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1) Lobby From Home Day This Wednesday: This **Wednesday February 17** is **ILA's Lobby From Home Day**. This is a perfect opportunity for public library trustees, Friends Group members, and advocates everywhere to contact local legislators. The message is this: remind them of how valuable Iowa libraries are in hundreds of communities across the state. And how critical state funding is to maintaining libraries as vital community resources.

Current ILA President Alison Galstad describes ILA—the Iowa Library Association—as "*...the organized voice of the Iowa library community since 1890. Its members come from every county of the state and sustain Iowa's 1500 public, academic, school, and special libraries...*" Alison has these talking points for you to use on **Lobby From Home Day**:

- *More than 51,000 people visit Iowa libraries every day*
- *Every State Senator and State Representative has one or more libraries within their district—this is a chance to remind legislators how essential libraries and library services are to their communities and their constituents*
- *State funding reaches and benefits all Iowans through their school Libraries, public Libraries, academic Libraries and special libraries*
- *It's clear that Iowans depend on their libraries for Internet access, early literacy programming for young children, homework assistance, health care information , and especially now: resources for job searches, career development, and education*
- *To support these vital services, the Iowa Library Association asks the General Assembly to fully fund Enrich Iowa and retain their funding commitment for the State Library of Iowa.*

Find your legislators here: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/find> During the legislative session, Iowa state senators can be reached at Iowa Senate, Statehouse, Des Moines, Iowa 50319—call 515-281-3371. Iowa state representatives can be reached at Iowa House of Representatives, Statehouse, Des Moines, Iowa 50319—call 515- 281-3221. Please help make **Lobby From Home Day 2016** a successful and concerted effort—thank you!!



2) Iowa's Safe at Home Program Affects Libraries: On January 1st of this year, Iowa's "**Safe at Home**" program went into effect. **Safe at Home** is an address confidentiality program that seeks to protect survivors of violent crime—domestic abuse, sexual assault, stalking, and trafficking—with a substitute address. This program is administered by the Secretary of State's office and can possibly impact Iowa libraries.

Scott Dermont posted this memo to the PL DIRECTOR'S email list last week: "**Safe at Home**" affords victims of violent crimes an anonymous address that can be used for all purposes. This address will always be in Des Moines, regardless of the patron's actual city of residence. As you can guess, this may raise some issues when a participant of this program applies for a library card. In these instances, the State Library prefers that you treat this customer as a resident of your town rather than an Open Access customer. If you wish to verify the address of a participant, you can contact the Secretary of State's office in writing..."

The Secretary of State's website has more:

Designated Address—The designated address is assigned to the participant by the Secretary of State's office and is a Des Moines address. By law, this designated address must be accepted where proof of address is required, both by government agencies and private organizations. All participants are given the same address, with the only distinguishing factor being an apartment number that is assigned to each household.

Mail Forwarding Service—All mail that is being sent to the participant should be mailed to the designated **Safe at Home** address. This mail will come through the Secretary of State's Office, sorted for each participant, and then forwarded to their actual address. This will cause a minor delay, we are anticipating 5-7 business days, please take this into consideration when mailing any notices to participants.

Scott's memo from last week has more details. And you can also learn more about the **Safe at Home** program at the Secretary of State's website, where you'll find phone numbers and contact information should you have questions <http://safeathome.iowa.gov/>

3) Tax Season Help Sheet: This story is thanks to Louise Alcorn, Technology Service Coordinator with West Des Moines Public Library. Louise developed a handout to distribute to patrons with tax-related questions, available on WDPL website and as a PDF file. Most libraries can identify with the circumstances that prompted Louise to create the handouts: *"...Every year we struggle with 'who has tax forms?' We've come to find out that folks at the Federal building have been referring people to the library for tax forms, which we don't have and neither do many of our neighboring libraries, nor the post offices, nor the banks. Not anymore. Even those agencies that plan to obtain tax forms don't have much, if anything, in hand as yet..."*



So Louise developed a help sheet designed to assist patrons in locating tax forms and tax preparation assistance. Some of the information is local, but much of it is state and national. She adds *"...granted, many more people are now e-filing, but for those who do need paper forms, these help sheets make good pathfinders. 90% of people go home happy with this information provided..."*

Other Iowa libraries are welcome to customize these help sheets with local information. Louise only asks for an attribution, crediting West Des Moines PL for the majority of the content. Find it here <http://www.wdmlibrary.org/research/tax-forms-and-information/> Thanks to Louise for this story!



4) Nebraska's Online Conference February 26: Nebraska State Library holds its annual online conference on **Friday February 26**. It's totally free, registration is open nationwide, and there are still plenty of seats still available—register here <http://nlcblogs.nebraska.gov/bigtalk/>

Nebraska's Online Conference is titled **"Big Talk From Small Libraries."** Running from **8:45AM to 5:00PM**, here are just a few of the topics on tap:

- Transforming Your Library From Lovely to Lively
- Leveraging the Power of Little
- To the Big Stage on a Small Budget
- Learn More, Pay Less
- Flip the Script: Changing the Direction of the Library

Big Talk From Small Libraries will be broadcast using GoToWebinar online meeting software. Login instructions will be e-mailed to registered attendees the day before the conference. Please see the [NLC Online Sessions webpage](#) for detailed information about GoToWebinar, including system requirements and firewall configuration.

If several staff from the same library want to attend the conference, organizers ask that you register in one person's name, then indicate the size of your viewing party. On the registration page, simply list "Additional Attendees" on the one registration submitted for your library. And yes, Nebraska's **Big Talk From Small Libraries** is worth c.e. credits for Iowa's staff. You'll just need to submit a **Learning Activity Written Summary** found on our website here <http://www.statelibraryofiaowa.org/ld/c-d/continuing-ed/learning-activity-written-summary>

5) Meetings / Events This Week: Lots of action this week! Both Hospers and Sloan library boards meet with me online this evening for an overview of *Planning For Results*. Online meetings like this are a great option, especially in frozen February!

Jumpstart Your Trusteeship, a 3-part webinar series for boards, begins this week. The first session is tomorrow evening **February 16** (6:00-7:30PM) "**An Overview of the Iowa Library Trustees' Handbook.**" Part 2 "Toward Better Board Recruitment" follows next **Tuesday Feb23**, followed by Part 3 "Toward Better Board Meetings" on **March 1**. Parts 2-3 are still available for registration in the c.e. catalog. Trustees can register individually by setting up their own account in the c.e.catalog. Or watch these webinars together as a group. Either way, this **Jumpstart** online series presents a good opportunity for trustee training!

This **Friday February 19**, fans of **Big Ideas Book Discussions** meet to talk about the book **13 Ways to Kill Your Community** (9:30-11:00)

Website Worktime is back this week with Marie Harms and District LRTs online demonstrating **PLOW website features**. PLOW websites will be moving away from using **Shelfari** in favor of using **Goodreads**. Learn more in one of two sessions: chose either **Thursday Feb18** (9:00-10:00AM) or **Friday Feb19** (10:00-11:00AM) No registration required, also no c.e. credit awarded, use this room link <https://ials.adobeconnect.com/webwork/>

Finally, plenty of choices remain for national webinars in February. A few show below, find the full listing and registration details here <http://www.statelibraryofiaowa.org/ld/c-d/continuing-ed/other-conted>

February 16. 12:00-1:00PM. *Privacy, Society and the Internet of Things* sponsored by O'Reilly
<http://www.oreilly.com/webcasts/>

February 17. 12:00-1:00PM. *Major Gift Breakthrough Training* sponsored by 4Good
<https://4good.org/explore/latest/webinars>

February 17. 1:00-2:00PM. *Getting Started with Digitization: An Introduction for Libraries*
sponsored by TechSoup for Libraries <https://cc.readytalk.com/r/q4a7bpnd0rhn&eom>

February 17. 2:00-3:00PM. *Using Technology to Engage the Reluctant Reader* sponsored by
ISTE & School Library Journal <http://www.slj.com/category/webcasts/>

February 18. 10:00-11:00AM. *STEM-ing Out* sponsored by Indiana State Library
<http://indianastatelibrary.evanced.info/signup/eventcalendar.aspx?ln=ALL>

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