

System and Resource Library Administrators Association of Wisconsin (SRLAAW) Q1 2025 Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, February 10, 2025
Time: 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
Location: South Central Library System, 1650 Pankratz Street, Madison, WI 53704
Recorder: Angela Noel, Southwest Wisconsin Library System

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 1:03 p.m.

2. Quorum Determination

Members Present - Tracy Vreeke, Chair (NFLS), Steve Hesel, Vice Chair (MCFLS), Kristen Anderson, Treasurer (WRLS), Karin Adams (Manitowoc PL), Brandi Cummings (Kenosha), Nick Demske (Racine PL), Katherine Elchert (NWLS), Tana Elias (Madison PL), Garrett Erickson (Sheboygan PL), Darryl Eschete (Oshkosh), Bruce Gay (Waukesha PL), Leah Giordano (Marathon County PL), Shanneon Grant (La Crosse), Riti Grover (Monarch), Sue Heskin (Superior PL), Joan Johnson (Milwaukee), Karol Kennedy (Bridges), Angela Noel (SWLS), Steve Ohs (PPLS), Becky Scherer (MCLS), Shannon Schultz (SCLS), Bradley Shipp (OWLS), Clairellyn Sommersmith (Winnefox), Sarah Sugden (BCL), John Thompson (IFLS)

Excused: Nancy Kerr (LEPMPL), Jessie Lee-Jones (Platteville PL), Collen Rortvedt (Appleton PL), Marla Sepnafski (WVLS)

Affiliated Members/Guests – Ben Miller (DPI), Beth Tomev (DPI), Jennifer Chamberlain (WiLS), Andi Coffin (WiLS/RW), Laura Sauser (WLA), Ellen Kupfer (COLAND), Teresa Schmidt (DPI), Steve Conway

3. Proxy Announcements

Leah Giordano (Marathon County PL) is proxy for Marla Sepnafski (WVLS).
Bradley Shipp (OWLS) is proxy for Collen Rortvedt (Appleton PL).

4. Introductions/Welcome Guests (Vreeke)

The group welcomed Katherine Elchert, the new director at Northern Waters Library System to the meeting.

5. Approval of the Agenda (Vreeke)

Motion by J. Johnson, second by S. Ohs. Motion passes.

6. Approval of the Minutes from November 22, 2024 (Vreeke)

Motion by J. Johnson, second by B. Shipps. Motion passes.

7. Nominations for SRLAAW Officers (Vreeke)

Chair, Vice Chair, and Treasurer are 1-year positions and no one can serve in any one position for more than 4 years (other than Treasurer; whose organization must act as fiscal agent). C. Sommersmith presented the slate of officers: S. Hesel will serve as Chair, L. Giordano will serve as Vice Chair, K. Anderson will serve as Treasurer.

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

C. Sommersmith moves to approve the slate of officers presented. Seconded by N. Demske. Motion passes unanimously.

9. Treasurer's Report (Anderson)

K. Anderson reports that funds as of December 31, 2024 were \$7,309.40. R. Scherer motions to accept. C. Sommersmith seconds. Motion carries.

10. LD&L Report / Advocacy Update (Gay/Conway)

- LD&L met on January 24 and regularly over the last few weeks for Library Legislative Day. A record 238 people have registered. Gov. Evers, Dr. Underly, Dr. Williams, and many others will be speaking. Budget request discussions are going well.
- Poster project—Margaret is moving on to another role, so Pam at WLA will be taking this work on. The Tri-Troy district of Walworth is active right now—Robin Vos' office reached out.
- Joint County payment issues in Clark and Marathon Counties.
- Steve Conway reports that budget meetings are almost through Joint Finance Committee, three more left, then meeting with leadership. No one was questioned request so far and are working off the trust we have developed over the last years. It will still be a tough budget year, so could be anywhere from \$0 – full ask increase. Did need additional explanation of Auto-Graphics (WISCAT) contract. Will need systems to show up at JFC listening sessions around the state. Currently still working on the schedule.
- There will be more legislation coming out that will be negative for libraries, with different authors. WLA currently does not plan to engage with these bills. Gov. Evers would not sign these bills. On a federal level, S. Conway also has different contact if needed.

- S. Hesper asked about current Champions: Rep. Kurtz will remain Champion. Currently working on the Senate—with M. Feldkowski’s input – possibilities are Sen. Quinn and Sen. Testin.

11. Legislative Fly-In (Hesper/Miller)

Two fly-ins to DC (COSLA in March, and J. Johnson and M. Gartner in April with ALA). Both groups are sharing information for a unified message. For COSLA T. Vreeke, N. DiMasses, and V. Teal will be attending to represent SRLAAW. J.

Johnson makes a motion to reimburse T. Vreeke for expenses re COSLA. B. Shipps Seconds. Motion passes. N. Demske volunteered to be a back-up for T. Vreeke.

12. ALA Councilor Report

Nicole Breed (Chippewa Valley Technical College) was elected to this position by the WLA board. Ben and Laura will meet offline to determine what Nicole’s role with SRLAAW will be and where responsibilities lie around legislation.

B. Shipps attended an ALA workday in Chicago earlier this winter and reports that it’s good to be in Wisconsin right now. Many other states are dealing with bigger issues.

13. Affiliated Organization Reports:

a. COLAND

- i. Have become aware of issues with book donations into prisons and other secured institutions. These facilities have very limited library budgets and have been told they cannot accept donated books, except under very strict conditions.
- ii. Continuing to monitor and give feedback on A.I. guidance for libraries.
- iii. Working to make sure public libraries and school libraries are equally represented.
- iv. Attempting to monitor/track digital equity grants. Also tracking state/federal budgets.
- v. Next meeting will be March 14, 2025 at the Prairie du Chien Public Library.

b. DPI

- i. LSTA funding is uncertain for 2025-26 and beyond. DPI was watching it very closely. If LSTA funding were to go away, DPI staff would be greatly affected. 16 of 19 staff are currently funded by LSTA money. J. Chamberlain asked if that is similar across the country, and while it does vary, many are organized this way. Roughly 50/50 split in terms

of funding staff and passing grants onto systems for Wisconsin. DPI is actively trying to move WISCAT off of LSTA onto state funding, which is the largest LSTA budget line right now. March 14 is the next continuing resolution deadline at the federal level. As long as it doesn't go past July, DPI should be in an okay position.

- ii. Annual reports are open! DPI is also extending the data dashboard pilot through the end of June. Thank you to WiLS for allowing some leeway in ensuring that funding was available. Next steps will be figuring out if and how the dashboard continues into the future. Hopeful that 2024 data will be in the dashboard prior to the June 30 end date.
- iii. Universal Service Fund: There are two SCOTUS cases that are currently being heard. 1) Telcoms were overcharging schools/libraries for internet services. This decision should come sooner rather than later. 2) Consumers Research v. FCC – alleges that the universal service fund is not approved by Congress and is an illegal tax. E-rate could be affected by this. If this does go Consumer Research's way, it is likely that this would repeat on the state level in Wisconsin.
- iv. Moving forward with the Teen Inclusive Services Internship program. If there are questions, please direct them to Jenny Schomber. Also opened up a new cohort for the Badgerlink Advisory Group. Scaling Communities through Archives grant through partnership with University of Washington. There is a link to more information in the DPI report. Recollection Wisconsin will also review applications if anyone would like to apply.
- v. New Director Spring Training Camp: April 8-10, 2025 in Marshfield. Currently about 53 people on the list, and budget will allow us to accept about 40 people. If directors are interested, they shouldn't wait to register.
- vi. DPI is switching their listserv/mail service. Ben will have more information at a later date. Anticipate that nothing should change, but it is a technology upgrade. Scheduled to happen in mid-March, but that timeline is likely to shift. Spring primary for Superintendent on February 18—Make a plan to vote.

c. Recollection Wisconsin

- i. If you have libraries or a system collection have stories to share, please reach out to info@recollectionwisconsin.org. In the last quarter, the Recollection Wisconsin values have been solidified, to go along with the mission and vision that were finalized last year. Digitization initiative has 40 sites coming up this spring that will have student interns. There will be a summer program, so if you might be interested, please contact them.

d. WiLS

- i. Has also looked at their organizational values recently. Had a good conversation about how they talk about things and if things needed to change and staff decided they would not be removing their equity, diversity, and inclusion values from their organization. Member meeting is coming and will focus on how libraries are working with communities. Date is Friday, February 28, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.
- ii. Thank you to library systems for helping the small library cohort get off the ground. Talking about if this program needs to be offered more than once a year. It's a great way to build connection and network across the state.
- iii. WiLS also now accepts credit cards! They do pass on the processing fee, but this might help streamline payment process for some members.
- iv. WiLS does have a few federal grants (including community archivist grant), so they are working with NEH and are watching closely. Culture Keepers is another grant through IMLS that they are watching closely.

e. WLA

- i. Wanted to mention that WLA will send a questionnaire to the final Superintendent candidates re: how libraries (public, school, and academic) fit into their vision and will share responses with members prior to the April election.
- ii. ALA is hosting a Freedom to Read meeting on Wednesday 2/12/2025.
- iii. "On the Road" meetings are coming—more information coming with dates and locations soon. First one will be this Spring. Will be free and open to WLA members and non-members.
- iv. Relaunching LDI – making a few tweaks to the curriculum rolled out in 2023; 6-7 month program.
- v. WAPL is coming up in late April.
- vi. Recently launched a sustainability special interest group. Some committee positions are open, so if you are interested in serving on a WLA committee, please let Laura know.

f. WPLC

- i. Almost a million circs over 2023! Board meeting on Monday Feb. 17, 2025 to work on strategic plan. Officers are listed on the report.
- ii. Delivery Workgroup meeting weekly on Fridays to discuss some issues with third-party vendors.

14. Discussion Items**a. Effect of recent Executive Orders on Libraries**

- i. S. Hesser initiated a discussion around DEI orders from the federal and/or state government. Be a librarian during these times and make sure you are reading the actual texts. Unless you hear explicitly from

your library counsel, libraries should continue to do the work they planned to do.

- ii. NFLS has put together some information for their member libraries to help support topics like meeting rooms, book challenges, ICE in the library, etc. Reminder to staff that the library is neutral. T. Vreeke will share these with the group. T. Elias is another potential resource with some past events at Madison Public. Manitowoc has M4L meeting monthly at the library and one thing that has been important is defining if you are booking the space for a PRIVATE meeting or if it is a public meeting, that anyone who wants to attend can. Meetings are open to all, but they do have to follow library policies. SEWI is partnering with CCBC on a Request for Reconsideration policies.
- iii. The National Council of Nonprofits has a nice daily update/chart on what is going on with the various executive orders. Also, a reminder that WiLS has a Basecamp space for SRLAAW if needed.
- iv. Trustee Training is also important—the basics.

b. Responding to ICE Requests

- i. Teresa Schmidt did send out an email with some resources. Individual libraries should work to prepare staff with plans/procedures for how to handle this.

15. Member Roundtable

- a. Appleton Public Library has its grand reopening this Saturday.
- b. NFLS is opening the first four job pods in Wild Rose, Medford, Amery, and one in Brown County should be open by the end of March.
- c. Madison Public Library is celebrating their 150th anniversary this year.
- d. NFL draft is coming to Brown County!

16. Next Meeting: Wed., April 30, 2025, 3:30PM, Oshkosh Marriott/Convention Center

17. Adjournment

Motioned by J. Johnson, seconded by T. Elias. Motion passes. Meeting adjourned at 3:19 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Angela Noel, SWLS