

Wisconsin Valley Library Service



Sepnafski Wins Award



The Wisconsin Library Association (WLA) has selected WVLS Director Marla Sepnafski as its 2019 Librarian of the Year. Sepnafski will receive her award on October 10 at the WLA Annual Conference at the Kalahari Convention Center in Wisconsin Dells.

This annual award is given to a Wisconsin librarian in recognition of outstanding leadership and accomplishment in library service.

"I am honored and flattered to win this award," Sepnafski said. "I couldn't do the work that I love without supportive staff, board members and colleagues."

After receiving her bachelor's degree in physical education, Sepnafski joined the Wisconsin Valley Library Service (WVLS) staff in a part-time role in 1981. Over the last 38 years, she took on professional and fiscal responsibilities within the organization. She earned her MLS from the UW-Madison School of Library and Information Science in 1991. Sepnafski became WVLS executive director in 2007, following a national search.

Under Sepnafski's leadership, WVLS has evolved and responded as changes in society, digital resources, and information technology created new demands and opportunities.

"Marla's nomination and testimonial letters cited her leadership, innovation, collaboration and high standards of exceptional service," said Anna Palmer, chair of the WLA Awards and Honors Committee. "The impressions from Marla's staff, colleagues and local library directors strongly echoed her accomplishments over a long career in the library profession."

Congratulations, Marla!

"Tech Days" Registration Now Open

Immerse yourself in a full day of technology trends, networking, break-out sessions, and more. The [Tech Days Workshop Series](#) is here, and registration for Tech Days "West" is open!

The workshop in Wausau will take place on Wednesday, November 6.

[Register for This Workshop.](#)



Agenda:

9:00 – 9:25 am — Register and light refreshments

9:30 – 9:35 am — Welcome, orientation, and introductions

9:35am – 12:00pm — Keynote Presentation, Kris Turner

Part 1: I Hate This Website: Updating Websites to Stay Current While Still Keeping your Patrons Happy.

We've all been the victim of the dreaded website update – your favorite website gets an update and suddenly you can't find anything that you need. How do we ensure that when we are giving our websites a facelift that our patrons can still successfully navigate the page?

Part 2: Mind the Gap: How to Navigate your Way Across the Digital Divide (and Why That isn't as Easy as it Sounds).

The headline version is simple – the 'born digital' generation can handle any technology changes that come their way and the older generations cannot – but is that true? How do librarians keep themselves up-to-date on new tech developments and ensure that patrons who need help with tech are able to find it?

12:00 – 1:00 pm — Lunch. Options: pay \$10 for a taco and nacho bar, or you may bring your own.

1:00 – 2:00 pm — Break Out Session 1: Digital Security or Privacy Basics

2:00 – 2:15 pm — Break

2:15 – 3:15 pm — Break Out Session 2: You Can Do IT! or Database Down Low

3:15 – 3:30 pm — Wrap Up

The workshop is worth 6 contact hours, and also eligible for technology credits.

You can also register for the Tech Days Workshop in [Rice Lake](#) on Nov. 5, or in [Sparta](#) on Nov. 7.

For more information, contact Jamie Matczak at jmatczak@wvls.org or 920-455-0668.

5 Reasons You Should Attend the WLA Conference



Registration opened last month for the 2019 WLA Conference in Wisconsin Dells, scheduled for Oct. 8-11. [Early bird registration rates](#) are available until September 16, so the next two weeks are the perfect time to register. Why should you try to attend?

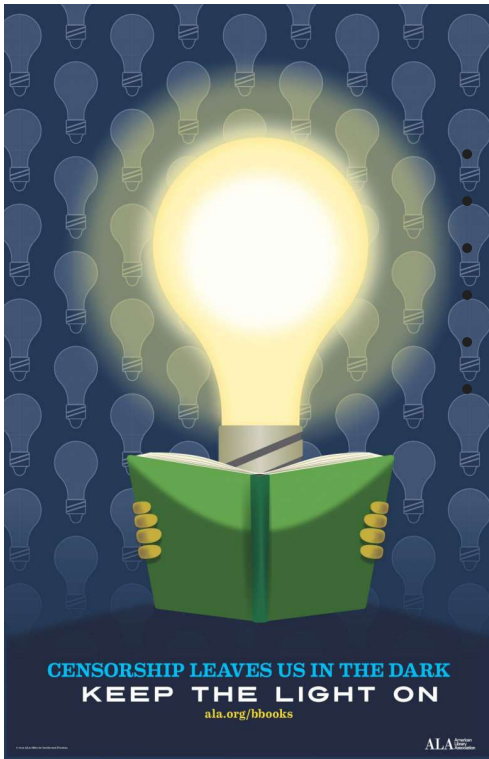
- 1) You get a lot of bang for your buck. The WLA Conference spans two and a half days of programs to attend. The registration rates for WLA members and non-members at \$185 and \$350 are of great value. There are sessions that would be helpful to all library colleagues, regardless of position and size of the library.
- 2) You receive contact hours. For librarians who need contact hours for re-certification, attending the entire conference provides 15 of them. This means that almost 20% of the 100 contact hours needed in a five-year-period may be received in just over two days!
- 3) Seek new ideas, initiatives, and ways to "Celebrate Every Story" at the poster session, scheduled for Thursday, October 10, at 4:30 p.m.
- 4) You can make or renew connections. There are plenty of opportunities at lunch, dinner, and during breaks to connect with hundred of library colleagues from all over the state.
- 5) Water slides!

Banned Books Week Set For September

Banned Books Week (September 22-28, 2019) is an annual event celebrating the freedom to read.

Typically held during the last week of September, it spotlights current and historical attempts to censor books in libraries and schools. It brings together the entire book community — librarians, booksellers, publishers, journalists, teachers, and readers of all types — in shared support of the freedom to seek and to express ideas, even those some consider unorthodox or unpopular.

The books featured during Banned Books Week have all been targeted for removal or restriction in libraries and schools. By focusing on efforts across the country to remove or restrict access to books, Banned Books Week draws national attention to the harms of censorship.



There are several ways your library can acknowledge Banned Books Week this year. Take a look at some of the links below.

- [Free Downloads](#)

- [Display Ideas](#)

- [How to Get Involved](#)

- [Participate in the National Read-out](#)

- [Banned Books Week Q&A](#)

- [Contact ALA to Schedule an Interview](#)

For more information on book challenges and preparation, check out "[Challenged Materials: Prepare Now.](#)"

Mural "Wows" Patrons at Rib Lake Public Library



What about a mural? The idea popped into my head as I considered what would add eye-catching color, excitement, and discussion to the new literacy focused children's area at the Rib Lake Public Library.

I started by putting together a mural proposal request to share ideas and details I hoped to combine in this project. I asked artists to include the following:

1. A "Wow" factor that would draw children and adults to the area and encourage discussion.
2. Include colors from the color scheme I was using in the area (blue, apple green, sunny yellow, and grey)
3. Concepts of "Sing, Play, Read, Write, Talk," whether through words or pictures.
4. A bilingual aspect to reach out to the Hispanic community and help them feel more welcome.

It was important to us that the artist be local. Alise Swan, of Swan Hill Creates, began the mural the last week in July and completed it by the end of August, working 3-5 five days a week. My favorite part is that she worked during open library hours. Our patrons loved it! We hear plenty of "wows" as they come into view of the mural.

The artist brought a “meet the artist” sign and notebook that shared how she was connected to the community and invited patrons to contribute their own questions and comments. They did. Here are a few highlights:

"I sat... and looked... and smiled. Beautiful!" (Steve)

"Jack says, “WOW!” (a grandma writing for her preschooler)

"She's doing a beautiful job with painting. It's so beautiful! ...bringing joy, happiness, and emotions. " (Ashley)

This project is possible because of the [2019 Innovation and Collaboration Literacy Grant](#) we received from the Wisconsin Valley Library Service. Thank you, WVLS!

- Submitted by Krista Blomberg, Rib Lake Public Library

**Want something featured in the October newsletter?
Is your library doing something that you want to share?
Contact Jamie @ jmatczak@wvls.org.**

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