

## **PENNSYLVANIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION CELEBRATES NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK BY HONORING PA FORWARD STAR LIBRARIES**

***Annual observance reminds everyone what libraries provide communities; Star Library Awards announced, recognizing achievements earned Dec. 16, 2018 through March 31, 2019***

**Mechanicsburg, PA (April 8, 2019)** – The Pennsylvania Library Association just announced the 2019 first quarter PA Forward Star Library awardees. More than 40 libraries from throughout the state earned their star status and are being recognized by the Association for their efforts to provide patrons with literacy-aligned programs and resources.

“We continue to be in awe of the work of our libraries and all they are doing to help residents,” said Christi Buker, Pennsylvania Library Association Executive Director. “The PA Forward Star Library acknowledgement shows these libraries have made intentional investments in literacy programming. Whether they have connected individuals with resources about caring for loved ones, or helped people understand the importance of the census, they are providing more than books to check-out. They are educating and investing in the people they connect with. These individuals then turn around and make direct investments in their overall communities. Libraries should be highlighted for those efforts, not just during National Library Week and not just through our PA Forward Star Library awards, but by everyone every day. Because they are changing lives, every day.”

National Library Week is observed April 7-13, 2019. This annual celebration, sponsored by the American Library Association, honors the continuous contributions of libraries and library workers around the country and is a reminder to encourage library use and support. This year’s theme is Libraries = Strong Communities. First sponsored in 1958, the weeklong observation underscores the importance of libraries as community centers. For the last few years, the Pennsylvania Library Association has worked with their members and their partnering organizations to have counties officially proclaim National Library Week.

PA Forward, which launched statewide in 2012, works through five key literacies – Basic, Information, Civic & Social, Health and Financial – to assist individuals in enhancing their overall quality of life. To continue helping libraries use PA Forward to demonstrate all their libraries offer, in January 2017, the Association kicked off the Star Library program statewide. The Star Library recognition offers support to libraries who participate and integrate PA Forward’s literacies in their programming activities. Those libraries are recognized for meeting benchmarks within the bronze, silver and gold star levels of the program. While one star is awarded for both the bronze and gold levels, a total of five stars are awarded in the silver category – one silver star for each of the five literacies of PA Forward. For each silver star award, a number appears denoting the number of silver stars obtained to date. As of 2020, any libraries that have achieved the PA Forward Gold Star will have an opportunity to renew that star annually.

Stars are awarded on a quarterly basis in the calendar year and the recognition is for the highest level attained in the program at the time of the award. The libraries noted below are those that earned a

first-time star or a new star level between December 16, 2018 and March 31, 2019. For a full listing of PA Forward Star Libraries, visit <http://paforwardstarlibraries.org/star-status/>.

The list of awardees, by county, follows:

**Allegheny County**

Community Library of Castle Shannon – Gold  
Oakmont Carnegie Library – Silver, 2  
Sewickley Public Library – Gold  
Wilkesburg Public Library – Silver, 2

Dormont Public Library – Bronze  
Pleasant Hills Public Library – Bronze  
South Park Township Library – Silver, 3

-  
**Armstrong County**

Apollo Memorial Library – Silver, 5  
Kittanning Public Library – Bronze

Ford City Public Library – Silver, 2

-  
**Beaver County**

Monaca Public Library – Silver, 5

-  
**Berks County**

Boone Area Library – Bronze  
Exeter Community Library – Bronze  
Wernersville Public Library – Bronze

Brandywine Community Library – Bronze  
Oley Valley Community Library – Silver, 4  
Womelsdorf Community – Silver, 2

-  
**Blair County**

Martinsburg Community Library – Silver, 1

-  
**Butler County**

Butler Area Public Library – Silver, 4

-  
**Chester County**

Paoli Library – Silver, 4

Tredyffrin Public Library – Silver, 1

-  
**Clarion County**

Clarion University of PA Library – Bronze

Knox Public Library – Silver, 5

-  
**Crawford County**

Cambridge Springs Public Library – Bronze

-  
**Cumberland County**

Shippensburg University Library – Silver, 3

-  
**Dauphin County**

Hershey High School Library – Bronze

Penn State Harrisburg Library – Silver, 5

-

**Delaware County**

Haverford Township Free Library - Bronze

-  
**Erie County**

Erie County Public Library – Silver, 3

-  
**Fayette County**

Carnegie Free Library of Connellsville – Gold

-  
**Fulton County**

Fulton County Library - Gold

-  
**Jefferson County**

Punxsutawney Memorial Library – Silver, 1

-  
**Lackawanna County**

Dalton Community Library - Gold

-  
**Lebanon County**

Annville Free Library – Silver, 1

Richland Community Library - Bronze

-  
**Lehigh County**

Emmaus Public Library – Gold

Lower Macungie Library - Gold

-  
**Montgomery County**

Horsham Township Library – Silver, 1

Perkiomen Valley Library – Silver, 5

-  
**Northampton County**

Memorial Library of Nazareth & Vicinity – Bronze

-  
**Washington County**

Chartiers-Houston Community Library – Silver, 2

-  
**York County**

Red Land Community Library – Silver, 4

For more information, visit [www.paforwardstarlibraries.org](http://www.paforwardstarlibraries.org). For more information about National Library Week, visit <http://www.ala.org/conferenceevents/celebrationweeks/natlibraryweek>.

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