

SRLAAW Minutes

Date: May 7, 2014

Location: WAPL Conference

Mead Public Library, Sheboygan, WI

Recorder: Krista Ross, SWLS

Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Grant Lynch at 4:00 PM

Quorum determination

Present were: Grant Lynch, Waukesha PL; Marla Sepnafski, WVLS; Mark Merrifield, NFLS; John Thompson, IFLS; Steve Platteter, ALS; Walter Burkhalter, OWLS; Tasha Saecker, Appleton PL; Jeff Gilderson-Duwe, Winnefox; Jim Trojanowski, NWLS; Steve Ohs, LLS; Paula Kiely, Milwaukee PL; Barb Brattin, Kenosha PL/KCLS; Kristen Anderson, WRLS; Martha Van Pelt, SCLS; Rebecca Peterson, MCLS; Cherilyn Stewart, Manitowoc PL; Sue Cantrell, MWFLS; Amy Becker, West Bend PL; Garrett Erickson, Mead PL; Connie Meyer, WCFLS; Jessica MacPhail, Racine PL; Krista Ross, SWLS

Also Present: Bruce Smith, WiLS; Stef Morrill, WiLS; John DeBacher, DLT; Terrie Howe, DLT; Ryan Claringbole, DLT; Denise Anton Wright, DLT; Martha Berninger, DLT; Kris Adams Wendt, WVLS; Inese Christman, WVLS; Plumer Lovelace III, WLA

Presentation of any additional proxies

John Thompson has John Stoneberg's proxy
Paula Kiely has Jim Gingery's proxy
Jim Trojanowski has Sue Heskin's proxy
Steve Platteter has Bryan McCormick's proxy

Changes or additions to the agenda

Moved by Jim Trojanowski, seconded by John Thompson to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes

Moved by Jessica MacPhail, seconded by John Thompson to accept the minutes of the February 10, 2014 SRLAAW meeting. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report (Anderson)

The Treasurer's Report was emailed out previously. Moved by Jim Trojanowski, seconded by Steve Platteter to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion Carried.

1. SRLAAW Membership Dues & Financial Structure

SRLAAW dues are paid for by the system members. There was a question as to why the resource library members do not pay dues – no one present was sure. Another question asked – is there a minimum amount for the budget? There is not. Typically, the only expenses incurred are for a member to attend National Library

Legislative Day and that is capped at \$1000. There have meeting some meeting expenses, but those are rare.

Innovative Acquisition of Polaris

Connie Meyer reported that she had received a call and was assured by the rep that both systems will be supported in the near future and there are no contract increases planned. It is unclear what this acquisition will mean as Innovative has also formed a “strategic alliance” with Biblioteca.

Proposal to Create Shared Public Library Administrative Consultant Position

Martha Van Pelt led the discussion on the possibility of creating a shared public library administrative consultant position. Due to recent staffing changes at SCLS, there is no longer a dedicated public library administrative consultant and that presented a possible opportunity for collaboration. Jeff Gilderson-Duwe stated that this is a major area in which systems build relationships with their member libraries. Jim Trojanowski felt that if systems are looking to share positions, that a public library administrative consultant would be lower priority – building projects and marketing would be higher on the list for him. Martha Van Pelt asked, what other areas would be higher priority? The consensus was youth services, special needs, continuing education, marketing and building projects. Anyone who is interested in exploring a shared public library administrative consultant position should contact Martha Van Pelt.

Review of SRLAAW Purpose, Mission, Bylaws and Committees

The SRLAAW website looks fabulous. Everything has been transferred over as is and may need to review and remove old, outdated material at a later date. Walter Burkhalter stated that the credit goes to Evan Bend, Library Services Manager at OWLS. Thank you, Evan!

The current bylaws are 19 years old. Paula Kiely said it’s time to take another look. There is some ambiguity in the language and the group needs to think about its purpose. From her recent experience, Paula feels that the right things are in the bylaws, but we may need to look at how proxies are handled. Consensus of the group was to form a committee to review the bylaws, purpose, mission and committees of SRLAAW. The following members volunteered:

Walter Burkhalter, OWLS; Grant Lynch, Waukesha PL; Rebecca Peterson, MCLS; Paula Kiely, Milwaukee PL; Jessica MacPhail, Racine PL.

LD&L Report: SRLAAW Assistance needed

Kris Adams Wendt, co-chair of WLA’s Library Development & Legislation (LD&L) Committee asked for SRLAAW’s assistance. There’s a new budget coming up and we need to generate a sustainable grassroots organization to reach out to the majority party. The message LD&L is getting is:

- Get engaged now, or be prepared to get handed your lunch
- Invest time in legislators
- Now is not the time to be subtle

The political reality check is that it is unlikely that either the Governor's office or the legislature will change parties in the majority. We need to make the connection between voters and library users for the legislators.

The wild card in the budget process is the Universal Service Fund (USF). State library system aids come from this fund as well as the library contracted services. The telcos dislike USF and have lobbied against it.

LD&L is asking libraries to reach out through trustees, friends and patrons to state office candidates. There is a lot of opportunity in the open seats, but don't ignore the races in which an incumbent is running. Kris distributed a listing of the open seats.

LD&L is also working to establish WLA as the clearinghouse for information as well as tools for advocacy. If you have any information about declared candidates and potential library supporters with connections to them, let Kris Adams Wendt know.

1. Follow-up Act 157 (AB288)

There were no questions, concerns or comments on Act 157.

Follow-up: National Library Legislative Day

National Library Legislative Day was May 5 & 6. A group from Wisconsin, which included SRLAAW members Grant Lynch and Martha Van Pelt, visited all our representatives and both senators. Overall, it was a great success. The aides were very receptive to certain points, liking stories and how funding related to specific activities. Julie Schneider, the WLA Federal Legislative Advocate, did an outstanding job arranging the visits.

Affiliated Organization Reports:

DLT

John DeBacher introduced the two newest members of the team: Ryan Claringbole, Public Library Technology Consultant and Denise Anton Wright, Public Library Administration Consultant.

John updated the group on the process of the LEAN System study to date.

DLT is putting together its budget proposal. They are hoping to tap into any and every organization concerned with library services to get input on what to include in the budget to pass onto the State Superintendent. Martha Berninger stated that it's not only about adding more Badgerlink databases, but also other services. The initial draft is due at the end of May. Contact John DeBacher, Martha Berninger or Kurt Kiefer with ideas.

WILS

The ILS survey data is currently being compiled. It's been a very complex process and Stef thanked everyone for their participation. The transition last year to the new organizational and fee structure has gone well and this year's audit showed that WiLS will meet or exceed its financial goals.

WiLS is moving some staff responsibilities around. They are working on an "Experts Connection" project to make connections between experts and needs.

Bruce is working on two projects: Gale Courses group purchase and is working with the Columbus PL on its ALA grant.

1. SRLAAW Board Appointment for WiLS

Moved by John Thompson, seconded by Marla Sepnanski, to have Steve Platteter continue as the SRLAAW representative. Motion carried.

WPLC

The WPLC met prior to the SRLAAW meeting. WPLC discussed the bylaws and new projects. It was decided to donate the items in the gadget packages to WLA for the silent auction. The WPLC board decided that it would meet four times per year – twice online and twice in person (at the WAPL and WLA conferences).

WLA

Plumer Lovelace thanked everyone who helped during his onboarding process. Over the past six months, he has worked to get WLA aligned with other associations of its size. WLA is working on ways to improve the volunteer process and experience. Created a Membership Task Force to begin exploring how WLA can retain membership and move towards membership growth. They are working on a marketing strategy.

COLAND

No COLAND report.

Member Roundtable

Martha Van Pelt: SCLS working on creating core technology competencies for library staff.

Steve Ohs: LLS is incorporating the standards for library systems from the SRLAAW *Creating More Effective Library Systems* report. He reported that the technology standards were very helpful in the creation of their new technology plan.

Sue Cantrell: MWFLS held a trustee dinner and the program was on LEAN practices.

Steve Platteter: ALS will be moving its offices to the Milton PL building on June 2.

Next Meetings

Quarter 3 meeting in Wausau, date TBD and Quarter 4 meeting Nov. 4, 2014 1:30 PM (WLA conference)

Moved by John Thompson, seconded by Jeff Gilderson-Duwe to adjourn. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Krista Ross, recording secretary

DRAFT