

**System and Resource Library Administrators Association of Wisconsin
(SRLAAW)
Q1 2024 Meeting Minutes**

Date: Monday, February 5, 2024
Recorder: Bradley Shipps, OWLS Director

1. Call to Order – Vreeke called the meeting to order at 1:06 pm
2. Attendance - Tracy Vreeke, Chair (NFLS), Steve Hesel, Vice Chair (MCFLS), Kristen Anderson, Treasurer (WRLS), Karin Adams (Manitowoc PL), Sherry Anderson (NWLS), Barbara Brattain (Kenosha), Nick Demske (Racine PL), Garrett Erickson (Sheboygan PL), Darryl Eschete (Oshkosh PL), Bruce Gay (Waukesha PL), Shanneon Grant (La Crosse PL), Riti Grover (Monarch), Sue Heskin (Superior PL), Joan Johnson (Milwaukee PL), Karol Kennedy (Bridges), Nancy Kerr (LEPMPL), Angela Noel (SWLS), Jessie Lee-Jones (Platteville PL), Steve Ohs (PLLS), Steve Platteter (PLLS), Collen Rortvedt (Appleton PL), Rebecca Scherer (MCLS), Marla Sepnafski (WVLS), Bradley Shipps (OWLS), Clairellyn Sommersmith (Winnefox), Sarah Sugden (BCL), John Thompson (IFLS), Martha Van Pelt (SCLS), Krissy Wick (Madison PL)
3. Proxy announcements – None
4. Introductions – Welcome new members: Angela from SWLS, Nick from Racine PL, Darryl from OPL, Krissy Wick from Madison PL (interim); Thank you and best wishes to retirees: Greg, Marty, and Bruce.

New members are encouraged to visit the web site: <https://srlaaw.org/>
5. Approval of the Agenda (Vreeke) – Thompson moved, seconded by Van Pelt, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.
6. Approval of the Minutes from October 24, 2023 (Vreeke) – Grover moved, seconded by Van Pelt, to approve the October 24, 2023 minutes. Motion carried.
7. Advocacy Update (Conway) – Report postponed until Steve arrived at 2:45. Two teams have been working all year round to organize Library Legislative Day. Legislative staff love how organized we are. Normally, the off-year message is thank you, but with all of the bills circulating, we're going to showcase how powerful WLA is. Things happening in other states are not happening to us because we have worked for years to build relationships on both sides. Steve will explain what messaging bills are to the group. Other states are asking for our materials. New maps will change things for us. Not sure what joint finance will look like this year. Divided government has been good for us. Majority on either side can produce extreme results. What is the next ask? What do we need? LD&L will be reaching out for that information leading into the next budget cycle.
8. Nominations for SRLAAW Officers (Chair of Nominating Committee) – Karol Kennedy reports from Nominating Committee that current officers are willing to continue. Vreeke,

Chair; Hesel, Vice Chair; K. Anderson, Treasurer. Thank you to the nominating committee and officers.

9. Election of Officers (Vreeke) (Note: Secret Ballot if Multiple Nominees)

Kennedy moved, seconded by Grover, to elect the slate as presented by the Nominating Committee. Motion carried.

10. Treasurer's Report (Anderson) – Report was distributed prior to the meeting. Higher than typical interest income in 2023.

Sommersmith asked whether there is a plan for the money that has been unspent since 2020? The ALA Legislative D.C. trip hasn't happened since 2019. However, ALA is paying for Dr. Williams from DPI and Joan from Milwaukee PL attend a smaller, regionally targeted version of the event in 2024 to be called "Voices for our Libraries." There is new leadership at ALA, so we should know soon whether the annual trip to D.C. is coming back. ALA and COSLA (Chief Officers of State Library Agencies) are collaborating on the new version of the fly-in.

11. LD&L Report (Gay) – The LD&L committee met on Jan 26th virtually. Mostly talking about Legislative Day, happening tomorrow. Governor Evers and Dr. Williams will speak. Champions awards will be given out to legislators and staff. Steve and Nick will speak about talking points. Every legislator has been approached about creating a "Libraries Transform" poster, holding the book of their choice. Funded by WLAF. Have we ever done posters with the federal legislators? No. (Marty doesn't have bad ideas.) Working on possible legislative changes to improve state park passes program.

12. Affiliated Organization Reports:

- a. Recollection Wisconsin – Kristen reports that RW will go fee free. Will be announced in newsletter and on social media. NFLS seeking AmeriCorps volunteers for RW projects.
- b. DPI – Watching Affordable Connectivity Program wind down. Money runs out in April. Hoping for a better outcome. But if not, working on resources for libraries to share with patrons who lose access. Also exploring a long-term USF approach. 420,000 households in Wisconsin participate in ACP. More are eligible. If funding is renewed, several systems are standing by to implement outreach grants. The State Superintendent issued a statement supporting libraries in December. Badgerlink procurement is being guided by an ARPA-era study and report about statewide needs. New collections (if we get any) will start July 1. Future hope is to issue RFIs in off years so that we can ask legislators for specific content rather than dollar amounts. PLA 2023 technology survey closed. Wisconsin participation was above average. Public library staff and diversity survey coming out this year. DPI will push it out. Beanstack was not renewed by DPI, but Beanstack decided to offer licenses to all schools and libraries in Wisconsin through April 2025. Not sure whether new libraries can join, but evidence points to yes. DPI is requesting statistics from Beanstack. Who can point to alternatives? WiLS is looking at it. Teen inclusive internship grants coming up. Webinars soon. Five interns last year. Lots of interest this year. Idea for future budget request – practicum and internship funding. Milwaukee has a similar program. In past years, they have brought teen interns to Legislative Day. Kenosha has summer scholars, started pre-pandemic. Appleton, Racine, La

Crosse, Kenosha have similar programs. Can we gather any data about where those teens end up?

- c. WiLS – Steve P. highlighted that the City Library Collective annual report is available today. On Feb 23rd WiLS will hold their 2024 membership meeting. Culture Keepers Collective is bringing together several smaller initiatives with tribal partners around digital stewardship.
- d. WPLC – Becky taking over as President. Coming out of the visioning session, starting on goals including a strategic plan looking at delivery and technology. Circulation increased 1 mil from 2022 to 2023.
- e. WLA – Update on upcoming conferences. Volunteer opening on Awards committee.
- f. COLAND – No report

13. Discussion Items:

- a. Joan Johnson (Milwaukee Public Library) - Broadband Access in WI Partnership hired a consultant to do a feasibility study to figure out how no households in Milwaukee will need to rely on ACP for internet. Looking for more of an open network model. Goals are availability (infrastructure) and access at an affordable price with tech support, instruction, and education. Incumbents claim that Milwaukee is covered, so they were blocked for ARPA money by PSC because they are “covered.”
Starlink came up. Seems to be better for rural areas. Are any Wisconsin folks outside of Milwaukee using Starlink?
Sherry from NWLS, early in pandemic, Starlink was able to accept people on the waiting list. Starlink use was widespread during pandemic. About same cost as CenturyLink. High speed, rarely down except in extreme weather.
Bill wondered if any libraries were considering Starlink as a provider.
Barriers are very high for municipalities to become providers. Milwaukee is working with partners. The library would provide outreach and instruction.
FCC has proposed to incorporate hot spots into the program so that libraries and schools can get hot spots with discount to check out.
Currently MKE wifi stops at walls. If they build a tower, can extend 2 miles without barriers.
Common library providers are AT&T, Spectrum, Charter, Frontier, Brightlink. Bug Tussel and TDS are some new arrivals.

14. Member Roundtable –

Next agenda – OverDrive and Hoopla spending and legalities of blocking users who live outside tax base.
Standards for story times, pulling together a committee possibly around Public Library Standards update and Inclusive Services guide. Jeni S. working with Sarah S. but it will take longer than thought with Shannon’s departure.
ChatGPT in libraries

15. Next Meeting Announcement: WAPL, May 1-3, 2024, Steven’s Point, WI

16. Adjournment by Consensus. Sugden moved, seconded by Scherer. Meeting adjourned.