Preference will be given to applicants who have not attended an ARSL conference.
* Scholarship winners must share their conference experience and knowledge gained with library colleagues via a written report submitted to WVLS within 30 days of the conference (a form will be provided).

**To Apply**

The scholarship application form is available on the WVLS website at: <http://wvls.org/scholarships-and-grants/>

Questions about the scholarship may be directed to Jamie Matczak at 920-455-0668 or jmatczak@wvls.org.

2020 ARSL Scholarship Application

To be completed by the applicant.

Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Public Library\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Population Served by your Library\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Have you attended an ARSL conference? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

 If yes, what year did you last attend? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Essay**

How will your library benefit from your attendance at this conference? Please provide specific examples. This should be no more than one page in length.

By applying, I acknowledge that accepting this scholarship is contingent upon my attending the 2020 ARSL Conference. If I am unable to attend, I will notify WVLS immediately.

Also, within 30 days of my return from the conference, I will submit a written report of what I learned at the conference to WVLS.

Should I be unable to fulfill these requirements, I understand that I may be asked to reimburse WVLS for the scholarship within 90 days of the conference.

Applicant Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**To be completed by the Public Library Board of Trustees President**

If granted a scholarship \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ has the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 (Applicant Name) (Name of Library)

board’s permission to attend the 2020 ARSL Conference in Wichita, KS. The Library Board of Trustees understands that the applicant will be required to share what they learned at the conference via a written report submitted to WVLS within 30 days of the conference and that should the applicant not fulfill the requirements of this scholarship, the applicant or library may be asked to reimburse WVLS for the scholarship within 90 days of the conference.

Public Library Board President’s Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Public Library Board President’s Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Completed applications must be received by WVLS by March 9, 2020 and should be sent to Jamie Matczak, Wisconsin Valley Library Service, 300 N First Street, Wausau, WI 54403; jmatczak@wvls.org, or (fax) 715-261-7259.*