

January 5, 2026

Hello. I hope that you all are well. 😊

Even though we had a small group at our December meeting, we had a good discussion about outreach services, community meals, and other topics. You can see the meeting notes, meeting slides, and some additional resources at the following link. For those of you who serve older adults, either in the library or via outreach services, there are several links in the meeting notes that may be of use to you, including links to the Department for Aging and Independent Living and Community Action Agency.

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1KdRFOXp695Hjbfptzx8YyF9dfytszVY?usp=sharing>

Click on the link(s) below to go to the section(s) of interest to you.

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Programming

Financial literacy resources

The 2024 Financial Literacy Annual Report describes the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau CFPB's financial literacy activities and strategy to improve the financial literacy of consumers. This year's report includes information about the need for youth financial education and how the CFPB supports those programs. [Learn More](#)

There are several Consumer Financial Protection Bureau [financial literacy resources](#) available for you to share with your patrons, and there is also a resource page dedicated to [library resources](#).

International Games Month 2025

[International Games Month 2025 Recap – ALA Games and Gaming Round Table \(December 15\)](#)

Get prepared for next year: [International Games Month – ALA Games and Gaming Round Table](#)



Don't miss your opportunity to share your civic knowledge, grow as a citizen, and work towards positive change in your community! The submission window for the 2026 National Civics Bee® is open now through February 3, 2026. Click here to access the submission portal. Educators who are interested in integrating National Civics Bee® engagement into the classroom, for extra credit, as an extracurricular opportunity, or in your community can learn more in the Educator Toolkit. [Educator-Toolkit.pdf](#)

The essay submission portal is at this link: <https://civics.uschamberfoundation.org/national-civics-bee/>

Articles

[A library helps foster an unlikely friendship](#) (NPR, December 17) *This is something that you and your colleagues do all the time—creating a space that allows for connections and friendships. 😊

[Community Pantry](#) (Programming Librarian, December 22)

[Good Grief: Comfort Kits Aid Youth Dealing with Loss](#) (Children and Libraries, v. 3, n. 23)

[How multigenerational learning can help close Kentucky's literacy gap](#) (Louisville Public Media, November 26)

[Library Innovator in Residence Launches Mobile Self-Guided Community Adventures](#) (Library of Congress, December 11)

Webinars/Trainings

Going Straight to the Source with Senior Advisory Boards (SABs): Online Learning from the Public Library Association

January 7, 2025, 1:00–2:00 p.m. Central; Fees associated with this training (fees start at \$89.00)

[Register](#)

Teen advisory boards have been utilized throughout the library profession since the early 2000's. It is uncommon, however, to hear of a senior advisory board. Senior advisory boards, or SABs for short, are boards made up of senior community members who help shape library programs and services for seniors. In this webinar, you will learn more about Medford Public Library's senior advisory board, how it was formed, what its goals are, and how you can form your own senior advisory board.



kynectors: What Are They and How Can Library Staff Connect? (KDLA)

January 14, 2026; 10am, ET / 9am, CT

[Register for this webinar.](#)

Learn about the kynector program and the services that kynectors provide. Library staff are eligible to become kynectors, too, so join this webinar to learn more about that opportunity. Presented by: Megan Snow, Public Assistance Program Specialist, Division of Family Support-Department for Community Based Services, Cabinet for Health and Family Services.

*kynect and kynectors are spelled with a lower case K due to their branding.

Welcoming All: Inclusivity in Library Spaces (Niche Academy)

January 14 at 2:00 pm, ET; Free

[Register](#)

Join Lauren Stara for ideas to help libraries assess and improve their environment in ways that promote equity, well-being, and health. Lauren will discuss small, inexpensive changes as well as more substantial long-term planning.

SWON Summer Planning Conference

[Register](#)

*There is a cost associated with this event.



SWON Event: Summer Planning Conference

Thursday, January 15th
9:30 am - 4:30 pm EST

The Children's Theatre of Cincinnati
4015 Red Bank Rd
Cincinnati, Ohio 45227

Helping Patrons Thrive: How Libraries Can Use HLAA's Website as a Resource Hub (American Library Association)

January 21, 2026; 11am, ET; 10am, CT; Free

I'm excited to announce that Bridging Deaf Cultures will be starting off the new year with a presentation! On Wednesday, January 21st at 11 am EST, Melissa Kruse will give an overview of the resources available on the Hearing Loss Association of America's website. [For more information on the presentation and to register visit this page!](#)

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Hillary Pearson

Program Manager, Accessibility Services, Office for Diversity, Literacy and Outreach Services (ODLOS)

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****KDLA** has a related webinar called “[Working Effectively with Deaf and Hard of Hearing Library Patrons](#),” if you want to go deeper.

Grants

Digital Pathways: Online Health Literacy Programming for Adults

With more adults than ever turning to the internet for health information, libraries are stepping into a vital role as a trusted community resource for online health and wellness information. While the internet is a



critical resource, navigating it can be overwhelming for those without the necessary skills. Enhancing online health literacy is essential to reducing healthcare disparities and empowering adults to take an active role in managing their health.

To serve in this capacity for their communities, libraries need readily available tools and resources focused on effectively creating online health literacy programming for adults. Through *Digital Pathways: Online Health Literacy Programming for Adults*, ALA has created a toolkit for library workers with ready-made programming ideas and resources.

12 public libraries to be selected for pilot program

In collaboration with UnitedHealthcare, the ALA Public Programs Office is launching an exciting pilot program to implement this toolkit. Over a nine-month period, 12 public libraries will be selected to receive a resource package and hands-on support to strengthen their online health literacy offerings. Participating libraries will use the toolkit to host at least three adult health literacy programs in their communities and will play a key role in shaping the future of this initiative by sharing feedback with project evaluators.

APPLY NOW Applications are open now through January 7, 2026.

Stephen T. Riedner Grant for Life Enhancing Library Programs for People Living with Dementia

Applications are now being accepted for the fifth round of the Stephen T. Riedner Grant for Life Enhancing Library Programs for People Living with Dementia. Two \$2,500 grants will be awarded to libraries for planning new services/programs for their patrons living with dementia. Fill out the simple application form and submit it by **Jan. 20, 2026**. You don't need to be a member of the American Library Association or the RUSA subdivision to apply.

The Peggy Barber Tribute Grant

(Apply by February 2, 2026)

The Peggy Barber Tribute Grant is an annual grant that recognizes, promotes, and supports meaningful programs in libraries that have limited and/or no access to budgetary support for programming. This grant aims to help ease budget challenges by annually awarding three libraries \$2,500 to support a proposed program, program series, or programming effort.

Applications for the award will be accepted from December 1, 2025, to February 2, 2026: Read the grant guidelines and apply online.

Example proposals could include (but are not limited to): an intergenerational gardening program, a program series engaging adults in play-based programming, or a visual arts performance at the library in partnership with a local theater group. Proposed programs should include how it will bring people in your community together, how the program will foster connection amongst participants, and how the program can help folks share space with other people in the community.

Libraries Transform Communities Engagement Grant

(Apply by February 2, 2026)

The Libraries Transform Communities Engagement Grant recognizes, promotes and supports innovative and meaningful community engagement efforts in libraries. It will provide two grants of \$2,000 for a school, public, academic, tribal or special library to expand its community engagement efforts.

Applications will be accepted between December 1, 2025, and February 2, 2026. View the full award guidelines and apply online at www.ala.org/LTCEG.

Libraries are invited to apply by designing and outlining activities for a library-led community engagement project. Community engagement is the process of working collaboratively with community members – be they library patrons, residents, faculty, students, or local organizations – to address issues for the betterment of the community.

I hope you have a good week, and please let me know if you have any questions or suggestions for me.

Sincerely,

Hilary