



Thursday, May 30, 2019



"Need to Know" Legislative Newsletter for Library Leaders

...from Wisconsin Library Association

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Biennial Budget Update

Joint Finance Committee decisions regarding state library aid



The legislature's Joint Finance Committee (JFC) voted on the Department of Public Instruction portion of the Governor's executive budget request on May 23. An omnibus motion including the state library aid items listed below passed on a party line vote, with the four minority members supporting the Governor's higher investment in K-12 education initiatives voting "no."

There was no public discussion of the library items on May 23. Governor Evers had requested a \$4 million increase for state aid to public library systems over the biennium. However, legislative majority leadership chose to build their version of the budget using the current 2017-19 budget as a starting point.

The LD&L budget team has worked since January to ensure that items from the DPI section of the Governor's Executive Budget supported by WLA were included in the JFC version of the budget. Our JFC friends requested a Legislative Fiscal Bureau analysis of options for funding public library system aids – a necessary step for approval of any increase – which became [LFB Paper #603](#). Alternative 2 achieved the necessary support to move forward. See below for more details.

Public Library System Aid – Approved \$1,000,000 annually above base level funding of \$15,013,100 for FY 2019-2020 and FY 2020-2021. This means the \$16,013,100 shared among Wisconsin public library systems in 2019 will be maintained at that amount in 2020 and 2021. Two years ago, Joint Finance Committee members made a significant additional investment in public library services to support new technology resources and enhanced services in the areas of workforce development and lifelong learning. An extra \$500,000 for the first year of the current biennial budget and \$1 million in the second year was approved. The extra appropriation ending seven years of flat funding was granted on a “one time” basis. Thanks to excellent relationship building and contacts from the library community, that extra support has just been renewed at \$2 million – \$1 million for each year of the 2020-2021 biennial budget.

Library Service Contracts – Approved the request for \$133,200 in 2019-2020 and \$168,100 in 2020-2021 above base level of \$1,174,300 to fully fund the cost of DPI service contracts with the Cooperative Children’s Book Center, Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library and inter-loan services from Milwaukee Public Library and UW-Madison.

BadgerLink and Newsline for the Blind – Approved the request for \$345,800 in 2020-2021 above base level funding of \$2,937,500 to maintain contracts with current BadgerLink vendors and the current level of services from Newsline for the Blind.

NOTE: Since the 2009-2011 state budget, revenue support for all the above items has come entirely from the segregated Universal Service Fund via a telecommunications service surcharge administered under the Wisconsin Public Service Commission. No general purpose revenue (GPR) is appropriated for these state library aid line items.

Recollection Wisconsin – The Governor’s executive budget chose to transition program costs for [Recollection Wisconsin](#) from grants to inclusion under the state funded WISELearn resource portal to ensure that the state’s history moves sustainably into the future. Recollection Wisconsin was not added into the JFC budget as a fifth statewide resource contract as WLA proposed and capacity will need to be found within the current [WISELearn](#) resource portal appropriation.

ACTION ITEM: It’s Thank You Note Writing Time!



It is important that all 16 members of the Joint Finance Committee receive thank you notes from WLA members for being a friend to Wisconsin libraries. *We need to keep our messaging positive*, as JFC members have yet to wrap up their work and their finished product needs to make its way through both houses of the legislature and across the Governor’s desk. Everyone is our friend! **It is also appropriate to thank Governor Tony Evers** for his support at this juncture.

For this assignment, whether or not you are a constituent of any of these legislators does not matter. The whole state benefits, therefore we are ALL their constituents. If any JFC members are YOUR legislators, please also include recognition for their hard-working staff. Special thanks go to 31st Assembly District Rep. **Amy Loudenbeck** (R-Clinton) who was once again our JFC champion and Assistant Majority Leader Rep. **Mary Felzkowski** (R-Irma) for timely assistance.

Handwritten thank you notes are recommended. Doing a mail merge to all using one short letter on library letterhead is acceptable if a handwritten note appears under your signature at the bottom. Please do not email. Receiving an appreciative note delivered by U.S. Mail is a Big Event in legislative offices at any time of the year. It is especially remembered by JFC members and their staff during times when other snail and e-mail is frequently unhappy or contentious.

[Members of the Joint Finance Committee are listed here.](#) **Address for all 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.

Write to Governor Tony Evers at 115 East State Capitol, P.O. Box 7863, Madison WI 53702.

Joint Finance Committee Public Hearings Report

A huge THANK YOU goes out to library supporters who attended and testified at the four Joint Finance Committee public hearings around the state, literally standing up for libraries! Letters were written and phone calls were made – you are all heroes!



April 3 – Janesville

Site Captains: Nick Dimassis and Steve Ohs
Speaker was Nick Dimassis (Beloit PL). He was joined by Steve Ohs (Lakeshores Library System), Joe Davies (Burlington PL), Kirsten Almo (Edgerton PL), Jennifer Bernetzke (Schreiner Memorial Library - Lancaster) and Angela Noel (Brodhead PL).

<https://wiseeye.org/2019/04/05/joint-committee-on-finance-budget-2019-public-hearing/> Library testimony: 1:46:25



April 10 – Oak Creek

Site Captain: Kathy Klager
Speakers were Alexandra Harvancik (Horicon PL) and Karol Kennedy (Menomonee Falls PL). They were joined by Betsy Bleck (Oconomowoc PL), Connie Meyer (Bridges Library System/BLS), Linda Ager (BLS trustee), Nancy Wilhelm (BLS and Alice Baker PL, Eagle, trustee), Richard Nawrocki (BLS trustee), Jill Fuller (BLS), Beth Bechtel (BLS), Dan Klager, Kathy Klager (retired), Pauline Haass PL, Sussex), Brittany Larson (Muskego PL), Steve Hesser (Milwaukee Co. Federated Library System/MCFLS), Jill Lininger (Oak Creek PL), Pete Loeffel (Wauwatosa PL), Susan Draeger-Anderson (North Shore PL), Kurt Glaisner (MCFLS)

and North Shore trustee), Peter Holtz (Wauwatosa PL trustee), Barb Brattin (Kenosha PL), Vicki Teal Lovely (South Central Library System/SCLS), Gerard Saylor (Lake Mills PL), and Jennie Stoltz (retired, Pewaukee PL).

<https://wiseeye.org/2019/04/10/joint-committee-on-finance-budget-2019-public-hearing-in-oak-creek/> Library testimony: 1:16:40



April 15 – River Falls

Site Captain: Heather Johnson

Speakers were Heather Johnson (River Falls PL) and Pamela Westby (L.E. Phillips PL, Eau Claire).

They were joined by Ginny

Scheiderer (Somerset PL), Krissa Coleman (Hazel Mackin Community Library, Roberts), Jim Tripp (IFLS trustee, Dunn County Supervisor), Judy Achterhof (IFLS trustee, St. Croix County Supervisor), Mary Ellen Brue (IFLS trustee, representing St. Croix County), Michael Norman (IFLS trustee, representing Pierce County), Tiffany Meyer (Ellsworth PL), and John Thompson (IFLS Library System).

<https://wiseeye.org/2019/04/15/joint-committee-on-finance-budget-2019-public-hearing-in-river-falls/> Library testimony at 52:10



April 24 – Green Bay

Site Captains: Tracy Vreeke and Kathy Pletcher

The main speakers were Tracy Vreeke (Nicolet Federated Library System/NFLS) and Kristie Hauer (Shawano Co. Library).

They were joined by Jamie Matczak

(Wisconsin Valley Library Service/WVLS), Bradley Shipps (Outagamie Waupaca Library System/OWLS), Sue Vater Olsen (Scandinavia Public Library), Megan Theys (NFLS), Lori Baugart – (NFLS), Becca Berger (NFLS trustee), Tony Yaggie (NFLS trustee), Katy Lefebvre (NFLS Trustee), Ken Harter (NFLS Trustee), Jen Thiele (Marinette Co. Consolidated Libraries), Sarah Sugden (Brown Co. Library) and Emily Rogers (Brown Co. Library).

<https://wiseeye.org/2019/04/24/joint-committee-on-finance-budget-2019-public-hearing-in-green-bay/> Library testimony at 37:07

Save the Date!

2020 Library Legislative Day is February 11

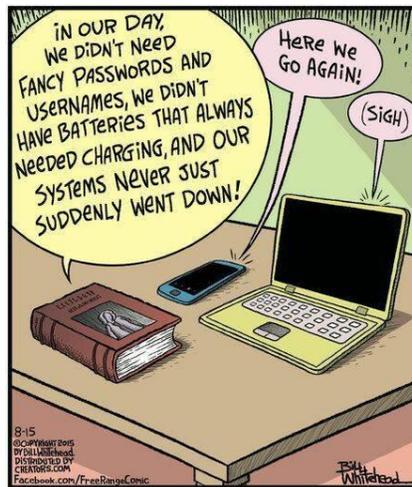
Preliminary information about Library Legislative Day 2020 in Madison is posted on the WLA Legislative Day page for those who wish to make early reservations at the Concourse Hotel. <http://wla.wisconsinlibraries.org/legislative/legislative-day>

Legislative and State Government Reference Resources

The [State Senate](#) and [Assembly](#) web pages provide details on legislative leadership, as well as contact information and committee assignments for individual members.

- [WLA's 2019-2020 Legislative Guide](#) was sorted for public library system boundaries and includes libraries in each legislative district.
- Click here for [Wisconsin Legislative Leaders](#) (including members of Joint Finance Committee)
- 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?](#)
- Information about Governor Evers, Lt. Governor Barnes and the executive branch is found [HERE](#).
- [State of Wisconsin Employee Telephone & Email Directory](#)
- [State Agency Staff with Responsibilities to the Legislature Directory for 2019-2020 Legislative Session](#) (updated May 16, 2019)

Concluding Thought



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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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