

NWLS Board of Trustees

March 16, 2024

10:00 A.M.

Virtual

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Jeff Burke called the meeting to order at 10:04 am.

Present: President: Jeff Burke (Vilas County), Connie Cogger (Bayfield County), Jim Crandall (Bayfield County), Buzz Byrne (Burnett County), Sue Hendrickson, (Douglas County) Samuel Pomush (Douglas County), Ron Leino (Douglas County), Karen Lauer (Iron County), Dian DeLong (Sawyer County), Linda Featherly (Washburn County), Richard Logan (Vilas County), Michelle Gostomski (Business Manager), Sherry Machones (Director)

Absent: Vice President: Jocelyn Ford (Washburn County), Treasurer: Clarence Campbell (Ashland County), Kathryn McKenzie (Douglas County), Courtney Dietsche (Douglas County), John Righheimer (Sawyer County), Donna Knuckey (Library Representative from Winter)

2. Guest Comments

None.

3. Approval of the January 13, 2024, Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Motion by Samuel Pomush, second by Buzz Byrne to approve the January 13, 2024 Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes with the amendment of Jim Crandall being listed as absent only. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Approval of January and February 2024 NWLS Expenditures and Financial Report

Motion by Jim Crandall, second by Connie Cogger to approve January and February 2024 NWLS Expenditures and Financial Report. Motion carried unanimously. Sue Hendrickson mentioned that we may need to amend the Director's travel line in the future.

5. Approval of the 2023 Annual Report

Motion by Buzz Byrne, second by Samuel Pomush to approve the 2023 Annual Report with the amendment of the spelling of Courtney Dietsche's name in the document. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Designation and Authorized Signatory for the 2023 Annual Report

Discussion. No motion needed.

7. Director's Report

Updates from member libraries:

- Callie Bates has been named as the new Frank B Koller Memorial Library Director in Manitowish Waters. Janelle Khol will be retiring May 31st.
- The Eleanor Ellis Public Library in Phelps is looking for their new Library Director. Kaye Petts is retiring March 29th.
- Sean Jensen, Library Clerk, Sherman & Ruth Weiss Community Library in Hayward will be presenting at an virtual international library conference about AI and libraries in April. His session is titled: From Information Sessions to Integration: A Rural Library's Journey with GenAI. To learn more about the conference: <https://www.library20.com/ai-and-libraries>
- ***The Spooner Memorial Library** has been selected as one of 310 libraries to participate in round two of Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities, an American Library Association (ALA) initiative that provides community engagement and accessibility resources to small and rural libraries to help them better serve people with disabilities. This \$10,000 grant allows us to purchase an outdoor book drop (coming soon), add \$1,000 worth of books to our Bookmobile, and purchase several copies of "Disability Visibility: First-Person Stories from the Twenty-First Century" for a One Book, One Community read and conversation (Summer 2024).
- Ashland's referendum on the proposed \$4.3 million Vaughn Public Library renovations is on the April spring election ballot.
- The Evelyn Goldberg Briggs Memorial Library in Iron River continues to deal with intellectual freedom issues regarding their challenge and material policy, legal representation, and social media policies.

Updates from the system:

- Continuing Education Update:
 - [Spring Webinar Series: Neurodiversity at Work](#)
 - We Are Already Here: The Workplace Experiences of Neurodivergent Library Workers, 12 p.m. Thursday, April 18
 - For Managers & Supervisors: Cultivating an Inclusive Workplace for Neurodivergent Staff
1 p.m. Tuesday, May 7
 - [Wisconsin Libraries Talk About Race](#)
 - Identity, Burnout, and Vocational Awe webinar - February 29, 2024
 - Two in-person workshops: 4/25 Green Bay, 5/9 Wisconsin Dells
 - [CommUnity Conference](#), April 15-16, Madison
 - [Culture Keepers Reconvening](#), April 17-19, Black River Falls
 - WLA WAPL Conference, May 1-3, Stevens Point
 - [Toward One Wisconsin EDI Conference](#), May 7-8, Eau Claire
- ILS Update:
 - [NICE \(Northern Wisconsin ILS Consortium Exploration\) Project status update](#)
 - [NICE Project Collaborative Decision Making Recommendations](#)
 - [NICE Project ILS Recommendation](#)
 - [NICE Project Delivery Recommendation](#)
 - [LSTA Cooperative Cataloging Update](#)
 - ***NICE Project Town Hall Meeting:** We invite you to join us for a NICE Project Town Hall Meeting on Tuesday, April 9, from 10:30-11:30 am. You can join the meeting using this link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89996684794?pwd=HEGgLTJTODilpIC7Rk0k2bDyqJWqXo.1> Members of the NICE Project Team will give an overview of the process to date, share information about these emerging recommendations, discuss the next steps, and have time for you to ask questions and offer feedback. If you cannot make the meeting,

it will be recorded, and you can share questions and feedback through the [NICE Project Feedback Form](#).

- Inclusive Services Update:
 - [March](#)
 - [February](#)
- ***Technology Update:**
 - NWLS System Library Support –
 - Helpdesk tickets. From 1/5/24-3/6/24, we had a total of 413 tickets.
 - Working with AT&T and TEACH on connecting member libraries to the new BadgerNet circuits. Update: As of 3/6/24, 13 libraries have been migrated.
 - Library Bandwidth Increases – Will be working with TEACH on increasing bandwidth for locations in need. Will be working on this after migrations.
 - Dell Bulk Order – Scheduled for March/April. Waiting for new model pricing.
 - Windows 11 Upgrades – End of support for Windows 10 is scheduled for Oct. 2025. ~215 PCs need to be done.
 - New Email Authentication Requirements – Google and Yahoo announced they are implementing stricter email authentication requirements. Making sure our Microsoft 365 accounts meet these requirements.
 - LEANWI Partnership Updates –
 - Continued promotion of InfoSec IQ Security Training. Renewed with LEANWI funds, this provides library staff with security awareness training.
 - Update: Awareness training campaigns have been scheduled out for the year. The campaign began the first week of January.
 - LEANWI Website Services - New LEANWI hire Brendan Tuckey is working with Erica Brewster on offering website design and management for NWLS libraries.
 - Dell Backup Collaboration Replacement - The current system is coming up on its 5-year life cycle in 2025. Looking into replacement costs or possible web-based solutions.

Updates from the Director:

- Machones gave a verbal report of the most recent Bayfield County Executive Committee meeting where Machones gave a presentation on county board appointments to local library boards. Bayfield County representatives also recounted the meeting and commended Machones on her professionalism and thoroughness on the topic.
- Correspondence:
 - From Laura Sauser, Executive Director of WLA: Thanks for all of your help with Library Legislative Day! I always appreciate your involvement, but your help with this event is especially meaningful. I hope you will be part of the planning committee again next year.
 - From Chanz Green, WI Assembly Representative: I just want to thank you for all you do as the director of Northern Waters Library Service. As long as I am in office, you have an ally for you guys up north and for the Wisconsin Library Association.
 - Annual Report Ratings and Comments:
 - We received 100% “did provide effective leadership and adequately met the needs of the library” ratings from our libraries.
 - From Hayward: The Sherman & Ruth Weiss Community Library Board of Trustees attests that NWLS provided very effective leadership and adequately

met the needs of our library in 2023. Director Sherry Anderson's experience as both a library director and system director gives her the ability to see how library issues will affect both the overall system and member libraries. Her knowledge of library law is impressive, and her team are all very intelligent, thorough, and efficient problem solvers.

- From LCO: NWLS does provide excellent leadership and meets the various needs of the library. They provide rapid response to all of our needs and concerns.
- From LOL: NWLS goes above and beyond to help members in the system. Leadership exceeded the needs of the library.
- From Manitowish Waters: Excellent job to all staff. You are all so very helpful. Especially with the hiring process, Sherry!

- ***DPI Updates:**

- Monica Treptow, WI Dept. of Public Instruction School Library Media Consultant, has been named the Wisconsin Educational Media & Technology Association's 2024 Professional of the Year. The award recognizes a member of the association for their leadership and professionalism in the library, media, or educational technology profession in service to K-12 students, teachers and community.
- Public Library Administration Consultant Shannon Schultz resigned from her position on DPI's Division for Libraries and Technology Team on March 1 to become the new Director of the South Central Library System.
- Bruce Smith retired as Project Coordinator for DPI's Division for Libraries and Technology Team (DLT) on March 1. Hired in April 2020, Smith coordinated activities associated with the Public Library System Redesign Project (PLSR), and to manage and coordinate projects across the library team, including those associated with the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant program. Prior to joining DLT, Smith worked at WiLS to assist members with strategic plan development and to provide project management for a number of multi-system and statewide projects. He also coordinated the South Central Library System delivery service for 16 years.
- ***New Director at Southwest Wisconsin Library System** Angela Noel became the new Director of the Southwest Wisconsin Library System (SWLS). Angela was the former Director of the Dodgeville Public Library and Brodhead Memorial Library, and replaces former SWLS Director David Kranz, who resigned the position to become the ILS/ILL Consultant at the Winding Rivers Library System. The SWLS is headquartered in Fennimore, and serves 28 public libraries (and 2 branches) across five counties.
- ***WPLC Takes on Governance of Statewide Delivery** The WPLC Board officially approved taking on governance of statewide delivery. This new governance structure, which includes the formation of a delivery workgroup, will provide expanded oversight of delivery funds by the statewide partners serviced by delivery. No operational changes are expected to result from this change. During this meeting, the WPLC Board also approved a plan for the 2023 budget carryover, discussed and updated the collection development policy regarding requests for reconsideration and discussed an agenda for the annual membership meeting. NWLS ILS and Database Support Specialist Gina Rae is a member of the WPLC Board.
- [ALA LibLearnX Conference & ALA Councilor Report](#)
- **Legislative Day 2024:** The Wisconsin Library Association Library Legislative Day was well attended on February 6 with 183 librarians, trustees and other supporters registered from around the state. The morning briefing program held at the Best Western Park Hotel included remarks from Governor Tony Evers, Senator Mary Felzkowski, Representative Tony Kurtz, Assistant State Superintendent Division for Libraries and Technology Dr. Darrell Williams, and

WLA Government Relations Advisor Steve Conway. Senator Felzkowski, her staff aide Stamen Ivanov, Representative Kurtz and his staff aide Danielle Zimmerman were given special recognition for their work to secure an additional \$6 million in state aid to public library systems in the 2023-2025 state budget from the Joint Finance Committee. Attending from NWLS were Spooner Public Library Director Angela Bodzislav, her husband, and myself. We visited all legislators whose districts include portions of NWLS counties, sharing some appointments with five colleagues from IFLS, NFLS and WVLS. These handouts were shared in information packets for Library Legislative Day participants and legislators: [“The Life Cycle of a Library Book”](#) and [“When There is a Book Challenge”](#) and [“Shelving of a Library Book”](#) and [“Using the Library you’re your Child: Parental Rights and Responsibilities.”](#)

- 2023 Senate Bill 707 / 2023 Assembly Bill 741 aka the Dolly Parton Imagination Library bill has been passed by both houses of the legislature as of yesterday and is headed to the Governor's desk. This bipartisan bill would establish a grant program through the Department of Children and Families to help local non-profits create public-private partnerships with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library – ensuring Wisconsin children under the age of five have every opportunity to start reading at an early age.

Pictures from LLD:



**Senator Mary Felzkowski and
Beloit Public Library Director Nick Dimassis**

74th Assembly District Chanz Green



Governor
Tony Evers,
WLA Library
Champion
Representative
Tony Kurtz,
Assistant State
Superintendent
Division for
Libraries and
Technology
Dr. Darrell
Williams



12th District Senator Mary Felzkowski



Office of 87th District Rep. Jim Edming with staff Tyler Longsine



29th District Senator Cory Tomczyk



75th Assembly District David Armstrong

Governor Tony Evers with members of the WLA Board: Sherry Anderson, Desiree Bongers (Ripon PL), Tracy Vreeke (NFLS), Katharine Clark (Middleton PL)

8. Adjourn

Motion by Sue Hendrickson to adjourn the meeting at 11:02 am, second by Samuel Pomush. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Sherry Machones, Director