

Director's Report

WVLS BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

March 19, 2016

CORRESPONDENCE

A note of thanks was received from **Mary Dunn** for including her in the travel arrangements to WLA's Library Legislative Day and for **Kris Adams Wendt's** work to prepare WVLS participants for this event.

Marla Sepnafski received a thank you note and gift certificate from the **Abbotsford Public Library Board of Trustees** for her assistance in their search for a new director.

Joshua Klingbeil received correspondence from **State Superintendent Tony Evers** announcing that his 2016 LSTA Technology Grant for \$26,900 was approved for funding, and that work could begin on grant projects.

The family of former Marathon County representative to the WVLS Board **Leo Martin** sent a note of appreciation to WVLS for the \$100 Wessler Scholarship Fund donation in recognition of Martin's years of service as a trustee.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Portage County Public Library Director **Shannon Schultz** has been hired to be the new public library administration consultant at the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction effective April 4, 2016. This position works independently within the Public Library Development Team in the Division for Libraries and Technology to provide statewide leadership and consultation to librarians, library system staff, trustees, and government officials on public library and library system administration, organization and governance. She replaces Denise Anton Wright who retired in December 2015.

Following a nationwide director search, the L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library (Eau Claire) hired Middleton Public Library Director **Pamela Westby**. Her first day on the Job is March 28.

The Abbotsford Public Library Board of Trustees has hired **Jenny Jochimsen** to be the new director of the library effective May 21. Currently Jenny works at the Hudson Area Joint Public Library as a Youth Services Librarian.

WVLS PROJECTS

Movie Licensing USA

WVLS will be renewing its contract covering public performance rights for library film programs on April 1 with 15 libraries included in the group licensing arrangement (**Exhibit 10-A**). These communities are part of the MLUSA group: Abbotsford, Antigo, Colby, Crandon, Greenwood, Medford, Merrill, Minocqua, Rhinelander, Rib Lake, Stetsonville, Thorp, Three Lakes, Tomahawk, and Westboro. Marathon Co. Public Library maintains their own license for the Wausau site only.

Mobile Hotspots Pilots

In December of 2015, an opportunity came up for WVLS and IFLS to acquire free mobile hotspot devices from Sprint, and to try their unlimited data plan services for month. The approximate value for 50 free units and 50 free devices is \$5000. WVLS IT committed another \$2500 to assist with a viable pilot project. Five libraries across WVLS and IFLS were identified in Sprint 4G service areas which agreed to be initial pilot libraries. Each library received 5 devices, and were encouraged to develop any usage models, policies, lending agreements, etc

which were meaningful to the libraries and their respective communities. An email group was established for the WVLS, IFLS, the pilot libraries, and Ryan Claringbole of DPI to be able to share relevant information, experiences, successes, and failures. As of this writing, the libraries are in week two of their free service period.

V-Cat Update

Since the January 2016 Board of Trustees meeting many projects were addressed: **V-Cat statistics** were compiled and shared with member libraries in late 2016. V-Cat Administration Inese Christman created a manual documenting this process. **E-Commerce** became fully functional. Since the soft roll out in December 2015 there has been a steady increase in the number of patrons using this feature. The **WVLS Patron Privacy Policy, Terms of Use** and **Digital Certificate** were placed on the WVLS and V-Cat websites. The WVLS/V-Cat Steering Committee met on March 7 to vet the **draft 2017 V-Cat budget** in preparation for presenting it for discussion at the April V-Cat Council meeting. From March 15-19 **Inese Christman** and Marathon County Public Library staff member **Chris Luebbe** will be attending the Innovative User's Group (IUG) Conference in San Francisco.

Rural Broadband Development

WVLS IT Director, Joshua Klingbeil, has been working directly with various partners and interested stakeholders in Lincoln, Clark, and Taylor counties to help spark persistent discussion and action toward the development of Broadband availability and accessibility in those counties. The Lincoln County partners have developed a solid assessment project, and are progressing with healthy momentum. Joshua is continuing to work with leadership in Taylor and Clark counties, and is working with interested stakeholders in Forest County to help spark regular and persistent discussion there.

E-Rate Education and Content Filtering Experimentation

The Federal E-Rate program has been restructured and revitalized with funding. Certain aspects of the newly named "Category Two" funding may be significantly beneficial to libraries with internal technology infrastructure improvement needs. The contentious caveat to this is the requirement that E-Rate funding recipient comply with Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) content filtering requirements. A survey of WVLS member libraries expressed a high level of interest in experimenting with content filtering, with access to significant Federal funding assistance on the table. WVLS worked with other library systems, DPI, and WiscNet to explore the potential for a managed filtering application to help libraries satisfy CIPA requirements at the utmost minimum, and to have a high level of local control for disabling filtering (with simple and easy procedures) when necessary. WVLS has an appliance in place that is ready for pilot implementation. One library, already filtering its children's computers, will have that current filtering model switched over to the managed appliance model for the first part of the pilot. The switchover should be in place between the time of this writing and the next WVLS Board of Trustees meeting.

Network and Enterprise Services Restructuring and Application Upgrades

We are working on restructuring some of the WVLS networking and application delivery architecture to more effectively and efficiently deliver services in the Network and Enterprise Services model. Chris Heitman is currently working on a massive Deep Freeze and Antivirus service upgrade across all WAN connected libraries. He is also working with IFLS staff to build a new network subnet scheme on which he is building a new Active Directory (AD) structure as the core service platform to which we will move all of our Active Directory capable services. The AD naming derives from Project WIN, utilizing the .net domain name acquired to support that project: librariesWin.net. The full AD name for WVLS will be wvls.librariesWin.net and will demonstrate to future partners that WVLS is committed to a collaborative partnership model with resource sharing as a primary focus.

Public Library Annual Reports

All 25 member public library annual reports were submitted to DLT shortly before the March 1st deadline. This is the first year that all reports were submitted on time. There were no issues of noncompliance indicated on the reports. Twenty three of our 25 member public libraries indicated the system provided effective leadership in 2015. Favorable comments were reported in the areas of consulting, courier, customer service, legislation and advocacy, poverty awareness grants, summer reading program grants, technology support (NESS), and V-Cat support and implementation of a discovery product. Improvement was requested in the areas of communication

and collaboration opportunities for member libraries, representation by librarians from all 7 counties on the WVLS/V-Cat Steering Committee, circulation statistical reporting, and technology communication and support for small libraries. Staff will follow up with these directors for more information and seek ways to enhance our services delivery model where appropriate.

Public Library System Redesign Project

In late January WiLS, the agency contracted by DPI to manage the Public Library System Redesign (PLSR) project, recruited volunteers to join workgroups in areas covering interlibrary loan, delivery, consulting, continuing education, electronic databases, integrated library systems, resource libraries, technology and Chapter 43. Just over 100 applications were received. Leadership – which includes one lead and one facilitator - for each of the workgroups was then selected and **Marla Sepnafski** was asked to facilitate the Chapter 43 workgroup. In February WiLS requested each member public library and system to complete a series of surveys covering the service areas mentioned above. During PLSR Workgroup Orientation and Planning sessions held March 9-10, applications were reviewed to determine the workgroup composition. Liaisons from DPI, PLSR Steering Committee and WiLS were available to advise the process. Progress reports and more information about the Wisconsin PLSR Project may be found on the PLSR website at www.plsr.info

RDC Partnership Structuring and Formalization

WVLS continues to invest time in cultivating the Regional Data Center (RDC) Partnership with IFLS. Preliminary discussion and work on a business model for the partnership have taken place, and continued effort in development is underway. A large part of the success of the partnership to date is due to very good professional relationships between key WVLS and IFLS staff and their respective directors. Trustee Support has also been a significant boon. Structuring the partnership is a necessity as our systems work toward inclusive services sharing and fair division of resources (fiscal, capital, and human) to develop and maintain shared infrastructure. Formalization of the partnership and development of a business model to frame that formalization is important in the fortification of the partnership against key staff changes which could bring management-level changes in operational philosophies.

CONTINUING EDUCATION & TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

WVLS and several other systems co-sponsored the **2016 Wild Wisconsin Winter Web Conference** held on January 20-21, 2016. Slides and videos of the 16 one-hour sessions may be found at <http://www.wildwisconsinweb.com/recordings--slides.html>

“Bullet-proof Leadership” workshop with Pat Wagner - The all-day program held on February 23 was attended by 25 individuals from member libraries and WVLS staff. It featured half day sessions on “Everyday Leadership for Library Staff” and “Getting Along with Nice People in Difficult Situations.” Wisconsin native Pat Wagner is a trainer and consultant who has worked for libraries since 1978. She focuses on those skills that support their success: improving productivity, workplace relationships, and career advancement. Pat’s time in Wisconsin was a collaborative effort among WVLS, NFLS, SCLS, and Bridges Library System. The day received rave reviews with registrants urging WVLS to bring her back next year.

The 29th annual **Children’s Book Fest** was held in Rhinelander on March 8-9 featuring presenters and a display of award winning books provided by the Cooperative children’s Book Center (CCBC). Children’s Book Fest began as a WVLS youth services workshop that became an annual event. Following our example, similar events are now held throughout the state. School and public librarians, reading specialists, teachers and parents attending both the evening and day programs are enthusiastic about the opportunity to hear book talks by the CCBC staff and examine books from the CCBC Choices list. The annual WVLS Grassroots Gathering on the afternoon of March 9 following Children’s Book Fest brought together 10 school and public youth librarians in a collaborative exchange of shared issues and ideas. A summary of that discussion (**attached as Exhibit 10-B**) was forwarded to DPI.

Digitize Your Local History! - Three 7-hour training sessions to guide library staff through the process of scanning, digitizing, creating metadata and a web-friendly version of their community's local historic photographs using ResCarta will be held on March 29-31. Classes are limited to 6 persons due to the hands-on-nature of the instruction. Details are provided in the attached workshop flyer ([Exhibit 10-C](#)).

Inese Christman, WLA's 2016 **Technical Services Section** Chair, and **Lori Burgess**, WLA's 2016 Technical Services Section Chair-Elect, are **planning programs** for the upcoming Wisconsin Association of Public Libraries (WAPL) Conference in May 2016 and the Wisconsin Library Association Conference in October 2016.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

LEGISLATION – Winding up the 2015-2016 Legislative Session

SB 466/AB 609 **The Return of Library Materials bill was signed into law as Act 169 by Governor Walker on February 29.** Co-authored by Senator Sheila Harsdorf (R-River Falls) and Representative Nancy VanderMeer (R-Tomah) with bi-partisan support from 27 co-sponsors, it provided clear statutory support for libraries to disclose limited patron information when seeking assistance from a collection agency or law enforcement to retrieve lost/long overdue items or payment for same.

SB 717/AB 704 **The Tribal College and Joint County Libraries** bill was co-authored by Senator Tom Tiffany (R-Hazelhurst) and Representative Jeff Mursau (R-Crivitz), with Senators Wanggard and Bewley co-sponsoring. It would allow a tribal college-county joint library to participate in a public library system. **WLA has registered in support of this bill.**

STATUS: The bill was passed by the Assembly and received a hearing on March 1 before the Senate Committee on Elections and Local Government which voted approval and recommended passage on March 8. The final Senate floor session was scheduled for March 15 with over 300 bills pending. With no opposition so far noted, it is expected this bill will be scheduled for a voice vote.

With passage of THREE proactive library related bills (the two above and Act 99 regarding minimum number of system board members)...AND maintenance of funding for public library systems, the four statewide resource contracts and BadgerLink...this has been one of the most successful sessions on record for library issues.

The bills championed by WLA provided further opportunities for relationship building activities and fostering a greater understanding of what public library systems are and do.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

On Library Legislative Day, WVLS visitors learned Senator Tiffany and Representative Mursau would be requesting a Joint **Legislative Council Study** to address cross county library payments. This is not surprising. When Shawano County Supervisors passed a resolution in December asking for a statutory change allowing counties to opt out of cross county library payments in favour of direct billing of patrons by libraries, Tiffany and Mursau were among seven legislators specifically named to receive copies. The 22 member Joint Legislative Council considers requests and selects topics from among those supported by at least 12 votes. Appointed study committees made up of legislators and citizens who are knowledgeable about the topic and interested in developing public policy meet during the summer months. WLA LD&L recognizes the need for a well-developed position paper and talking points outlining a workable solution.

WLA LD&L will be following up on the **Return of Library Materials bill** with a WAPL program co-sponsored by WLTF. Working title: "Collecting what's due: Implementing the Return of Library Materials Act" to provide the resources to both understand the interpretation and implementation of the law.

The “**Libraries Transform**” poster project unveiled at Library Legislative Day had the goal of capturing all 132 legislators as well as the constitutional officers. Funding from the WLA Foundation has been requested to cover cost of duplication and distribution of finished posters to libraries in each district.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (HANDOUTS)

- 2016 WVLS Organizational Chart
- 2016 WVLS Fact Sheet
- T.B. Scott Free Library 2015 Annual Report
- “Building a Better Board of Trustees”; *American Libraries*; November/December 2015

UPCOMING EVENTS

- March 1 – Vendor-Sort begins at Waltco
- March 3 – Meeting at Minocqua PL with Frontier (Klingbeil)
- March 4 – Deep Freeze upgrades at public libraries in Clark County (Heitman)
- March 7 – WVLS/V-Cat Steering Committee meeting (Christman, Sepnafski)
- March 8 – WiscNet Board meeting (Klingbeil); Madison
- March 8 – Deep Freeze upgrades at public libraries in Taylor County (Heitman)
- March 8-9 – **Children’s Book Fest and Grassroots Gathering (Wendt)**
- March 9-10 – PLSR Workgroup Orientation (Sepnafski); DeForest
- March 10 – Taylor County Broadband Meeting (Klingbeil)
- March 11 – Deep Freeze upgrade at T.B. Scott Library (Heitman); Merrill
- March 15 – Deep Freeze upgrade at the Antigo PL (Heitman)
- March 15 – New Director Orientation (Hafemeister, Sepnafski, Wendt); Loyal
- March 15-19 – Innovative User Group Conference (Christman); San Francisco
- March 16 – New Director Orientation (Hafemeister, Sepnafski, Wendt); Neillsville
- March 17 – **“Ditching Dewey” – a webinar sponsored by NFLS and WVLS**
- March 17 – LINK meeting (Klingbeil); Merrill
- March 18 – Deep Freeze upgrade at the Minocqua PL (Heitman)
- March 19 – WVLS Board of Trustees meeting (Sepnafski, Wendt, Klingbeil, Hildebrand)
- March 21 – Board of Trustees meeting (Sepnafski); Loyal
- March 21 – Start date for new Abbotsford Public Library Director Jenny Jochimsen
- March 22 – Krause, Howard and Co. Auditor visit (Hildebrand)
- March 25 – WVLS office closed
- March 29 – **ResCarta Training (Christman); Nicolet College, Rhinelander**
- March 30 – **ResCarta Training (Christman); WVLS office**
- March 30 – Consultation with Library Director (Sepnafski); Merrill
- March 31 – **ResCarta training (Christman); Medford**
- April 1 – WLA’s LD&L Committee meeting (Wendt); Madison
- April 6 – **“Managing Employee Performance: or, How to Boss Your Friends Around” – a webinar sponsored by NFLS and WVLS**
- April 7 – V-Cat Council meeting (Christman, Mroczenski)

- April 14 – WVLS Library Advisory Committee meeting (Wendt, Sepnafski, Christman, Klingbeil)
- April 21 – LINK meeting (Klingbeil); Merrill
- April 21 – WPLC Steering Committee meeting (Christman)
- April 21 – PLSR project communications meeting (Sepnafski)
- April 26 – WisCat User Group webinar (Mroczenski)
- April 26 – Forest County Library Board meeting (Wendt); Laona
- April 28 – Special Services Consultants meeting (Wendt); DeForest
- May 10-11 – WiscNet Future Technologies Conference (Klingbeil); Madison
- May 11 – SRLAAW meeting (Sepnafski); Oshkosh
- May 11-13 – WAPL Conference (Sepnafski, Christman, Wendt); Oshkosh
- May 21 – WVLS Board of Trustees meeting (Sepnafski, Christman, Klingbeil, Wendt, Hildebrand)

Happy Spring!

Marla