

## System and Resource Library Administrators Association of Wisconsin (SRLAAW) Q3 2025 Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Friday, August 8, 2025  
**Time:** 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM  
**Recorder:** Clairellyn Sommersmith, Winnefox Library System

### 1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 9:32am by Chair Steve Hesper. T

### 2. Quorum Determination

**Members Present** - Steve Hesper, Chair (MCFLS), Leah Giordano, Vice Chair (Marathon County PL), Kristen Anderson, Treasurer (WRLS), Karin Adams (Manitowoc PL), Sarah Townsend (Kenosha PL), Nick Demske (Racine PL), Katherine Elchert (NWLS), Garrett Erickson (Sheboygan PL), Bruce Gay (Waukesha PL), Dawn Wacek (La Crosse PL), Riti Grover (Monarch), Sue Heskin (Superior PL), Joan Johnson (Milwaukee), Jessie Lee-Jones (Platteville PL), Brittany Larson (Bridges), Angela Noel (SWLS), Steve Ohs (PPLS), Collen Rortvedt (Appleton PL), Becky Scherer (MCLS), Marla Sepnafski (WVLS), Bradley Shipps (OWLS), Clairellyn Sommersmith (Winnefox), Sarah Sugden (BCL), Tracy Vreeke, (NFLS)

**Excused:** Tana Elias (Madison PL), Darryl Eschete (Oshkosh), Nancy Kerr (LEPMPL), Shannon Schultz (SCLS), John Thompson (IFLS)

**Affiliated Members/Guests** – Ben Miller (DPI), Beth Tomev (DPI), Chris Baker (DPI), Teresa Schmidt (DPI), Jennifer Chamberlain (WiLS), Ellen Kupfer (COLAND), Steve Conway Kristen Whitson (Recollection Wisconsin) Deb Marett (MCFLS), Brittany Hornung (MCFLS), Katelyn Killian (Marathon County PL)

### 3. Proxy Announcements

Vreeke (NFLS) is proxy for Thompson (IFLS)

### 4. Introductions/Welcome Guests (Hesper)

Hesper began by thanking Giordano for hosting and Sepnafski for providing the food.

### 5. Approval of the Agenda (Hesper)

Motion by Ohs, second by Shipps. Motion passes.

**6. Approval of the Minutes from April 30, 2025 (Heser)**

Minutes were corrected include Shipps serving as proxy for Vreeke who was not present. Motion by Ohs, seconded by Sepnafski. Motion passes.

**7. Treasurer's Report (Anderson)**

The report balance was \$6,964.34, with the invoice from MCFLS for the printing of the postcards on next month's statement.

There was discussion about potential future costs for SRLAAW, which would include more travel with ALA to Washington DC and more advocacy work. Once there was clarity on what SRLAAW member fees might be used for in the future and the cost was deemed reasonable a motion was introduced.

Ohs made the motion to resume SRLAAW member fees for 2026. The fees would be \$100 per year per organization (both system and resource library). Vreeke seconded. Motion passes.

Invoices will be sent out at the beginning of the year.

**8. WLA Advocacy Fees for 2026**

Fees were included in the packet (1% of state aid funds for each system) and Tom Klement from Wisconsin Library Association will be billing.

Sarah Sugden arrived at this time

**9. LDL**

**Libraries Transform Posters** - Gay reported that new legislators are being approached to pose for their posters

**2026-2027 Biennial Budget** – Conway spoke highly of the LD&L committee and their work. He went on to discuss the process of getting the increase in System State Aid and funding for Auto-Graphics during this budget cycle. Both Assemblymen Kurtz and Hurd were recognized for their support of the libraries coming from the House. Mary Felzkowski continues to be a champion for libraries from the Senate. Conway continues to be optimistic about future budget cycles. In addition to the \$3 million base increase for System State Aid over two years, the funding for Recollection Wisconsin will also be funding in the next biennial.

Larson recognized all the individuals who attend Library Legislative Day and the important work they do in building the relationship between legislators and library supporters.

**Postcard Campaign** -The postcard campaign is going well and speaks to SRLAAW and Wisconsin libraries' developing relationship legislators at the Federal level beyond the already established relationship at the state level. Postcards will go out in two groups. The majority will be mailed in the middle of the month with a second smaller mailing at the end of August.

## 10. Member Round Table

### **Workforce development at your libraries**

Sugden and Vreeke shared information about [JobPod](#) a collaboration between NFLS, Brown County Library, the Department of Workforce Development, and the Bay Area Workforce Development. In 2025, JobPod expanded beyond NFLS borders and continues to be developed in areas across the state. JobPod is a great service to advertise to legislators who are interested in libraries' ability to provide economic growth in community and work with local businesses. JobPod is a testament to libraries partnering abilities and ability to be a resource to many.

Johnson and Rortvedt also highlighted how their libraries are serving job seekers in their communities.

## 11. SRLAAW Representative to the Public Library Standards

Miller stated the desire to have broad representation on the Public Library Standards steering committee. There will be a representative from COLAND, and he is looking for a representative from SRLAAW. The committee will meet formally and consistently throughout the year, while work groups will also be established and will be less formal and meet in shorter, more intense time frames.

Sommersmith made the motion and Sugden seconded to invite Nick Demske to be the representative from SRLAAW on the Public Library Standards steering committee. The motion is subject to Demske's acceptance. Motion passes.

There was additional interest among system directors in serving on the committee along with general interest in serving on work groups. The deadline for this committee is September 2026.

## 12. IMLS Update and Campaign Report

Miller reported that the Bureau of Libraries staffing is funded through September 2026 and as the office is cautiously optimistic it hopes to have a six-month grant period starting in January. Any decision, however, will be made following October when it is seen if IMLS is funded in the next federal budget. The current recommendation from the Senate is to restore funding, however, the House does not meet until September.

Miller was recently interviewed for an article in the Isthmus regarding the threat to IMLS. The letter to the editor from COLAND will be published in the Milwaukee Sentinel.

### 13. **Agenda Reorganization**

Heser proposed the agenda reorganization to move the reports from affiliated organizations toward the end of the agenda and have themed round table discussion moved up in the agenda.

Elchert made the motion and Sugden seconded the motion. Motion passes.

There was additional discussion about lengthening the meeting to give more time for discussion. It was decided the next meeting on October 28 will run from 12-3, which lunch provided by Vreeke.

### 14. **Affiliated Organization Reports:**

- a. **COLAND** – Ellen Kupfer will continue COLAND’s goals include monitoring library services in prisons and jails and reaching out and learning more about Tribal Libraries. The next meeting will be on September 12 at Beloit College.
- b. **DPI** – Miller reviewed highlights from his report, including the reorganization, intention to hire a Manager of Library Technology Services, and working with Channel Crawford, Assistant State Superintendent for the Division of School and Library Operations.
- c. **Recollection Wisconsin**- Whitson celebrated the renewal of Recollection Wisconsin funding and highlighted the upcoming Think Tank about newspaper digitization and hosting. The Think Tank will be in Milwaukee on September 23.
- d. **WiLS** – Chamberlain presented for liaison Schultz who was absent. Chamberlain called attention to the Small Library Strategic Planning Cohort, which just had the biggest capstone to date and is looking for participants in the new cycle. Additionally, WiLS is looking for volunteers to serve on their Purchasing Advisory Committee.
- e. **WLA** – Currently in the process of interviewing candidates for the new WLA Executive Director with intention to have a new director in place for the fall conference.

- f. WPLC** – The board approved a charge for the Communications Committee and is working on values to go along with the recently established mission and vision. The delivery budget for 2026 was passed

**15. Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 28th at 12:00 p.m., in Salons F&G at the Madison Marriott West**

**16. Adjournment – 12:00pm**

Motion by Ohs and seconded by Sugden. Motion passes.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Clairellyn Sommersmith, Winnefox