

February 2018: Love Your Library

February is Love Your Library Month, a celebration which coincides with the February Kentucky legislative session. During this month, library trustees are often called upon to attend Legislative Day or to talk to legislators or community members about why public libraries are so important. As a library trustee, **you** know firsthand the integral role public libraries play in your community, but **your stakeholders** may not. When it's your turn to speak on why Kentucky public libraries are a vital community service, share the ways that libraries love their communities with legislators, local officials, or anyone with whom you want to share the library love!

### **Libraries Love to Connect Communities**

At a time when everything from applying to a job to completing homework assignments to keeping in touch with loved ones requires going online, one of the most vital services Kentucky public libraries provide is free, reliable internet connections. In many Kentucky counties, the library provides the only freely available public access to high-speed internet. Public libraries offer computers, tablets, and other connectivity options to those who may not have this technology -- some Kentucky public libraries even check out Wi-Fi hotspots in order to provide patrons with internet service miles away from the library.

### **Libraries Love to Show You the World**

Libraries love to share the books, DVDs, audio and other collections with patrons, but that's just the beginning of what public libraries have to offer. Where else in Kentucky can one see a live animal show, enjoy a petting zoo, groove to a live concert, see an art exhibit or a magician, or experience an interactive science installation, all free of charge? Kentucky public libraries love to bring invaluable learning and entertainment experiences to your communities, and whether that community is minutes or many miles from zoos, museums or music venues, patrons appreciate coming to the their public libraries for new, wonderful experiences.

### **Libraries Love to Reach Out**

Public libraries love serving their communities, and that includes community members who are unable to visit the library for materials and programs. Kentucky public libraries take bookmobile and/or outreach services directly to homes, day cares, schools, senior centers, nursing homes and other locations, assuring that even those who can't visit library buildings still benefit from the services they have to offer.

### **Libraries Love Being Where You Need Them, When You Need Them**

Even if you can visit the library, sometimes it's not convenient or possible when you need something to read, listen to or watch, want to spend a snowbound day researching your family history or discover at 10:00 p.m. that you need one more source for a paper that is due tomorrow. Libraries love to come to the rescue, and for anyone with a public library card, the library can be as close as a smartphone, tablet or computer, no matter what time of day. Many Kentucky public libraries offer streaming and downloadable media, including ebooks, audiobooks, movies, music and magazines that patrons can access without ever leaving home.