

NWLS Board of Trustees

May 20, 2023

10:00 A.M.

Hybrid

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Jeff Burke called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

Present: President: Jeff Burke (Vilas County), Treasurer: Clarence Campbell (Ashland County), Jim Crandall (Bayfield County), Connie Cogger (Bayfield County), Buzz Byrne (Burnett County), Samuel Pomush (Douglas County), Ron Leino (Douglas County), Opal Roberts (Iron County), Dian Delong (Sawyer County), Richard Logan (Vilas County), Michelle Gostomski (Business Manager), Sarah Wargin (System Support Specialist), Sherry Machones (Director)

Virtual: Vice President: Jocelyn Ford (Washburn County), Sue Hendrickson, (Douglas County), Linda Featherly (Washburn County), Kim Schult (Baker Tilly Partner), Sheanne Hediger (Baker Tilly Manager/Partner) Donna Knuckey (Library Representative from Winter)

Absent: Laura Rachford (Burnett County), Kathryn McKenzie (Douglas County), Courtney Dietsche (Douglas County), John Righeimer (Sawyer County)

2. Guest Comments

None.

3. Approval of 2022 Annual Audit Presentation

Motion by Samuel Pomush, second by Buzz Byrne to approve the 2022 Annual Audit and Presentation. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Approval of Assignment of the Reserve Fund

Motion by Linda Featherly, second by Sue Hendrickson to approve the Assignment of the Reserve Fund. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Approval of the March 18, 2023, Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Motion by Samuel Pomush, second by Dian Delong to approve the March 18, 2023 Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Approval of March and April 2023 NWLS Expenditures and Financial Report

Motion by Sue Hendrickson, second by Connie Cogger to approve the March and April 2023 NWLS Expenditures and Financial Report. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Approval of the Member County Appropriation Request

Motion by Sue Hendrickson, second by Samuel Pomush to increase the Member County Appropriation Request by 3%. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Director's Report

Updates from member libraries:

- The Evelyn Goldberg Briggs Memorial Library in Iron River was awarded \$12,600 from the 100 Who Care Ashland and Bayfield Counties organization. The funds will be used to develop and promote the library's special needs area and the environmental enhancement gardens and community green space.
- The annual Mellen Bellringer Run this year will be dedicated to Joan Airoidi , past NWLS Director and past Mellen PL Director.

Updates from the system:

- Continuing Education Update:
 - United for Libraries Trustee Training: The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction's Library Services Team rolled out a new statewide program to provide access to a suite of trustee trainings from United for Libraries, a division of the American Library Association. Free attendance to the 3-day 2023 United for Libraries Virtual Conference from August 1-3 is included with this new program. [Follow this link and register](#) before participating in any learning activities.
- Inclusive Services:
 - An Inclusive Services Update is shared with each system's member libraries each month.
 - The April Update shared a Chinese American and Diasporic reading list from the American Library Association, articles covering UW Madison's new Institute for Diversity Science, circulating medical kits, a list of diverse holidays, and more. Also in April, Machones conducted new director orientations about inclusive services with the directors in Merrill and Antigo.
 - The May Update highlighted the two new webinars in the Wisconsin Libraries Talk About Race series. May 4th's webinar was [How to Move Past Midwest Nice Towards Safety and Belonging](#) and the 17th's webinar was [Build Skills & Take Action to Stand Up for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion](#). Several other continuing education opportunities were listed as well as resources on poetry from disabled authors and current services from the Wisconsin Council of the Blind & Visually Impaired.
- ILS Update:
 - [NICE \(Northern Wisconsin ILS Consortium Exploration\) Project Update](#)
 - Cooperative Cataloging
 - Eight Wisconsin Public Library Systems were awarded an LSTA grant to investigate current and potential cataloging standards across the state as suggested during the multi-year Public Library System Redesign (PLSR) study. We will finalize the report in June. We met as a group May 15 to learn from Jim Novy (PLLS) and discuss the proposals from MCFLS and WRLS. Planning for next year's LSTA grant cycle is underway.
- Technology Update:
 - The NWLS Technology Support Specialist position has been filled by Robert Watson and he starts 5/22/23. WVLS has welcomed Erica Brewster to the WVLS team. Initially WVLS

was going to hire Erica for project-based work following her resignation as Director of the Demmer Library, but there was a bit of an "opportunity whirlwind" for them to apply her enthusiasm and aptitude for tech-related projects more fully and to address the Technology Support Specialist position that had been unfilled for several months and Public Library Services Consultant position that had just opened.

- Helpdesk tickets: 3/10/23-5/9/23 we had a total of 230 tickets.
- Helping libraries with AT&T and local carrier site visits for upcoming BadgerNet contract change.
- Spring Dell Bulk Order is currently being deployed.
- Implementing new software called PatchMyPC to update 3rd party application updates such as Adobe Reader.
- Future Projects:
 - Training Robert.
 - Upgrade any Windows 2012 servers before EOL in October.

Updates from the Director:

- Current legislation:
 - [Assembly Bill 15](#) An Act to amend 119.04 (1); and to create 43.75 and 118.073 of the statutes; Relating to: pupil or minor access to harmful material in public libraries and to harmful material or offensive material in public schools.
 - [LRB-0423 Memo](#) **Obscene Materials** Protection from prosecution for employees of libraries and educational institutions possessing obscene materials.
 - [LRB-0522 Memo](#) **Obscene Material Purchase** Prohibiting the use of common school fund income distributions for the purchase of obscene material.
- JFC Public Hearings: At 7 a.m. on Wednesday, April 26, library advocates stood in line outside Lakeland Union High School (LUHS) in Minocqua. They were there to register for an early testimony slot representing the Wisconsin Library Association (WLA) at the final 2023-2025 state budget public hearing before the legislative Joint Finance Committee (JFC). Thanks to their efforts, 22 librarians and trustees from Wisconsin Valley, Northern Waters Library Service and Nicolet Federated Library System secured a prime spot in the first three rows of the LUHS theater. The three WLA speakers – Kris Adams Wendt (WVLS), Dominic Frandrup (Door Exhibit 11 6 County Library) and Kristie Hauer (Shawano County Library) – stepped to the mic and shared five minutes of testimony during the first hour of the hearing. You can see photos and videos of all 4 library testimonies at the hearings [here](#). The JFC will meet through the end of May to debate and vote on various pieces of the budget bill. Senator Mary Felzkowski (R-Irma) and Representative Tony Kurtz (R-Wonewoc) have committed to introducing a motion to include the state library aid items championed by WLA. After JFC changes to the current budget are sent to the Senate and Assembly for floor votes in each house, the legislature usually delivers its final product to the governor by the end of June. The governor completes his veto review within 30 days of receiving the bill, and then signs it into law.
- 2023 Aid Payment: NWLS was notified by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction that our second (final) 2023 State Aid Payment for \$176,329.50 was approved. This payment allows NWLS to continue to carry out activities in the 2023 NWLS Plan approved by the NWLS Board of Trustees in September 2022 and later reviewed by DPI's Library Services Team. NWLS received its first 2023 payment of \$528,989 in December 2022. Public library system funding is provided through the Universal Service Fund.
- Cost per Circulation and County Funding Information: Member libraries were recently sent their 2022 Cost Per Circulation information needed if they elect to seek payment from adjacent

counties for serving its non-residents (county residents who live outside of a community with a library). According to Wis. Stat. 43.12, libraries must submit invoices to the clerks in adjacent counties by July 1, 2023. In turn, the adjacent county must make payment of at least 70% of the cost for service to those libraries by March 1, 2024.

- Oshkosh Public Library/Winnefox Director Plans to Retire: After almost two decades of service, the director of the Oshkosh Public Library and Winnefox Library System, Jeff Gilderson-Duwe, has announced that he will be retiring from both roles on June 2. The Winnefox Library System Board voted unanimously to appoint Winnefox Library System Assistant Director Clairellyn Sommersmith to be the system's first full-time Director since its establishment in 1976.
- Trustee Trainings via United for Libraries: The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction's Library Services Team rolled out a new statewide program to provide access to a suite of trustee trainings from United for Libraries, a division of the American Library Association. Follow this [link](#) and register before participating in any learning activities.
- Another Children's Book Fest in the Books: The 35th annual Children's Bookfest was held in Rhinelander on May 1 and 2 featuring presenters and a display of award-winning books provided by the Cooperative Children's Book Center (CCBC). Those who attended the event also received a unique opportunity to learn how the CCBC's nationally requested intellectual freedom services can help libraries. Approximately 44 people attended the events held over the two-day period.
- NWLS County Library Plans: Ashland, Vilas, and Washburn Counties are due for a revision of the plan that is required by statute. Revision meetings with all three counties have been scheduled for this May and June. Once revised, they will be sent to their County Boards for approval.
- WI Tribal Library Conference: This mini conference was held last week at the LCO Library and was attended by library staff from LCO, LDF, Menominee, and Oneida locations. This conference was made possible from a DPI grant awarded to NWLS and NFLS. We were joined, in person, by Jennifer Himmelreich from the IMLS grant staff.
- NWLS Awarded Affordable Connectivity Outreach Grant: The Affordably Connectivity Program (ACP) is administered by the Federal Communications Commission to give low-income residents a discount on their internet cost. DPI coordinated an application to the Affordable Connectivity Program Outreach Grant on behalf of 4 library systems (NWLS, WRLS, Kenosha, Winnefox), to hire staff for one year to promote the ACP program directly to eligible community members and hold sign up events. A total \$66 million dollars in funding was awarded across the country for this grant program. The DPI received \$353,000. Many thanks to Bill Herman at DPI for writing and championing the grant! The projected timeline for the grant is July 2023-July 2024. It is our intention that each library community served by NWLS will have the opportunity to host 2-4 ACP Enrollment events coordinated and led by the guides.
- NWLS WAPL Conference: Presenting from NWLS was Sherry Machones and Angela Bodzislav (Spooner) with 'At the Movies with Librarians.' Angela also led a speed networking session. Teresa Schmidt (Mercer) was on the panel of 'Checking Out Wisconsin State Parks.' Angela was also this year's conference chair, and Teresa was the technology chair. Sherry helped lead the kick off of the Leadership Development Institute the day before the conference.
- State of America's Libraries Report: Released annually during National Library Week in April by the American Library Association, this year's issue, "2023 State of America's Libraries" highlights the challenges U.S. libraries faced in the third year of the pandemic, and as political, economic and digital divides grew; and book challenges and bans surged across the country. But despite all these challenges, libraries thrived, pivoting to offer new and updated services to their communities. Adaptation and innovation shined in 2022, providing that there truly is "more to

the story” at libraries. Read more here: <https://www.ala.org/news/state-americas-libraries-report-2023>.

- The Bad River Library will be having a grand opening on June 10th from 10-2 at the Bad River Culture and Education Center.

9. Adjourn

Motion by Sam Pomush to adjourn the meeting at 11:29 am, second by Buzz Byrne. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Sarah Wargin, System Support Specialist, and Sherry Machones, Director