



Tuesday, March 13, 2018



# "Need to Know" Legislative Newsletter for Library Leaders

...from Wisconsin Library Association

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**2019 Federal Budget Call to Action!**  
Call your Representative before March 19!



The White House FY2019 budget calls for eliminating the Institute of Museum & Library Services (IMLS), the only federal agency charged with providing support to libraries and museums, as well as the Dept. of Education's Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL). *If you're having a*

*déjà vu moment, it's because the same thing happened a year ago.* Though the budget proposal is concerning, Congress has the final say over the FY2019 appropriation *and efforts by the library community have been effective in winning support.* FY2018 funding for IMLS and IAL were maintained at FY2017 levels because of timely advocacy by library supporters.

The [IMLS Grants to States Program allocated \\$2,724,256.00 to Wisconsin](#) through the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA). LSTA funding pays for a significant portion of the DPI staff members responsible for leadership and coordination of Wisconsin library services such as the [BadgerLink](#) online database, [WISCAT](#) inter-library loan, Wisconsin [Document Depository Program](#) and [Wisconsin Digital Archives](#). For more information about Wisconsin LSTA [GO HERE](#).

Library champions in the House have begun circulating what are called “Dear Appropriator” letters to their colleagues in support of FY2019 IMLS and IAL funding. [More information here.](#)

**Please call your US House Representative to ask that s/he sign on to the letters. The deadline for signatures is March 19.**

**Use [ALA’s Legislative Action Center](#) or phone using office numbers linked below.** This is the basic message: *“Hello, I am a constituent of Representative [name] from [where you live]. I am calling today to urge the representative to sign two Dear Appropriator letters supporting over \$210 million in library funding – one letter for the Library Services and Technology Act and one for the Innovative Approaches to Literacy program.”* Wisconsin library services are supported by a three-legged stool of federal, state and local/county dollars.

**Wisconsin members of the US House of Representatives:**

[Paul Ryan – Wisconsin 1<sup>st</sup> district offices](#)

[Mark Pocan – Wisconsin 2<sup>nd</sup> district offices](#)

[Ron Kind – Wisconsin 3<sup>rd</sup> district offices](#)

[Gwen Moore – Wisconsin 4<sup>th</sup> district offices](#)

[James Sensenbrenner – Wisconsin 5<sup>th</sup> district offices](#)

[Glenn Grothman – Wisconsin 6<sup>th</sup> district offices](#)

[Sean Duffy – Wisconsin 7<sup>th</sup> district offices](#)

[Mike Gallagher – Wisconsin 8<sup>th</sup> district offices](#)

**Questions? Contact Sherry Machones** [sherrymachones@gmail.com](mailto:sherrymachones@gmail.com), Wisconsin’s ALA Chapter Councilor and the WLA Library Development & Legislation Committee’s Federal Relations Coordinator.

## **National Library Legislative Day is May 7-8**



Sherry Machones is also coordinating the Wisconsin delegation going to ALA **NATIONAL LIBRARY LEGISLATIVE DAY in Washington, D.C. on May 7-8.** [Registration is open!](#) Or sign up for [Virtual National Library Legislative Day.](#)

## **Spring Election Day is April 3 – GO VOTE!**

The only statewide race on the April 3 ballot is for Justice of the Supreme Court, where [Rebecca Dallet](#), and [Michael Srenock](#) are competing for an open seat. County circuit court judgeships (very few of which are contested), plus many local municipal, county, and school board will be voted on. Go to [My Vote Wisconsin](#), click on *What’s On My Ballot?* and enter your address to see a preview or find information about voting early or absentee. Or visit the Wisconsin League of Women Voters website <http://www.vote411.org/ballot>

**A statewide referendum on whether Wisconsin should amend its Constitution to eliminate the Office of the State Treasurer is also on the April 3 ballot.** The

Wisconsin Educational Media & Technology Association (WEMTA) has posted information about the referendum question on its [legislative blogspot](#).

## **Librarians and Legislators @ Library Legislative Day!**

Many thanks to the **2018 WLA Library Legislative Day** team headed up by Nick Dimassis and Jim Ramsey, as well as WLA members who contributed to the morning briefing and the intrepid attendees who made it to Madison for an excellent day! While weather and road conditions may have been less than ideal, the mood at the Concourse Hotel and throughout the day's appointments with Senators and Assembly Representatives was celebratory in nature as our members were warmly received and legislators were thanked for their support.

See below for a selection of photos submitted by WLA members. If you have any to share in subsequent issues of this newsletter, please send them to [kawendt@wvls.org](mailto:kawendt@wvls.org)



**ABOVE:** WLA Legislator of the Year Rep. Mary Felzkowski with WLA Executive Director Plumer Lovelace; Library Champion Rep. Amy Loudenbeck with Lovelace and LD&L Co-Chair Kathy Pletcher.



**ABOVE:** WLA President Marge Loch-Wouters, Library Champion Sen. Patrick Testin, and Kathy Pletcher; at right, Plumer Lovelace and Library Champion Assistant State Superintendent Kurt Kiefer.



**ABOVE:** Library Champion Rep. Rob Swearingen with his 34<sup>th</sup> Assembly District Librarian Fan Club.



**ABOVE:** Special Recognition Awards were presented to legislative aides Matt Wimmer (Sen. Testin, formerly Rep. Swearingen), Danielle Zimmerman (Rep. Loudenbeck) and Liz Portz (Rep. Felzkowski).



**ABOVE:** Sen. Joel Kitchens with NFLS Director Tracy Vreeke; Sen. Bob Cowles and Muehl Public Library (Seymour) Director Elizabeth Timmons; Sen. Jerry Petrowski with WVLS Trustee Mike Otten and Laurie Ollhoff from T.B. Scott Free Library (Merrill).



**ABOVE** Rep. Todd Novak and **BELOW** Rep. Travis Tranel with Southwest Library System friends.



**ABOVE:** Senator Tom Tiffany (center) with 12<sup>th</sup> Senate District friends from NFLS, NWLS and WVLS.



**ABOVE:** WVLS Trustee Mike Otten and Laurie Ollhoff from T.B. Scott Free Library (Merrill) with Rep. Pat Snyder. **Have you written your THANK YOU NOTES** to your Senator and Assembly Representative thanking them for their support of Wisconsin libraries in the 2017-2018 session???

## Legislative Update

The **Public Library Data and Technology Training Bill** ([2017 Assembly Bill 572](#) and [2017 Senate Bill 491](#)) will be signed into law by Governor Walker on March 14 at the Florence County Library in Florence, WI.

[AB857/SB713](#) which sought to make changes to the duties and authority of the **Board of Commissioners of Public Lands** and use of the **Common School Fund** neither advanced out of committee on the Senate side nor received a committee hearing on the Assembly side before the Assembly adjourned for the session. No further action is anticipated at this time.

## League of Municipalities and Wisconsin Counties Association Magazines Feature Libraries

Everything libraries, including lots of comments curated from Facebook and Twitter from library staff and even a few patrons is the theme of the [League of Wisconsin Municipalities February Municipality magazine](#). The Wisconsin Counties Association also featured libraries in the February issue of their *Wisconsin Counties* magazine. County officials already have paper copies in hand so don't be surprised if it is mentioned in your community. [Watch this space](#) for a link to the entire issue which features profiles of the [Walter E. Olson Memorial Library \(Eagle River\)](#), [Beloit Public Library](#) and [Madison Public Library](#).

## Concluding Thought

*"In the nonstop tsunami of global information, librarians provide us with floaties and teach us to swim." – Linton Weeks*

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**About the WLA...**

The Wisconsin Library Association engages, inspires and advocates for library workers and supporters to improve and promote library services for the people of Wisconsin.

Visit our [website](#) to learn more about us and how you can get involved.



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