

1) Virtual Library Legislative Day Registration Open

This year all legislator visits will be virtual, held on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, February 16-18. The multi-day event kicks off with the traditional morning briefing via web conference on Tuesday, February 16 at 9 a.m. Then on Tuesday afternoon and throughout Wednesday and Thursday, you'll have half hour virtual meetings with your legislators.

This is our chance to let legislators know how we've adapted and responded to our community needs during the pandemic—safely and effectively. [Registration is \\$25, and is open](#). Once you've signed up, WLA will schedule your legislator meetings and send all necessary links.

2) 2021 WISCAT Licenses and User Group Meetings

- Last week, Rachel sent out a reminder about **ordering your library's WISCAT license for 2021**. The cost for the license remains at \$200 per calendar year, per library code for access to all WISCAT functionality. To learn more about WISCAT, visit the [WISCAT Licensing page](#). To place an order, please use the [online order form](#).
- The **quarterly WISCAT User Group meetings** for 2021 have been scheduled. Agendas and log on information will be sent two weeks before the scheduled date.
Wednesday, February 10, 10 -11 a.m.; Thursday, May 6, 11-12 p.m.; Tuesday, August 3, 1 -2 p.m.; Tuesday, November 9, 10 - 11 a.m.

If there are topics you would like included in these sessions please contact ILL Coordinator Christine Barth at christine.barth@dpi.wi.gov.

3) Grants Available Now for Rural Libraries

- The Rural Libraries and Social Wellbeing project is seeking applicants for the **Tools in Action micro-grant program**. Tools in Action participants work through five weeks of social wellbeing resources with a personal rural librarian guide. Paid employees of a public library with a budget less than \$150,000 and a service population less than 7,500 are eligible to apply. [Applications are due February 13, 2021](#) and notifications will be received by February 15, 2021.
- ALA is again accepting applications for **Libraries Transforming Communities (LTC): Focus on Small and Rural Libraries**, a grant initiative that will distribute nearly \$2 million to libraries. Participating libraries will receive training in how to lead conversations, a skill vital to 21st-century librarianship. Library workers will complete a free ALA e-course on basic facilitation skills; host at least one conversation with community members on a chosen topic; and receive \$3,000 to

support community engagement efforts. Grant funds may cover a range of expenses, including staff time and collections and technology purchases.

Up to 450 grants will be awarded in Round 2 of ALA's community engagement funding initiative. [Library workers may apply online for grant funding by March 4.](#)

4) This Week's Webinars

- [Leadership Skills for New\(er\) Supervisors](#), 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 12
- [How to Achieve Career Growth While Working Remotely](#), 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 12
- [Tiny Spaces Bring Big Opportunity](#), 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 13
- [Controlling Your Nerves When Presenting to Online Audiences](#), 11 a.m. on Wed, Jan. 13
- [Proactive Advocacy for Library Trustees and Staff](#), 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 13
- [New Fiction and Non-Fiction Books to Be Your Best Self](#), 1 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 14

5) Weekly Advocacy Tip

It has never been more important for libraries to advocate, or convey to their communities and stake holders the value of the library. For the next several weeks, Monday Mentions will share a practical and doable advocacy tip.

- Collect and file publications that feature your library. Why? This is a simple way to showcase your library accomplishments through someone else's lens. Has something been featured in a [WVLS newsletter](#)? In the [Youth Services YSS Blog](#)? In your local newspaper or on your local news? All of these count as publications! Are you sharing these features with your staff and library board? Your local stakeholders?
 - Goal: This week, find three library publications in the last six months. Decide how they will be shared.

6) Marketing Updates

- Is there any library marketing task as daunting as the **annual report**? See ten tips for putting together a highly effective annual report. [Read more from Super Library Marketing.](#)
- As we turn a corner into the New Year, what **marketing trends** will continue to permeate in 2021? [Read more from Social Media Today.](#)
- Is it difficult to get library staff excited about **sharing ideas for library marketing**? Learn some tips from Angela in the [latest Library Marketing Show.](#)

7) Next 'Staying Together' Discussion

The next Staying Together discussion will be held on Tuesday, February 2 at 1 p.m. The topic is reflecting on 2020. Log-in information is located on the [WVLS COVID-19 webpage](#) under "Staying Together."

8) Free Technology Opportunity (repeat)

A small grant administered by DPI from Google for technology-related equipment is available to benefit member libraries in service to job-seeking patrons. Each WVLS library has the chance to receive the following:

- A microphone/headset to allow for better participation in meetings for staff
- A webcam
- A light/phone stand combination to allow for more professional virtual programs

If you would like one of these items, [please respond on this form](#) by Tuesday, January 12.

9) Library Closure Survey (repeat)

WVLS created a survey to collect library closure dates on and around major holidays from January - July, 2021. This will assist us on adjusting due dates in Sierra and informing Waltco about courier.

[Please have a staff member complete this survey](#) on behalf of your library by Monday, January 18.