



Thursday, December 20, 2018



"Need to Know" Legislative Newsletter for Library Leaders

...from Wisconsin Library Association

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GOOD NEWS!

Museum and Library Services Act is Reauthorized



The Museum and Library Services Act (MLSA) [Senate Bill 3530](#) was reauthorized by the House of Representatives on December 19 by a vote of 331 to 28 with 73 not voting. MLSA has more than six decades of history. The original legislation from the 1950s was first reauthorized in 1960 and again in 1964. It has received

broad bipartisan support and renewals over the years. The last MLSA renewal in 2010 authorized federal funding through 2016. Since then, the bill has been introduced seven times. It received unanimous consent from the U.S. Senate on December 4.

The [House vote tally](#) tells us Representatives Duffy, Gallagher and Moore voted AYE, Representatives Grothman and Sensenbrenner voted NO and Representatives Kind Pocan and Ryan were among those not voting. Please thank Duffy, Gallagher and Moore for their support.

[Gwen Moore – Wisconsin 4th district offices](#)

[Sean Duffy – Wisconsin 7th district offices](#)

[Mike Gallagher – Wisconsin 8th district offices](#)

Calls and emails from WLA members to Wisconsin members of the House of Representatives were important to the successful effort, particularly as the decision whether to bring the bill forward in the waning days of the 115th Congress rested with Speaker Paul Ryan. Special thanks to Bryan McCormick, director of the Hedberg Public Library (Janesville) for his [public letter to Speaker Ryan](#) published in the Janesville Gazette on December 17. Major appreciation to Wisconsin's ALA Chapter Councilor and the WLA LD&L's Federal Relations Coordinator Sherry Machones for keeping us on top of this issue throughout the complicated plot twists and turns.

Biennial Budget Process Update **WLA 2017-2019 State Budget Priorities**

The Wisconsin Library Association is advocating for these library items which are included in the 2019-2021 Department of Public Instruction budget:

- **Additional aid for Public Library Systems:** Requesting continuation of the \$1.5 million gained in FY2017-2019 plus \$2.5 million in 2019-2020 and \$4 million in 2020-2021, resulting in a total of \$19,013,100 for library system aid in the second year. (Emphasis on system support for local library services in the areas of improved access through technology, workforce development and lifelong learning).
- **Cost to continue funding for other core library services:** Modest increases to maintain core library services are requested for BadgerLink, Newsline for the Blind and the four statewide resource contracts (Cooperative Children's Book Center, Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library, and inter-library loan access to Milwaukee Public Library and UW-Madison collections).

[The entire DPI biennial budget request is linked HERE.](#) The sections related to the library items listed above are found on document pages 163-173.



WLA is exploring potential legislative support through the state budget process for [Recollection Wisconsin](#). The collaborative initiative to digitize and share photographs, documents, artifacts and other historical resources in the collections of libraries and cultural heritage organizations across Wisconsin has been funded by various charitable foundations and (currently) through an LSTA grant since 2016. Its governing board is seeking long term sustainable funding now that the project has grown to be the seventh largest state-based operation of its kind in the U.S. Stay tuned for additional information!

ACTION ITEM: Send a holiday card!

Handwritten notes from the library community have become WLA's "brand." Now is the time to communicate with your legislators in a position to influence the budget process about including increased funding for public library system aids, as well as maintain other core state library services.



You can help by talking to your Senator and Assembly Representative, especially if your legislators are members of leadership or the Joint Finance Committee! All returning legislators provided unanimous support for library funding and related legislative initiatives in the last session!

Send your two legislators a holiday card from your library!

Addresses for State Senators: P. O. BOX 7882, MADISON, WI 53707-7882

Addresses for Assembly Representatives: LAST NAMES A-L: P.O. Box 8952, Madison, WI 53708-8952; LAST NAMES M-Z: P.O. Box 8953, Madison, WI 53708-8953

See **Legislative Reference Resources** below for links to WLA's 2019-2020 Legislative Guide, Legislative Leaders and addresses for new members!

Telling your library story!

Invite your legislators to hold their January listening sessions at your library. Then tell your library's story. What public library system does your county belong to? How do public library system services strengthen your local library? How does your local public library support community members seeking to improve their employment skills, change careers and apply for jobs? Or provide citizens of all ages who have no reliable home Internet access with vital broadband for homework assignments, government services, and online courses? Or offer lifelong learning opportunities from early literacy programs that help young brains get ready for school to programs for the elderly that help preserve cognitive function and build important social networks?

Legislative Reference Resources

It will take a while for legislative office assignments to be sorted out and the [State Senate](#) and [Assembly](#) web pages will not be adjusted to reflect departing and new members until January 7. Meanwhile what's a fact-based librarian to do? Here are some guides to tide you over.

- [WLA's 2019-2020 Legislative Guide](#) was revised after the November 6 election. It is sorted for public library system boundaries and includes libraries in each legislative district.
- Click links for companion guides listing [Wisconsin Legislative Leaders](#) (including members of Joint Finance Committee) and [New Members of the](#)

[Senate and Assembly](#). FRESHMAN legislators need library love! **If your Senator or Representative is on the new members list, please get in touch and invite them to your library!**

- To verify your correct Senate and Assembly districts, enter your personal address or the address of your library in the search box at [Who are my legislators?](#)

State Officers, Legislators Sworn in January 7 **More opportunities for relationship building!**



Inauguration of Wisconsin constitutional officers and swearing in of the new legislature will take place on January 7, 2019. Governor Tony Evers, Lt. Governor Mandela Barnes, Attorney General Josh Kaul, Secretary of State Doug La Follette and State Treasurer Sara Godlewski will take their oaths of office in a capitol rotunda ceremony beginning at 11:30 AM. There is limited seating for the event that is open to the public, but everyone is invited to listen from whatever vantage point they select in the multi-tiered rotunda. An Inaugural Gala will be held that evening to benefit Big Brothers Big Sisters (tickets are \$35). [CLICK HERE](#) for more information. Members of the legislature will convene in their respective houses on January 7 to induct new and re-elected members and there is a general festive open house atmosphere throughout the capitol building.

Library Legislative Day is February 12, 2019



Library Legislative Day will be held at the Madison Concourse Hotel on Tuesday, February 12, 2019.

Register now for Library Legislative Day, scheduled for Tuesday, February 12, 2019 at the Madison Concourse Hotel. [Register online](#) or use the [PDF registration form](#) to mail or fax your reservation to the WLA Office at the number and address provided. If you have not previously registered for a WLA event on line, you will be asked to create a new user profile to enable payment. [GO HERE for more information about hotel reservations](#). Program details are being finalized. **As always, the appointments will be scheduled for attendees by the Legislative Day Committee!** Please register by January 13, 2019.

Concluding Thought

"I have a sort of Christmas morning sense of the library as a big box full of beautiful books." -- Audrey Niffenegger

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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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