

**Director's Report**  
**WVLS BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**  
**August 21, 2021**

## NOTES OF APPRECIATION

### Summer Library Performer Grant

*"So, I just wanted to let you know that Tom [Pease] was actually able to perform here today! The weather and circumstances of the world allowed it to happen!! It was really fun, too. Thank you and thanks to WVLS for helping to bring this beloved performer to our library. We had young moms with babies in the audience who remember getting up front with Tom when they were kids. It was just so neat."* -- from **Annette Miller**, Tomahawk Public Library Children's Librarian

### V-CAT ILS Administration

*"When do you sleep? Keep up the amazing work you do, it is appreciated! Thank you!"* – from **Kitty Roesler**, MCPL Library Assistant Circulation Lead, to **Katie Zimmermann**, WVLS ILS Administrator for adjustments made to the Sierra system as COVID-19 service decisions were made by MCPL leadership.

*"Thank you so much for all the assistance you provided these past several years. I appreciate and admire the way you communicate and the depth of your knowledge."* – from former E.U. Demmer Memorial Library (Three Lakes) Assistant Director **Lyn Pietila** to **Rachel Metzler**, WVLS Database and ILS Support Specialist for her leadership at WVLS V-Cat Bibliographic Control and Interface Committee meetings.

### LEAN WI Website Development and Support

*"Oh my goodness you are SO good at what you do! That was amazing! I appreciated several things, but I'll name just a few:*

- *Support without any judgement (you always found the positive and pointed it out – that's a gift) and realization that people are busy (and you made things seem do-able ... 5 minutes a month).*
- *Loved how you jumped in and made small changes that looked incredible and set people up for success to keep building on their own.*
- *You're funny (love the beep, boop, bop!)*
- *I am super excited about this opportunity and have done some of this stuff, but now I really feel good about the support when I come across problems or want to figure out how to do something."* – from **Tracey Sorenson**, Menomonie Public Library, to **Anne Hamland**, WVLS Public Library Services Consultant.

*"Thank you for your persistence and effort on this. I can speak from immediate experience that you are by far the most proactive and responsive web developer I've worked with in the last 5 years!"* – from **Erica Brewster**, E U Demmer Memorial Library (Three Lakes) Director, to **Anne Hamland**, WVLS Public Library Services Consultant.

## PEOPLE and LIBRARIES IN THE NEWS

**Superintendent Dr. Jill Underly** and her new administration took office on July 5. Dr. Underly has a deep background in public education, and since 1999 has worked in all facets of public education – PK-16 as a high school and middle school social studies teacher, a University of Wisconsin College of Letters & Science academic advisor, a Title I Consultant and assistant director at the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, an elementary school principal and, most recently, a rural school district superintendent.

**Tessa Michaelson Schmidt**, Youth and Inclusive Services Consultant for DPI's Division for Libraries and Technology, has been named Assistant State Superintendent–Designee State Superintendent for the Division for Libraries and Technology. Tessa assumes the position held by **Kurt Kiefer** who retired in July.

Director of Communications for former State Superintendent Carolyn Stanford Taylor's administration, **Elizabeth Tomev** recently joined DPI's Library Services Team. In her new role, Elizabeth will develop and execute the Library Service Team's strategic communications plan, while working with stakeholders to highlight the amazing work being done in libraries across Wisconsin.

**Joshua Klingbeil** was recently selected to participate in one of four focus groups to review the current DPI LSTA Five-Year Plan.

**Kris Adams Wendt** has been named to a new Funding Analysis Subcommittee of WLA's LD&L (Library Development and Legislation Committee). The committee will work with DPI on matters related to the Public Library System Redesign recommendation to conduct a thorough analysis of the current funding formula for public library systems.

Thorp Public Library Director **Anne Kuipers** resigned from her position in June. The Thorp Public Library Board hired **Carsyn Soderstrom** as her replacement.

**Candice Celestina Smith** recently resigned as director of the Westboro Public Library and the Westboro Library Board is undergoing a search for a new director. Interim director is **Melissa Highfill**.

Crandon Public Library Director **Stephanie Schmidt** resigned to take a position in the Wabeno School District. The Crandon Public Library Board hired Assistant Director **Laurie Renel-Faledas** as her replacement.

The Wisconsin Library Association (WLA) Executive Board recently hired **Laura Sauser** as WLA Executive Director. Sauser brings more than 25 years of cross-industry experience in association management, philanthropy (both fundraising and grant making), marketing, public relations, community relations, and librarianship. She is a member-focused leader with a proven record of implementing successful initiatives and sustaining organizational growth. She replaces **Plumer Lovelace** who resigned from the position on February 26 to take a job at UW-Madison.

## MCPL SYSTEM INVESTIGATION

### August Meeting

The next meeting of the Marathon County Public Library Board of Trustees will be on Monday, August 23 at 12:00pm. The agenda and information packet for this meeting were not available at the time of this writing.

### System Investigation Appears to Be on Hold

A WVLS [April 15 Update](#) announced the **April 19** MCPL Board meeting and alerted readers that the agenda included this item: "**(10 minutes) Follow-up on timeline for public hearing on system change motion - For Discussion and Possible Action.**"

The minutes from the April 19 MCPL Board meeting, received on May 11, state:

*"Follow-up on timeline for public hearing on system change motion. We have gone through the process with the task force of looking at system membership, our board has also gone through the process of voting. In my conversations with county administration, we felt the best plan moving forward would be to communicate with municipalities and have listening sessions so we can learn more from the public and also help them understand why this recommendation was made. A motion was made by Jeff Campo; seconded by Sharon Hunter to allow Ralph to start the process to inform the public in informational meetings about the reason we made the motion to move to a new system. Motion carried."* (The speaker using "my" is former MCPL Director Ralph Illick)

WVLS is not aware of any scheduled informational meetings or listening sessions with the public, nor have agendas for the June and July MCPL Board meetings indicated further discussion and/or action regarding its vote to leave WVLS to join SCLS.

The MCPL Board is currently undergoing a search for a new director. Former director, **Ralph Illick**, resigned in May and MCPL Public Services Manager **Leah Giordano** was subsequently named Interim Director.

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

### 2021-2023 State Budget

The 2021-23 State Budget passed by the Wisconsin Legislature and signed by Governor Evers on July 8 reflects bipartisan support for an important investment in public library services. **It includes an additional \$2.5 million in 2021-2022 and \$4 million in 2022-2023 state aid for regional public library systems** which will enhance the foundational infrastructure delivering additional resources to local libraries and their communities. During Joint Finance Committee (JFC) deliberations on May 27, its members recommended legislative support for Governor Evers' request to augment the critical ongoing investment in public library services in the areas of technology, workforce development and lifelong learning supported by legislators on both sides of the aisle.

JFC member **Senator Mary Felzkowski** played a lead role in championing and securing the public library system aids increase, which was also supported by JFC member **Senator Kathy Bernier** and received additional assistance from these WVLS area legislators who contacted their JFC “budget buddies” on our behalf during the process: **Senator Jerry Petrowski and Assembly Representatives Rob Swearingen and Jim Edming.**

**Additional funding was maintained at levels requested in the Governor’s executive budget for the state library resource contracts** with the Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library, the Cooperative Children’s Book Center, and statewide inter-library loan access to Milwaukee Public Library and UW-Madison collections. BadgerLink and Newline for the Blind are also among core library services maintained at current levels in the next biennium.

## Recollection Wisconsin

The WLA Library Development & Legislation Committee (LD&L) budget team has worked tirelessly since January to ensure all items from the DPI section of the Governor’s 2021-2023 Executive Budget supported by WLA were included in the JFC version of the budget. That included support for the addition of Recollection Wisconsin to the biennial budget as a new line item. Despite considerable interest in the mission and accomplishments of Recollection Wisconsin during meetings with JFC members and legislative leaders, this was unfortunately not the year to secure any new programs. WLA will continue to support the pursuit of additional funding for this worthy endeavor.

## WLA Library Development & Legislation (LD&L) Committee Meeting Highlights

The WLA LD&L Committee met virtually on July 23. LD&L Chair **Pete Loeffel** has named a new Funding Analysis Subcommittee to liaison with and advise the DPI Division of Libraries and Technology (DLT) while addressing Public Library System Redesign (PLSR) recommendation 4: *Conduct a thorough analysis of the current funding formula for public library systems, including practices utilized to apportion state aid. Identify and propose alternative funding formulas, methods of apportionment, or other solutions with potential to improve equity of access to high-quality library services.* LD&L subcommittee members are WVLS Consultant **Kris Adams Wendt**, South Central Library System Technology Services Coordinator **Vicki Teal Lovely**, Northern Waters Library System Director and WLA President **Sherry Machones**, and Whitefish Bay Public Library Director and current WLA Vice-President **Nyama Reed**.

DPI has contracted with **Dr. Kenneth Kriz** at University of Illinois to analyze the State Aid funding formula. As mentioned in the DPI/DLT July LD&L meeting update: *“The final deliverable, expected in spring 2022, would simply be an analysis of the funding formula. DPI does not intend to enact or unilaterally change the way funding flows to systems as a result of this analysis. The intention would be to engage the library community and our primary stakeholders, namely WLA’s LD&L committee, SRLAAW, and System Directors to convene a summit or other forum to discuss the results and identify champions to move any potential changes forward.”*

## WVLS PROJECTS

### WVLS Scholarships for ARSL Conference

Because of the availability of LSTA funding to cover costs for scholarships WVLS offers member libraries, three additional area library colleagues will receive scholarships for the October 20-23 ARSL (Association of Rural and Small Libraries) Conference in Reno, Nevada. 2021 ARSL Conference Scholarships have been awarded to:

- **Kay Heiting**, Director, Granton Community Library
- **Tammie Blomberg**, Director, Rib Lake Public Library
- **Janay Ziebell**, Director, Neillsville Public Library
- **Julie Beloungy**, Library Media Specialist, School District of Thorp and current WVLS Library Advisory Committee (LAC) member
- **Jenny Jochimsen**, Director, Abbotsford Public Library
- **Teresa Hall**, Director, Loyal Public Library

### Workforce Development Initiatives

#### Statewide Marketing Project: Workforce Resources in Libraries

The DPI Public Library Development Team and the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development are partnering with a marketing firm to develop promotional workforce resources for libraries as part of the [Libraries Activating Workforce Development Skills \(LAWDS\) project](#). This project aims to connect and build relationships between library and job center staff and is made possible by an Institute of Museum and Library Services grant administered by DPI.

A Workforce Development Marketing Toolkit will be released with ready-made templates for libraries to use online and with all media – i.e., social media images, press release templates, digital advertisements, scripts for radio ads, and more – and provides help from statewide project coordinators.

#### 2021 Workforce Development Workshops Complete

WVLS public library staff were invited to attend their choice of three virtual workshops offered through the [LAWDS project](#). Library staff and workforce partners gathered to learn about services and resources provided by job centers, workforce partners, and libraries. Attendees toured online resources, worked through service scenarios, and brainstormed communication and collaboration strategies going forward. [Find recordings here.](#)

### Conversations with Area Public Services Staff

**Anne Hamland** continues to host monthly meetings for librarians who serve youth to discuss timely and seasonal topics.

Also, Anne makes frequent calls to WVLS area adult services librarians to provide opportunities for informal conversations on services and programs being offered, policy changes, successes and

challenges. These phone calls compliment regular communications concerning everything adult services. Planning for the annual adult services workshop will begin shortly.

## Technology System Collaborations

The Statewide Backup project continues implementation. **Kris Schwartz** (IFLS) coordinated with Dell to resolve the previously reported project roadblock – failed hardware in the LEAN WI hosted appliance stack. In August, LEAN WI and BadgerNet engineers worked to interconnect the LEAN WI and SCLS networks setting the stage for bridging the two host sites and the collocated backup and archive appliances. The new WPLC [Technology Collaboration Steering Committee](#) is developing governance and funding proposals for WPLC.

The **WPLC Technology Collaboration Operations Committee** is exploring at least two proposal tracks of interest to LEAN WI partners: Statewide Deep Freeze licensing consolidation and statewide EZ Proxy licensing collaboration. The Deep Freeze licensing consolidation exploration is informed by current licensing status and cost reports from systems throughout the state, including the LEAN WI consolidated licensing pool developed last year. EZ Proxy is a utility that enables libraries and ILS consortia to coordinate IP and Patron Barcode based authentication with various online resources and a statewide collaboration of authentication services could prove beneficial to each of the ILS consortia in the LEAN WI partnership.

LEAN WI partners are working to consolidate antivirus licensing as the second stage of Faronics licensing consolidation. We are currently reviewing strategies to combine licensing within the Faronics product set with Cloud AV or Enterprise AV. We are exploring an alternative antivirus product as a contingency to replace our current product if licensing and maintenance renewal negotiations are not amicable. The multi-year licensing terms for all three LEAN WI partners end this fall and renewal negotiations began in August.

## Resource Sharing Update

### WISCAT Users Encouraged to Shorten Loan Periods

**Rachel Metzler** worked with other Interlibrary Loan System Coordinators in the state to update the ILL State Guidelines document. This work included three meetings in June. The next step is for the document to be presented at COLAND. A WISCAT User Group meeting she attended on August 3 shared updates to the WISCAT platform and encouraged libraries to revert to shorter loan periods now that most libraries are no longer quarantining items.

### Wisconsin Digital Library News: 21-Day Checkout Now Available on E-Audiobooks!

**Rachel Metzler** attended recent meetings of the WPLC (Wisconsin Public Library Consortium) Board and Steering Committee. Highlights include:

- Approval to offer a 21-day checkout for e-audiobooks. Previously, audiobooks were only available to checkout for 7 or 14 days. The Steering Committee hopes this extra time to complete an audiobook will prevent users from having to renew a title or put it back on reserve.

The default time will stay at 14 days so users will have to change their checkout time when they check out.

- Approval to renew the Wisconsin Digital Library e-magazine collection for two years, using the buying pool formula for pricing for 2022. The Steering Committee will revisit this formula for 2023.
- Approval of the 2022 WPLC budget.
- Following an analysis of the Wisconsin Digital Collection, WPLC plans to implement processes to make the collection more accessible and diverse.
- WPLC recognized the need to enhance the Wisconsin Digital Collection's juvenile and young adult collections due to the increase in digital circulations during the pandemic.

## V-Cat and ILS Administration Projects

### New Discovery Layer Selected!

After careful consideration by members of V-Cat Council Committees and WVLS Database Advisory group, and WVLS staff, the **V-Cat Council selected [Aspen Discovery](#) as the next discovery catalog for library users** during its meeting on June 3. The Aspen discovery layer will improve the search and discovery experience for V-Cat library users. Watch this [video introduction to Aspen Discovery](#) for a teaser of what is coming!

Our hands-on implementation and configuration window is roughly October 2021 through January 2022, but details are yet to be determined. There will be multiple phases of training and implementation including Administration, Customization and Integration, Patron Experience Training, Testing and Soft Launch.

We look forward to bringing a better search and discovery experience to our library users. Some of the features we are excited about include:

- Better performance of our public catalog via any mobile device
- Easier browsing of a title (print, e-book, audio book etc.) within one search result
- Ability to save searches
- Alerts when new, relevant materials arrive
- Creating, managing, and sharing lists of favorite books
- Highlighting events and online resources to library users with relevant searches

### Other V-Cat Council Meeting Highlights

In addition to selecting a new discovery layer at its June 3 meeting, the V-Cat Council approved the 2022 V-Cat Budget and voted to continue the current EBSCO Discovery Service through the Aspen implementation period. The Council also approved three recommendations:

- a recommendation from the Bibliographic and Interface Committee to use special project funds to outsource the improvement of bibliographic records without subject headings. A report of the estimated number of bibliographic records and cost will be shared at the September and November Council meetings.

- a recommendation from the Cooperative Circulation Committee for standardized notice messaging for hold pickup notices and overdue notices.
- a recommendation from the Cooperative Circulation Committee to discontinue invoicing libraries for billed items. Library users will still be responsible for billed items.

### **Additional Project Updates**

**V-Cat trainings** will be offered in fall, however WVLS will continue to offer training upon request. WVLS staff are considering Sierra training open hours and Sierra Snacks video tutorials.

An **upgrade to Sierra 5.3** was completed in May. The upgrade went smoothly. A few libraries experienced printing issues, which have been resolved.

**Rachel Metzler** attended the **WILIUG (Wisconsin Illinois Innovative User Group) Conference** on June 4. This conference included an organizational business meeting, a session on making work connections at a distance, and allowed time to connect with other Sierra users in Wisconsin and Illinois. She found this conference to be a productive one and a good use of her time.

WVLS took the **first steps in ILS evaluation and review** by conducting a survey to gather feedback from member libraries to assess challenges experienced with Sierra. Results will be made available in September. WVLS staff will be working with V-Cat Committees to identify desired ILS functionality. Milwaukee County Federated Library Service (MCFLS) is also involved in an ILS evaluation and review process and has invited WVLS to participate in their process. MCFLS recently completed detailed ILS functionality expectations and sent out Requests for Information to three vendors. MCFLS will be scheduling product demonstrations this fall, which WVLS staff plan to attend.

**The transition to uniform checkout periods is nearly 50% complete**, and all V-Cat libraries have scheduled a transition date in the next few months.

#### **Completed (in order):**

Loyal  
Rib Lake  
Abbotsford  
Three Lakes  
Antigo  
Greenwood  
Crandon  
Minocqua  
Granton  
Owen  
Withee  
Thorp

#### **Scheduled:**

August: Laona, Rhinelander  
September: Colby, Wabeno, Westboro, Gilman  
Stetsonville  
October: Medford, Neillsville, Tomahawk  
November: Merrill, Dorchester, Marathon County

## Inclusive Services Update

**Sherry Machones** continues to share an Inclusive Services Update with member libraries each month.

- The **May** update featured information on the world's largest American Sign Language (ASL) database and the Menominee Nations' escape room that incorporates cultural connections with STEM learning.
- The **June** update offered resources to help with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and the trauma of the pandemic and shared family book discussion kits on racial issues.
- The **July** update featured the 2021 Lambda literary award winners. Also known as the "Lammys", this award celebrates the very best in LGBTQ literature. Also shared were several articles for further reading on inclusive media, cultural inclusivity, inclusive community engagement, and inclusive offerings from Lego and Nintendo.
- The **August** update featured information about Katie Beckett Medicaid, a program which provides access to Wisconsin Medicaid services for children with disabilities, mental illness, or complex medical needs. The update also listed upcoming continuing education opportunities.

The WVLS/NWLS IDEA (Inclusivity, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility) Team met in May to work on future *Digital Bytes*. Recent *Digital Bytes* were created on captioning library videos, LGBTQ+ language, and an introduction to diversity, equity, and accessibility issues.

## WVLS Technology Projects Internal Projects, Library Projects, and Core Services Support

### Internal Projects

The WVLS meeting area will be getting a new room camera installed. The camera is being tested for use with various meeting software in use by WVLS. The room audio system is in the process of having the vendor scheduled to troubleshoot and tune up the system to improve the audio experience for remote attendees.

### Member Library Projects

**Rhineland District Library** recently completed a network cabling upgrade project and is now in the process of having a new IP based phone system installed.

**Greenwood Public Library** has had two internal wireless access points replaced with indoor/outdoor models to extend the public WiFi coverage outside of the building. They will be having a contractor move the units, installing them to the exterior of the building to maximize coverage and signal quality outside.

### Core Services Support

All WVLS Libraries: **Achraf Ben Khalifa** is working on a few ongoing maintenance projects including:

- Ensuring computers throughout the membership have updated firmware and device drivers and have the latest Windows Updates
- Ensuring all libraries are using the currently supported stable version of Deep Freeze Enterprise

## Grant Projects

### Marketing Plan Template Workshops and Mini Grants

With support from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction's Public Library Development Team, and \$20,000 from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, **Jamie Matczak** and other members of the Public Library System Marketing Cohort are developing a statewide Library Marketing Plan workshop and mini-grant opportunity for local library marketing. The workshop will take place in November, with opportunities for 15 libraries statewide to receive mini grants to implement marketing plans. More information will be shared in early September. The other cohort members working on the project include **Jill Fuller** (Bridges Library System), **Mark Ibach** (South Central Library System) and **Chad Glamann** (OWLS). This subgroup will serve as mentors to the grant recipients throughout 2022 as they work to finalize their marketing plans.

### Professional Learning Funds

WVLS will receive \$18,572 in LSTA funding for 2021-22 from DPI Public Library Development Team for member library colleagues' continuing education and professional development opportunities. These funds can be used to offset costs associated with participation in continuing education courses and statewide and national conferences. More information will be shared at future meetings.

### 2020 LSTA Wisconsin Public Library Consortium (WPLC) Statewide and Regional Digital Collection Support

The DPI Division for Libraries and Technology announced in June 2021 that they would provide financial support for statewide and regional digital library content in the form of a \$21,875 2020 LSTA grant to each public library system. The grant requires that funds be used to improve users' ability to obtain and/or use information resources, and that a portion of the funds be used to provide digital content for the statewide collection.

The WVLS grant application, submitted by **Rachel Metzler** prior to the July 16 deadline, provides \$15,313 to support the WPLC OverDrive collection as well \$6,562 for the WVLS Advantage collection. A copy of the grant application is shared later in the agenda as **Exhibit 14b**.

### FY20/21 CARES Act Grants to States (G2S) – COVID Response Support

Final projects review and preparation of project support documentation is in progress to be followed up with a final budget revision request and corresponding reimbursement request to DPI (due Sept 15, 2021).

### FY20/21 LSTA – Technology – Increase Capacity for Technology Tools and Resources Sparsity Aid

In June, DPI notified systems that additional funds were added to their FY20/21 LSTA Sparsity Aid Grants. The original aggregate of support to LEAN WI partners (IFLS, NWLS and WVLS) was \$43,190. The amended aggregate of support is now \$92,840. The grant will be used to acquire Faronics and Microsoft

licenses, support NWLS and WVLS OverDrive Advantage collections, and subsidize WiscNet Datacenter rack and power services. A copy of the revised grant application is shared later in the agenda as **Exhibit 14a**.

### **FY21/22 ARPA Grants to States (G2S) – Additional Covid Response Support**

DPI continues working with stakeholders throughout the Wisconsin Library Community to scope out service needs and begin developing project proposals. At the time of this writing, DPI DLT still does not have an ARPA information aggregation page for Public Library Systems and Libraries. The resources below have been shared during various stakeholder discussions and are via the LEAN WI landing page for ARPA <https://leanwi.org/arpa2021>.

- **American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) Project Funding Details and Ideas**
- **ARPA 2021 DRAFT Budget April 2021**
- **Project Funding List of Ideas - ARPA, LSTA, E-rate, Build America's Libraries, etc.**

### **FY21/22 LSTA – Technology – Increase Capacity for Technology Tools and Resources Sparsity Aid**

LEAN WI partners are preparing to coordinate on the use of likely upcoming funding from the [LSTA program](#) (2021-2022 season for which allocations or project framework information have not yet been promulgated by DPI) and from the [American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 \(ARPA\)](#). As concrete funding support information is not yet available, the LEAN WI Budget Proposal for 2022 has been drafted (in balance) without relying on any potential grant funding.

## **CONTINUING EDUCATION & TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**

### ***New Digital Bytes***

Several new *Digital Bytes*, short training sessions produced by WVLS staff and area colleagues, have been recorded and made available online since WVLS Board of Trustees meeting in May. New *Digital Bytes* include:

- [Bitmoji](#): Anne talks about Bitmoji, and how it can be used to promote your library and its programs.
- [Library Employment – What, How & Where](#): In this first of a three-part series, Jamie talks about what should be in a library job posting and description.
- [Google Form Registration](#): Anne talks about how libraries can use Google Forms for library registrations and summer library program activities.
- [Taking Pride in Who We Are](#): **Laurie Ollhoff**, Assistant Director of the T.B. Scott Library (Merrill) and member of the IDEA Team, discusses LGBTQ+ inclusive language and terminology, while also providing tips on phrases to avoid, and the history of the acronym.
- [Library Employment- Part 2](#): In this three-part series on library employment, Jamie talks about how to post an open position of employment for your library.

## Website Services

Anne Hamland, Joshua Klingbeil, Kris Schwartz (IFLS), and Tony Kriskovich (NWLS) continue to work together to introduce the Northern Waters Library Service libraries to the LEAN WI website service. This service provides website design, website building, quality control, hosting and domain name assistance, to interested member libraries in all three partner systems.

## “Compassion Resilience” Training for WVLS Staff

Jamie led a training on Compassion Resilience for a WVLS staff Inservice on July 22. The training covered setting staff values, shared agreements, and walking through the six steps in Compassion Action. The training is intended to help librarians in Wisconsin gain tools to manage expectations, set professional and personal boundaries, build effective collegial relationships and practice real-time and organized self-care. The goal is for WVLS staff to undergo one training per month until the end of 2021.

Jamie shared the experience during a Compassion Resilience Cohort Discussion with other training representatives around the state in August.

## New Pre-Recorded Webinar

Nearly 20% of Americans experience some form of mental health issue, yet it can be the loneliest place. **Carla Huston**, Director of the Jean M. Thomsen Memorial Library (Stetsonville), is the featured guest speaker in the recently recorded WVLS *webinar “The Only Thing More Exhausting Than Having a Mental Illness is Pretending That You Don’t.”* This webinar is worth 1 contact hour toward public library director certification and [available on the WVLS YouTube Channel](#).

## WVLS Postpones 2021 Director’s Retreat

Due to rising COVID cases and the uncertainty of the next few months, WVLS has decided to postpone the WVLS Director’s Retreat, scheduled for Friday, October 15, until further notice. This decision was made with much consideration. WVLS staff feel that pivoting this event to online would not have the same impact. We look forward to the day that we can all safely “Come Together” and have this face-to-face experience.

## CE Opportunities in the Works

The following workshops and webinars are in the planning stages:

- **Tech Days 2021 Online:** Scheduled for September 15-16, 2021, with four sessions offered over two days. [Registration is now open](#).
- **Staff Empowerment Series:** Based on feedback from the Spring Continuing Education series provided by the Northern Waters Library Service, Southwest Library System, and WVLS, a fall webinar series on staff empowerment is planned. Webinars are scheduled for September 22 and 29, and October 6. All webinars will take place at 1 p.m. [More information](#), including registration, will be available soon.

- **Actively Anti-Racist Library Service to Leisure Readers: A Discussion:** Sponsored by all 16 public library systems, this 90-minute webinar will be held on September 30.
- The **Annual WVLS Youth Services Workshop** will be held virtually for the second year and is set for December 9. Minocqua Public Library Youth Services Librarian, **Erica Dischinger**, and Teen Services Librarian **Jennifer Davis** will be showcasing their successful youth programs and explaining how they were developed.
- **Wild Wisconsin Winter Web Conference:** Planning for speakers is underway for the annual state conference scheduled for January 26-27, 2022. The session tracks are Marketing, Public Services, Small Libraries and Wellbeing. Registration for the conference will open in early November.

## STAFF CALENDAR

- August 3 – System Directors/DPI Staff meeting
- **August 3– WVLS V-Cat Bibliographic Control and Interface Committee meeting**
- August 3 – WISCAT User Group meeting
- August 5 – Technology support provided at the Greenwood Public Library
- **August 5 – WVLS V-Cat Cooperative Circulation Committee meeting**
- **August 8 – New Director Orientation with Medford Public Library Director**
- August 9 – Wisconsin Public Library Consortium meeting
- August 10 – System Directors/DPI Staff meeting
- **August 10 – WVLS/IFLS/NWLS Website Office Hours**
- August 10 – Visit to Minocqua Public Library for 10-year anniversary of new addition to the library
- August 10 – WiLS hosted LSTA Focus Group meeting
- August 12 – Thorp Public Library Director’s first day on the job
- August 16 – Crandon Public Library Director’s first day on the job
- August 17 – System Youth Services Consultants/DPI Staff meeting
- **August 18 – WVLS Library Advisory Committee meeting**
- **August 18 – MCPL/WVLS Staff Association “Celebrate Us” luncheon**
- **August 18 – WVLS Area Youth Services Staff meetup**
- **August 19 – WVLS/IFLS/NWLS Website Office Hours**
- **August 19 – New Director Orientation with Merrill Public Library Director**
- August 20 – SRLAAW (System and Resource Library Administrators Association of Wisconsin) meeting
- **August 21 – WVLS Board of Trustees meeting**
- **August 23-27 – Wisconsin Trustee Training Week**
- August 23 – MCPL Board of Trustees meeting
- August 24 – System Directors/DPI Staff meeting
- August 24 – LAWDS SuperPac meeting
- August 25 – System Continuing Education Consultants/DPI Staff meeting

- August 26 – Oneida County Library Board meeting
- August 31 – System Directors/DPI Staff meeting
- September – LIBRARY CARD SIGN-UP MONTH  
<https://www.ala.org/conferencesevents/celebrationweeks/card/>
- September 1 – Subgroup of Public Library System Marketing Cohort meeting
- **September 2 – WVLS V-Cat Council meeting**
- **September 2 – Compassion Resilience training for WVLS staff**
- September 5 – LABOR DAY – WVLS office closed
- **September 9 – In-Service Training for Door County Public Library staff**
- September 10 – COLAND (Council for Libraries and Network Development) meeting
- September 14 – System Directors/DPI Staff meeting
- **September 14 – WVLS/IFLS/NWLS Website Office Hours**
- **September 15 – “Tech Days 2021” webinars sponsored by public library systems**
- **September 16 – “Tech Days 2021” webinars sponsored by public library systems**
- **September 16 – WVLS/IFLS/NWLS Website Office Hours**
- **September 17 – In-Service Training for Beloit Public Library staff**
- **September 18 – WVLS Board of Trustees meeting**
- September 20 – MCPL Board of Trustees meeting
- **September 22 – NWLS/SWLS/WVLS webinar “Compassion Resilience and Anxiety Management During Tough Times”**
- September 24 – WLA’s Library Development and Legislation (LD&L) Committee meeting
- **September 29 – NWLS/SWLS/WVLS webinar “Hiring in 2021 and Beyond”**
- **September 30 – “Actively Anti-Racist Library Service to Leisure Readers: A Discussion” webinar sponsored by public library systems**

Thank you for reading! See you soon!

Marla