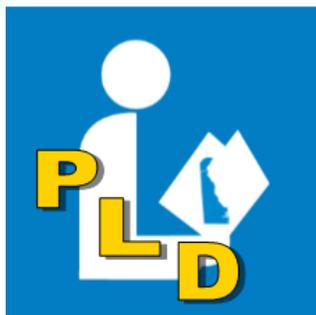


Public Library Division Facebook Page

Beginning in November 2020, I began reaching out to public library directors and managers throughout Delaware. I wanted to build on the PLD Facebook page and use it as a platform for celebrating and sharing all the wonderful achievements and innovations throughout this pandemic. While it has been some time since the last posting on the Facebook page, I plan to revisit this initiative in the coming weeks.



My hope is that seeing these Facebook posts of our colleagues throughout Delaware will help us feel more connected and inspired. Looking back at the libraries who have submitted content, I feel so fortunate to work alongside such talented and passionate library staff.

If you have any questions about this initiative, please feel free to reach out!

Here's to a brighter future ahead,
Scott Businsky
Secretary, PLD
Youth Services Librarian
Elsmere Library

To join the PLD Facebook group, click [here](#).

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Advocacy alert:

The Build America's Libraries Act (S. 127) was introduced in the Senate on January 28, 2021. This legislation would provide \$5 billion in funding to repair, modernize, and construct library facilities in underserved and marginalized communities.

On March 31, 2021, President Biden released his infrastructure plan, and it fails to include funding for library facilities. Additionally, the proposal would provide only half the level of grants for school facilities – including school libraries – that the House approved last year. While this is only the first step in the legislative process, we must take action now. It's absolutely crucial that our Federal legislators hear from us on this issue.

Resources are available on the DLA [website](#). Currently on the site is a form letter that will email directly to legislators, a sample letter, the ALA chapter briefing on the Build America's Libraries Act, an ALA one page informational flyer, and the bill text. As new information and resources are made available they are posted to the website. Make sure to bookmark this site and check back frequently. Sample social media posts are available on [this](#) website.

I urge you to engage your friends group and community supporters to write and ask Sen. Carper (carper.senate.gov), Sen. Coons (coons.senate.gov), and Rep. Blunt-Rochester (bluntrochester.house.gov) to co-sponsor this legislation.

The second piece of federal legislation to watch is the Save Education Jobs Act of 2021 (H.R. 542). This legislation aims to save roughly 4 million education-related jobs, including school librarians, and to stimulate economic growth throughout the pandemic crisis to ensure that students are receiving the best possible learning in the midst of our new virtual schooling environment. ALA has endorsed this bill. A form letter which will email directly to Delaware legislators is available on the DLA website.

Michelle Hughes



2021 Odyssey Award Selection Committee



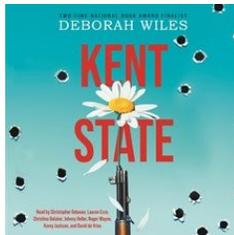
I am eternally grateful to have been appointed by YALSA to be a member of the 2021 Odyssey committee. The duration of this appointment was from February 1, 2020 to January 31, 2021. The 2021 selection committee com-

prised of 11 members throughout the United States. During our submissions period, we received 704 audiobooks. In total, I'd estimate that during my appointment, I had spent 175 hours of listening.

This committee appointment consumed a lot of time and energy, but it was an enriching experience. I now have insights into audiobook production that I didn't have prior to joining this committee. 704 audiobooks eventually turned into 25 audiobook favorites. In a weekend in January 2021, we spent 15 hours of Zoom calls analyzing, debating, and reminiscing about some of our favorite audiobooks.

Aside from listening to and talking about audiobooks with my fellow committee members, I thoroughly enjoyed getting to know them and building professional connections. Many of the members have served on other committees such as Caldecott, Newbery, and others. It was very interesting to hear about their appointments with those committees.

If you've ever considered volunteering your time and energy to serve on such a committee, I highly recommend it. I only have experience serving on the Odyssey committee, and I'm sure there are similarities and differences with the other committees. I would be more than happy to answer any questions that you may have about the application process, committee experience, or resources related to audiobooks. The 2021 winner was 'Kent State', written by Deborah Wiles. It is available on [Hoopla](#) and [CD format](#).



Thank you,
Scott Businsky
Youth Services Librarian
Elsmere Library

MLA & DLA Joint Library Virtual Conference

Don't forget to join DLA and MLA next week as we explore the idea of Libraries Without Limits! at our annual joint conference, held virtually from May 3rd through May 7th. Register and check out the amazing lineup of events [here](#).

Jen Wilson

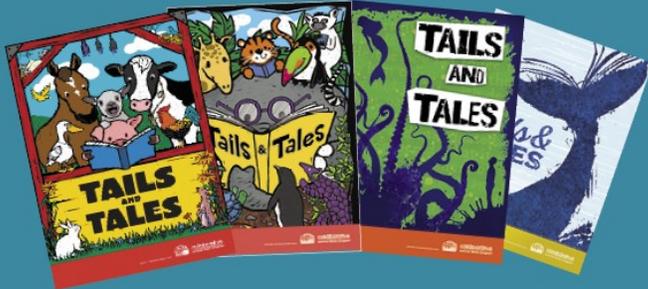


The goal of the Delaware Library Association is to promote the profession of librarianship, advocate for library services, and provide library information to the people of Delaware by developing a unified library association. Integral to the achievement of the DLA's goals is promoting the values of the library profession, education, public policy and organizational performance.

Visit our website [here](#).

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delawarelibraries.org/summerreading



DelawareLibraries.org



Write for the DLA Bulletin!



Deadlines for future DLA Bulletins:

Summer 2021 – Deadline for submissions: Sunday, July 25th, 2021

- Publication: Friday, July 30th, 2021

Fall 2021 – Deadline for submissions: Sunday, October 24th, 2021

- Publication: Friday, October 29th, 2021

Winter 2022 – Deadline for submissions: Sunday, January 23rd, 2022

- Publication: Friday, January 28th, 2022

Spring 2022 – Deadline for submissions: Sunday, April 24th, 2022

- Publication: Friday, April 29th, 2022

The DLA bulletin is published quarterly. To submit an article, click the picture above. Articles can also be emailed to the DLA email (dla@lib.de.us) if you do not have a Gmail or have trouble submitting through the Google form.