

## KCDL visits Washington DC

On Thursday, August 24, 2017, Kent County Division of Libraries Director Hilary Welliver and Friends of Kent County Public Library Secretary Teresa Allen traveled to Washington, DC, to donate an unusual bound set of vintage newspapers to the Library of Congress, "the nation's library." *Springfield (Mass) Daily News* (March to August 1892) was not among the materials in the LOC's 40K bound volumes, nor its even more extensive collection of hard copy, microformed, and digitized materials. Georgia M. Higley, Head of the Library of Congress' Newspaper Section Serial & Government Publications Division, was delighted to be able to fill a gap in the Library of Congress' collection!



Pictured: Georgia M. Higley, Hilary Welliver, and Teresa Allen.

## Friends of Claymont Library

Over the summer 2017, Friends of Claymont library assisted with the Summer Reading Program by recording participants' entries, providing refreshments for the party and funding cards for prizes.

In June, refreshments were provided for the Harry Potter Club as members bid farewell to Peggy Tew who had been the club's main organizer. Friends bought Hedwig, Fawkes, pennants and additional items for the club replacing items which were Peggy's personal property.

## MLA/DLA Silent Auction Time!



It is time for you all to be creating your Silent Auction item! Last year's Auction earned just shy of \$2000 for DLA and we would like to make this year even better. Already we are seeing great donations coming in, from Friends, librarians, DLA Divisions, and individuals.

Any kind of donation is important. History has proven, though, that the more creative and yet least expensive items will garner better bidding. Items for less than \$100 seem to be the most popular. We have some great homemade items that will fly off the table this year. Like chocolate? Or wine? Or books? We have them! We have artwork, a gorgeous hand-knit shawl, and a beautiful handmade library tote.

Those of you who are attending the conference, please consider volunteering at the Silent Auction table for a shift at the auction table. It is fun to investigate all the lovely items that are available for bidding. And we need your help! Volunteer online at the Conference website.

Please look into what you would like to donate and send the form ([dla.de.us](http://dla.de.us)) to the Silent Auction Chair (Kay Bowes at [kaybowes@gmail.com](mailto:kaybowes@gmail.com)). The Auction needs you!

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## Research opportunities with CRLD

Anyone interested in partnering on a research project, please feel free to reach out to Russell [Michalak—michalr@gbc.edu](mailto:Michalak—michalr@gbc.edu). An example of a research project in the State of Delaware is the project that Mr. Trevor Dawes from University of Delaware, Dr. Monica Rysavy and Mr. Russell Michalak of Goldey-Beacom College a paper they presented at the Charleston Conference in November 2017 on the efforts to increase the number of LGBTQ and Title IX titles held by Goldey-Beacom College's Hiron Library and Center while comparing the benefits and challenges that occur when ordering print books from Amazon.com versus EBSCO's GOBI Library Solutions.

# Congratulations to Selbyville Library Staff Member



On August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Selbyville Library staff member, Ana Calles competed in a statewide pageant and won the title of Miss Hispanic Delaware 2017! Ana is a high school junior who has been volunteering regularly at the library since the age of 13. She officially joined the Selbyville Library staff in May, work-

ing specifically to manage the library's summer lunch program. Ana experienced some difficult personal losses this year. Nonetheless, she persevered and is on track to follow her dream of achieving a college education. Felicitaciones, Ana! We are so proud of you!

## Delaware Library Legislative Day



Legislative Day is free, exciting and important! Your voice makes a difference. Your presence counts!

Registration ends on April 17.

[The registration form](#) should take you less than 3 minutes to complete.

For further details, see [the DLA Legislative Day 2018](#) page

Follow the link below to register:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfLrP4XWd3KTdbqcx62oZbYXzfgQOop-QgjYEe6GI-VxbstxA/viewform>

## New Year, New Chance to Win!

Sponsored by the Delaware Library Association's Public Library Division, the Passport Program provides an incentive to explore neighboring and distant public libraries in Delaware. To participate, simply visit one or all public libraries in Delaware, snap a picture, post the photo to Facebook and tag PLDpassport or email the photo to [catherine.wimberley@lib.de.us](mailto:catherine.wimberley@lib.de.us). Remember to identify the library you visited! Each picture you submit is a raffle entry. The more you submit the greater your chances of winning. Entries must be received by April 30, 2018.

Must be a library employee, volunteer, friend of the library or DLA Member to participate.

PLD will be raffling off two prizes at the MLA/DLA Conference; a \$100 Amazon gift Certificate and a 1 year DLA membership.

## MLA/DLA Joint State Conference

Save the date! The MLA/DLA Joint State Conference will be held on May 2-4, 2018 at the Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay in Cambridge, Maryland. Now that we've gone through our 'beta year' with this new location, we are looking forward to an amazing conference. We already have confirmation of ALA President Jim Neal as one of our keynote speakers. Don't miss it!

The conference theme is "Evolve" and is wide open to possibilities regarding change, transformation, and future-thinking on many levels, from the library building to its services and the work that you do. Library careers are evolving and our state conference is already teeming with ideas for upcoming workshops and speakers. If you have any suggestions for who/what you'd like to see there, email the interim DLA Conference Chair Michelle Hughes or Cathay Keough at [dla@lib.de.us](mailto:dla@lib.de.us).

# DLA Gives Back Newark

Volunteers for DLA Gives Back packed boxes of food for senior citizens in Newark on Saturday, March 10!

The DLA team included Lauren, Michelle, Cathay, Janet, Adrienne, Sara, Liz, Nicole, and Kay.



Food Bank organizer Wes (shown in photo between Janet and Kay in the photo on the left) told us how vital these packages are to those who receive them. For qualifying seniors, the Food

Bank eases the strain. Without the Food Bank and its volunteers, many seniors end up making a decision between medicine and food.

## Dr. Margaret Prouse Retired

Congratulations to Dr. Margaret Prouse, who will be retired on December 31, 2017, from Delaware Technical & Community College—Terry Campus. Dr. Prouse has served DLA for the last 17 plus years. During her tenure, she was an active member of the American Association for University Women and the League of Women Voters, and has been Conference chair, and President of both organizations. In addition, she has served as President/VP for the Delaware Library Association (DLA). She has also served in the capacity of President/Vice President for three Divisions of DLA. As part of that service, she was a part of the planning for four conferences, including the first joint conference with DLA/MLA. She also spearheaded the effort to establish a line item for School Libraries in the State of Delaware Budget for “Books for School Libraries \$1 Million Initiative”. DLA awarded Dr. Prouse with the Estelle Wheeler Scholarship which, in part, funded her MLS with the University of Arizona. She was recognized as the DLA Distinguished Librarian Citation in 2001 and the “Friend of School Libraries” in that same year.

# DLA Award's Grants

DLA awarded two Community Engagement grants this fiscal year. Congratulations to the Lewes Public Library and to the Brandywine Hundred Library!

The Lewes Library was awarded \$700 towards their project “Great Decisions”. “Great Decisions” is a discussion series that brings in speakers and community members together to learn and explore timely foreign policy topics. The program is created by the Foreign Policy Association and is moderated by Wilmington University History Chair, Lynn Moore. This is an ongoing program that has expanded to libraries in Kent and New Castle counties.

The Brandywine Hundred Library was awarded \$300 towards their project “Go out & play! Physical literacy”. This is a new library initiative that will create kits to promote physical literacy for young library patrons. The kits will consist of a mesh bag containing equipment for outdoor play, along with printed materials including rules, game ideas, and book recommendations.



A new grant application cycle will open in late May 2018. Visit <https://dla.lib.de.us/about-us/grant/> for additional information.

## DLA Membership Benefits

Have you thought about becoming a Delaware Library Association Institutional Member? Starting this year, there are additional perks to being an institutional member beyond unlimited, free advertising on our Jobs Web Page:

[\(http://dla.lib.de.us/about-us/career-opportunities/\)](http://dla.lib.de.us/about-us/career-opportunities/).

Now, our sustaining and substantial institutional memberships come with individual memberships. If you choose a sustaining institutional membership, you will receive 2 staff memberships. If you choose a substantial institutional membership, you will receive 4 staff memberships.

For more information, please visit the following: <http://dla.lib.de.us/membership/>

# Your Friends of Delaware Libraries

We have been busy advocating for the libraries in Delaware. You have probably seen us just about everywhere — the JFC hearing, Council on Libraries, DLA Board meetings — anywhere that we can spread the word about the necessity of funding for libraries.

For example, we were at the last Delaware Library Town Meeting, presenting a Library Champion plaque to Delaware Secretary of Finance, Rick Geisenberger. What a library champion he has been! We distribute goodies to the members of the JFC so that they will remember how great our libraries are for the citizens of Delaware. We will be present at the Delaware Library Legislative Day — Tuesday, April 24th, 8:30am - 3:00pm at the Dover Public Library — proving to our legislators how important their library is in their communities. We will be represented at the MLA/DLA Conference — May 2-4 — in Cambridge Maryland, sponsoring programs (presented by Beth Nawalinski from United for Libraries) for all librarians and Friends about Fundraising and Author visits. Come to our programs and learn about new ways to get people into the library! We will be active at National Library Legislative Day in Washington, D.C., spreading the word about why libraries are essential to our state and why the Congress must not defund the IMLS and LSTA.

So, yes, your Friends of Delaware Libraries (FODL) are out and about in our communities. We hope to spread the word about advocating about our libraries to Friends and Trustee groups alike, with our “Make Our Voices Heard” Advocacy Workshop, this spring and fall. All Friends of libraries should be out in the community getting the word out about the importance of libraries — the hub of each community. Join us and become a Friend! (Membership form on the DDL website). And... thanks for being a Friend!

## DLA Gives Back Milford



On Saturday, March 24th, Volunteers for DLA filled bags going with individual children to their schools and filled coolers for larger organizations

that serve children, such as preschools and 4H clubs.

Volunteers included: Katy Goff, Joel Rudnick, Bevelene Holloman, Gail Jones, and Amoura White.

The Food Bank of Delaware appreciates all of the time these and all volunteers give to help out in whatever way possible.

What a rewarding way to spend a Saturday afternoon!



## DASL Meeting

The Delaware Association of School Librarians met at the Appoquinimink Community Library in Middletown on Monday, March 26.

Tim Cooper, Ronniere Robinson, and Alison Wessel from the Delaware Health and Social Services Department presented information about [becoming volunteers with the Delaware Medical Reserve Corps](#) and school librarians becoming hosts and experts in “Distraction Kits” housed in emergency shelter locations so that families in crisis have someone to keep their minds off the trauma they’re going through. For more information, contact Alison Wessel at [alison.wessel@state.de.us](mailto:alison.wessel@state.de.us).

Maisha Duncan and Dianna McKeller from the University of Delaware presented wonderful information about UDLib/SEARCH, pointing out features that tend to go unnoticed that will be very helpful in training teachers and students in how to use the wonderful resource available to them! To schedule a training at your school or district in-service day, click [here](#) for contact information for your grade level.

Harry Brake, the school librarian at Woodbridge High School, shared information about a book-exchange database that he’s been working on with the help of student workers. He’s also trained his student workers in how to apply for grants to supplement the school library’s budget. For more information about either of these, please contact Harry at [har-ry.brake@wsd.k12.de.us](mailto:har-ry.brake@wsd.k12.de.us).

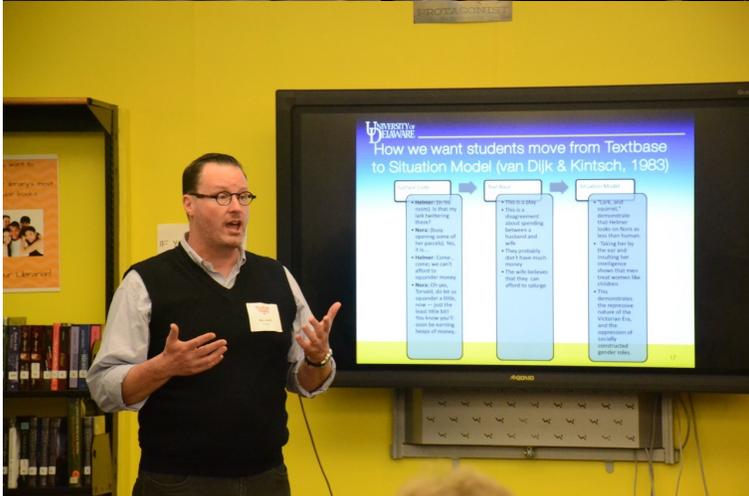
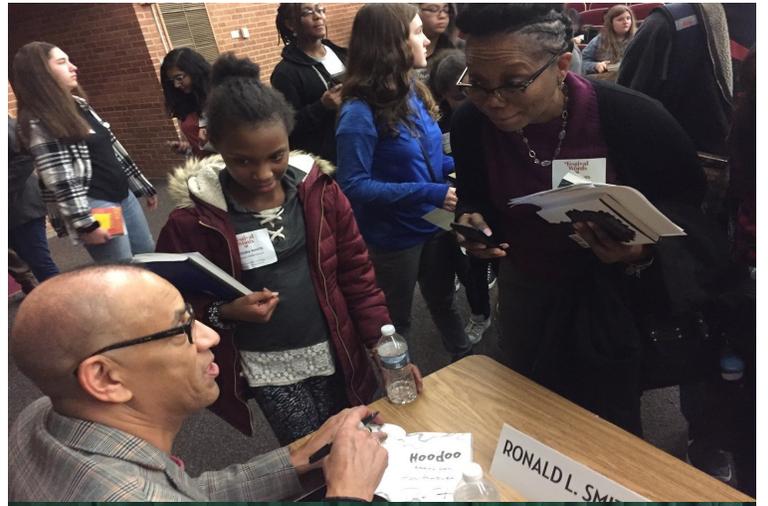
# Festival of Words

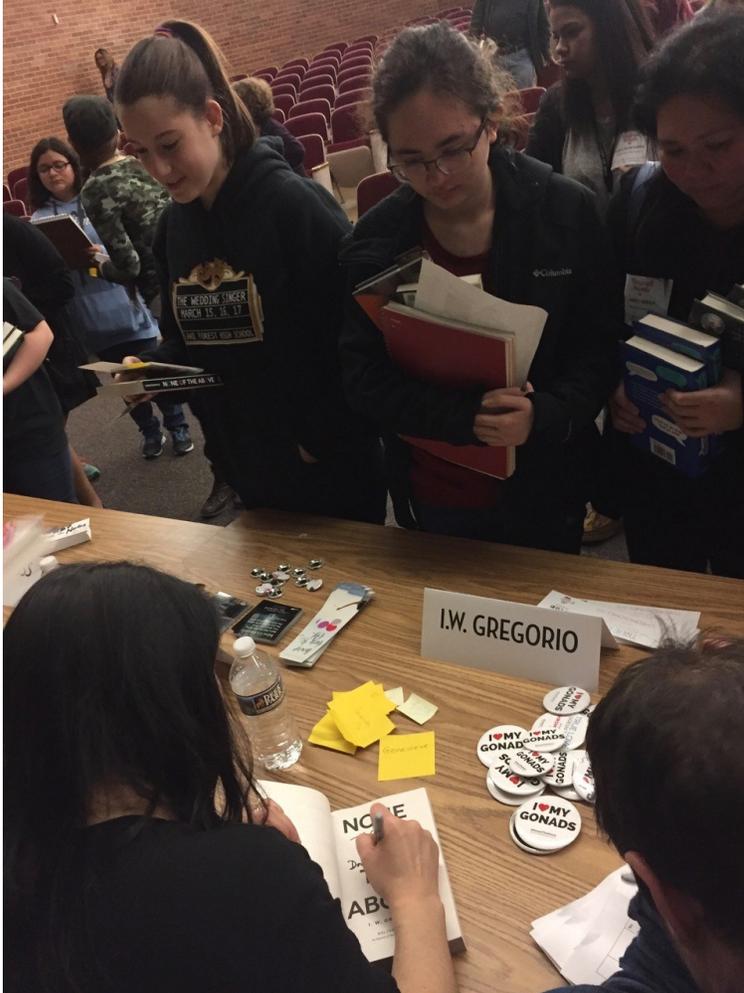
This year's Festival of Words event took place at Thomas McKean High School, in Wilmington on February 15th. High school and middle school students from all over the state took the trip to attend. Students heard from a plethora of authors. Authors such as Nic Stone (*Dear Martin*), Jeff Zentner (*Goodbye Days*), I. W. Gregorio (*None of the Above*), Erin Entrada Kelly (*Hello Universe*), Kathryn Holmes (*How to Feel Fly*), Sharon Huss Roat

(*How to Disappear*), Lance Rubin (*Denton's Little Deathdate*), Dianne K. Salerni (*Eighth Day*), Ronald L. Smith (*Black Panther, The Young Prince*), and Maggie Thrash (*Honor Girl*) all had sessions for students to attend.

Check out some of the pictures from the event.







# Local History Project Unveiled at the New Castle Public Library

On Friday, September 29, 2017, the New Castle Public Library will unveil a local history project called “Telling Our Story: Living and Working in New Castle, Delaware.” The event, hosted by the Library Friends, will give the community a chance to preview the project, and to meet the Storytellers, Interviewers, and other volunteers.

The “Telling Our Story” project began in a small way in August of 2015. There were three people at that first meeting, but it was a significant beginning. The project was based on StoryCorps @ Your Library, a program created by the American Library Association in partnership with the national nonprofit StoryCorps. By November 2015, we had advertised in the community, sending articles to the local newspaper, and letters to City government, service groups, clubs, and churches. The letters outlined the project, and encouraged groups to send a representative to an upcoming meeting. In the coming months, we sent letters to individuals who had been mentioned by project volunteers, as community members with unique stories to tell about their lives in New Castle. Each Storyteller would be interviewed by a friend, neighbor, a family member, colleague, or a community volunteer for the project. The model for the interview was to be a “conversation” between two individuals who knew and trusted each other.

By January 2016, we were able to host a meeting of people who were interested in helping in a number of ways – as Storytellers, Interviewers, recruiters, and marketers. General meetings continued through May of 2016, with more than fifty community members attending one or more meetings in this five month period.

We have been fortunate to have a group of committed and dedicated volunteers. One volunteer in particular, Renee Kane, has been involved in every aspect of the project. She had been involved with a similar project, and had the time, the dedication, and the technical expertise to help make our project a reality and a success. Before we began to record, in June of 2016, Renee conducted workshops for prospective Storytellers and Interviewers. Following these workshops, Renee and other volunteers spent hours helping Storytellers and Interviewers write and rehearse their stories.

Recording the interviews was the most challenging part of the project. We were able to borrow podcasting sta-

tions from both the University of Delaware’s Museum Studies program, and the New Castle Historical Society. After some preliminary training by Mike Connolly, then Executive Director of the New Castle Historical Society, and Bill Ferrell and Chris Megahan, of the Delaware Division of Libraries, we were on our own. Once again, Renee Kane’s technical background enabled her to master the process, and she took the lead in all of our recording sessions.

To date, we have recorded thirteen stories, and we have four more in progress. Titles of the interviews include “My Life as an Artist in New Castle,” “Keeping New Castle in Stitches,” and “Cheerleading at William Penn High School in the 1960s.” Each story includes an audio version, a transcript, personal photographs that illustrate each story, and photographs of the Storyteller and Interviewer. Sarena Deglin, of the Delaware Division of Libraries, has instructed us in Content DM, and we are currently uploading audios, transcripts, and photographs to the Delaware Heritage Collection.

In retrospect, the project was a bit daunting, and a genuine learning experience. But the rewards outweigh any challenges we experienced. A community brought together to talk about memories and experiences, and the ability to have these memories shared and preserved, will always be worth any amount of challenge.

Submitted and written by  
Sally Hatton

New Castle Public Library



# Mindful Options, Mindful Choices

Throughout the year we hear and see images about the effects of extreme weather, challenges to library (and especially school library) funding, and reiterations of poll results that tell dismal stories about how our patrons view us.



Paris Library Flood, 1910  
Photo courtesy of Nash Library of Erie, PA, <https://www.pinterest.com/nashlibraryqann/> retrieved 9/1/17

Last year we saw Hurricane Harvey's record-breaking force affect Texas libraries ([Hurricane Harvey Article](#)) and a shooting in the New Mexico public library ([NM Shooting Article](#)). More recently, we've had a Nor-easter a week, as if that was on the regular weather menu. The latest one at the turning of winter to spring (March 20-21) was dubbed a "Four-easter" – a heartfelt attempt for humor to the otherwise relentless feeling that we are being challenged by something outside our control.

Last year, we also saw a 5.85% decrease in State Aid ([Delawareonline Article](#)), which amounted to \$210,810 less for Delaware libraries. We have "done more with less" for many years, making this cut even more impactful.

And a March, 2018 release from OCLC "From Awareness to Funding: Summary Report" ([ALA Article](#)) gives us an insight about how the public perceives their libraries. This is a follow up to a study completed in 2008. The hard evidence shows us that we have to do better with how we interact, provide professional services, and engage our communities.

Add to that with the statement (p.27):

"Today, public libraries are even more reliant on local funding sources for operating revenue. In 1998, local government was the source of 78% of public library funding. By 2008 this percentage had risen to 82%. As of 2015, the percentage had increased further, to 86%.<sup>9</sup> In recognition of this trend, bolstering local support for library funding is one of the most pressing needs faced by public libraries today."

## Planning Mindfully

Disasters, whether it comes in the form of a hurricane or less funding, remind us to prepare for the unexpected. There are uniquely challenging situations that our libraries increasingly face, from the rise of the homeless and senior citizen populations. Two years ago, "those 65 and older accounted for 17 percent of Delaware's population" ([Delawareonline Article](#)). Delaware's overall population continues to increase (by an estimated 1.05% each year\*) and it is estimated that we'll hit that 1,000,000 total population mark by 2020.

All this serious talk may leave us feeling overwhelmed and somewhat helpless. But I have good news to share. Throughout my life I've seen how libraries persevere.

We just don't give up.

## Mindful Options

Librarians, library staff and library supporters have a passion for the unique place libraries have in our lives. What we do regarding literacy, through a commitment to services and resources that strengthen our patrons' abilities to learn and know, is vital to the empowerment of decision-making. Through our patrons' daily questions and requests, we continually learn and assess what options there are to help. We build bridges to community partners and to resources on our shelves and through our experts. We are passionate about serving our communities.

And the Delaware library community is strong! It is one that is aligned with a common goal toward education, literacy, and the betterment of ourselves and each other. How we get there may be as diverse as the families, students and communities who use our services and resources. But with so much mindful commitment from each of you, it always seems to head in the right direction.

Although a library staff person may sometimes feel pretty disconnected with the overall flow of the "library administrative river" – a phrase that was mentioned to

me the other day -- that staff person is part of the whole thing we call "the library community". In Delaware, we are encouraged to connect with each other and to learn from each other. As each person consults and networks with another and another, every day, online and in person, we strengthen our entire system. I am sure you have felt as proud as I do to be part of librarianship and libraries as you share your day with family, friends and colleagues.

## Mindful Choices

The more we learn about the unique and important place of libraries, the more substantive that feeling grows. One place to start is with your library's mission statement. (Does your library have a mission statement? If not, maybe it's a good time to consider this.) The Delaware Library Association's mission is simply: "Advocating, Empowering and Educating a Diverse Library Community."

DLA represents library staff, librarians, administrators, retirees, friends and trustees from academic, school, public and special libraries. Members have a variety of opportunities to become as involved as their time and interests allow, on committees and through their selected Divisions. They can experiment with archives, be empowered through advocacy efforts, help with the organization as a whole, learn leadership skills, and influence change with our libraries.\*\*



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and special libraries. Members have a variety of opportunities to become as involved as their time and interests allow, on committees and through their selected Divisions. They can experiment with archives, be empowered through advocacy efforts, help with the organization as a whole, learn leadership skills, and influence change with our libraries.\*\*

A simple way to get started with DLA is to come to Delaware Library Legislative Day ([Registration](#)), hear about the initiatives that affect our libraries and learn ways to effectively connect with your legislators. (Legislative Day is on Tuesday, April 24. Registration is open until April 17.)

Another is to continue learning through professional development opportunities, such as the MLA/DLA State Conference (May 2-4) ([DLA Registration](#)). This year's theme is "Evolve". There is a tremendous amount of workshops from "A Librarian's Guide to Homelessness" pre-conference to learning what a Human Library is about. DLA-sponsored keynote is Dr. Marie Radford on "How to Disagree Without Being Disagreeable" on Friday, right after the DLA Member Breakfast, Business Meeting and Awards Ceremony.



One thing I've learned is that no one needs to face hardship alone. Together, we can work together to bring a unified voice to advocate for libraries during budget times. Together, we can brainstorm and implement viable ways to prepare and protect staff, libraries and communities if a natural disaster strikes. Together, we can apply our creative minds and spirits toward improved conditions for those who are suffering and continue to uplift those who are taking steps toward an improved future life, toward a dream that is supported by our resolution to freely and professionally provide the best library resources and services possible. It's up to us to join together for a stronger Delaware with libraries as central to our communities as the roads that connect us and the lights that illuminate their pavements.

Let's always consider that there are always options and that we can make a conscious choice toward a better future. Get involved today!

-Cathay

Cathay Keough

Executive Director, Delaware Library Association

\* Delaware is the 14th fastest growing state at a rate of 1.05%, with an average of 460 people per square mile of land. This makes it the 6<sup>th</sup> densest state in the US. See: US Census for Delaware <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/DE>

\*\* If you are reading this and are not a member, consider joining today. It's as simple and quick as ordering something from Amazon using the online membership application: <http://dla.lib.de.us/membership/>. If you are a director/manager or administrator, consider having your library become an institutional member; this year, DLA includes 2 and 4 memberships as part of that institutional membership (depending upon the level).

# A Message From Our DLA President

When I started my presidency term, one of my main stated goals was to increase member involvement. It's a question I've been pondering and trying to get a grasp on. How does an all-volunteer run organization grow and thrive without the involvement of its members? In short, it doesn't. So the task at hand is figuring out how to entice members (i.e. you) to get involved. Often we are asked in our personal and professional lives to help with a wide host of things, and it can become challenging balancing the work/life time dilemma. To be honest, I work full time and come home to a husband and three children, with at least one child running off to some extracurricular activity every night. My family's idea of a week night home cooked meal is heating up chicken nuggets and canned corn (I promise I'm a better cook on the weekends).

I was reading an article in the Summer 2017 online edition of Trend entitled "*The Internet of Things is the next digital evolution – What will it mean?*" when a quote stuck out to me. "As previous information revolutions have taught us, once people and things get more connected, their very nature changes". How we spend our leisure time is radically changing. Even in our off time more and more people are staying connected to a "thing", a device of some sort. We are dealing with prevalent technology, shopping online, watching videos and TV online, playing games online. All of this devours time for activities that were of a very different nature ten years ago. Our time is pulled in many diverging directions.

However, everybody still has 24 hours in their day. Projects that mean something to you, causes you care about, activities that are fun; those you will have time for. DLA launched a new initiative, *DLA Gives Back*, to offer a way for members to volunteer within their communities. On March 10<sup>th</sup> and March 24<sup>th</sup> DLA members helped pack food boxes for struggling seniors. Without the Food Bank and its volunteers, many seniors end up making a decision between medicine and food, so the food packages are vital to them. More information

about this event can be found at on the [DLA Website](#).

Did you know that DLA is the main coordinator behind our annual Library Legislative Day? This crucial time to get in front of your elected representatives and highlight what services we provide to Delaware citizens would not be possible without DLA and its members. Advocacy is a shared responsibility. Funding decisions effect every library position; from a part-time circulation aide right on up to the library director. DLA provides advocacy training, as well as other professional development opportunities and grant opportunities. This is your chance to get involved! Our library legislative day is April 24<sup>th</sup>. The legislative action committee has been at work coordinating meetings with each Senator and Representative. To register for the event, please visit the [registration page](#).

I often hear from members that they never hear anything from DLA. Well, I hope that perspective has changed for you this year. I hope you take an interest in one of DLA's committees; descriptions are listed on [DLA's website](#). Email the committee chairperson, or perhaps consider chairing one of the committees currently in need of some leadership. This is your chance to get involved!

DLA has a long, rich history of advocating for the library profession, educating our elected officials about the services and resources we provide to our communities, fighting intellectual freedom challenges, and upholding First Amendment rights and equity of access. We are stronger together, and the more voices we have in our fight, the more we are heard. This is your chance to get involved!

You have a chance to get involved. Question is, will you?

With much appreciation,

Michelle Hughes  
DLA President

\* Feel free to email questions, comments, concerns regarding DLA to [michelle.hughes@lib.de.us](mailto:michelle.hughes@lib.de.us)



DOORS OPEN 6:30PM — TRIVIA STARTS 7:00PM

# TRIVIA NIGHT!

## ABBOTT'S GRILL

FRIDAY — APRIL 6, 2018

249 NE FRONT STREET  
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PLEASE EMAIL [MICHELLE.HUGHES@LIB.DE.US](mailto:MICHELLE.HUGHES@LIB.DE.US) WITH THE NUMBER ATTENDING