

Director's Report

WVLS BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

May 20, 2023

CORRESPONDENCE

2023 Aid Payment

WVLS was notified by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction that our second (final) 2023 State Aid Payment for \$283,919.50 was approved. This payment allows WVLS to continue to carry out activities in the 2023 WVLS Plan approved by the WVLS Board of Trustees in September 2022 and later reviewed by DPI's Library Services Team. WVLS received its first 2023 payment of \$851,758.50 in November 2022. Public library system funding is provided through the Universal Service Fund.

Cost per Circulation and County Funding Information

WVLS Business Manager **Brenda Walenton** and Administrative Assistant **Susie Hafemeister** recently sent member libraries their 2022 Cost Per Circulation calculations along with additional information needed if they elect to seek payment from adjacent counties for serving its non-residents (county residents who live outside of a community with a library). According to Wis. Stat. 43.12, libraries must submit invoices to the clerks in adjacent counties by July 1, 2023. In turn, the adjacent county must make payment of at least 70% of the cost for service to those libraries by March 1, 2024.

PEOPLE / LIBRARIES / SYSTEMS IN THE NEWS

New Leader for DPI's Division for Libraries and Technology

State Superintendent Jill Underly has announced the appointment of **Dr. Darrell L. Williams** as the Assistant State Superintendent for the Division for Libraries and Technology. Dr. Williams succeeds Dr. Barbara Van Haren, former Assistant State Superintendent for the Division for Learning Support, who selflessly stepped out of retirement to return to the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) as the interim division leader.

Prior to his appointment, which started on January 17, 2023, Governor Tony Evers chose Dr. Williams as the Administrator of the Division of Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM). Dr. Williams led the COVID-19 response throughout Wisconsin for WEM – the lead state agency charged with coordinating the state's efforts for all natural and man-caused disasters.

Prior to joining WEM, Dr. Williams served more than 25 years in the field of education as a teacher and administrator, including as Interim Superintendent of Schools in Beloit. He was recognized as the 2017 UAW Local 95 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Civil Rights Service Award honoree and the 2013 National Principal of the Year honoree from the National Alliance of Black School Educators.

As a strong advocate for libraries and technology in education, Dr. Williams said, *“Our libraries are one of the most important places in our schools and communities. It is the only place where our children can go everywhere without having to go anywhere. We must use all of our technology and other precious resources to bring learning to the homes and fingertips of every child to reduce equity gaps in access and success for ALL Wisconsin students.”*

Congratulations, Dr. Williams!

(Edited from *WI Libraries for Everyone*; January 30, 2023)

WVLS Staff News

WVLS recently said a very fond farewell to Public Library Services Consultant **Anne Hamland** following her decision to step away from her professional career and WVLS. Hired in July 2016 as the WVLS Communications Coordinator, Anne became the WVLS Public Library Services Consultant in 2017, a position she held until her resignation.

Prior to working for WVLS, Anne served as the Director of the Frances L. Simek Memorial Library, a position she held since January 2014. Before becoming a library director, she worked as a Research and Information Services Intern and student Supervisor-Circulation Assistant at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Golda Meir Library.

Anne was a team leader, collaborator, and advocate for colleagues both within the system and throughout the state. Motivated, self-disciplined, and able to efficiently and skillfully advance projects, Anne was an esteemed colleague, accomplished consultant, and integral member of the WVLS and LEAN WI teams. Anne’s last day with WVLS was April 28.

On Monday, April 3, WVLS welcomed **Erica Brewster** to the WVLS team. Initially WVLS was going to hire Erica for project-based work following her resignation from the Demmer Library, but there was a bit of an "opportunity whirlwind" for us to apply her enthusiasm and aptitude for tech-related projects more fully and to address the Technology Support Specialist position that had been unfilled for several months and Public Library Services Consultant position that had just opened.

Prior to working in Three Lakes from 2014-2023, Erica was a Family Living Agent and department head for Oneida County UW-Extension. Erica holds an undergraduate degree in biology from Luther College and a Master’s in Public Health from Loma Linda University in California.

Erica prioritized her time in April to learn more about the website service curriculum and to work alongside Anne Hamland when/where it makes sense to do so. She also drafted 2022 System Information and Public Library Statistics booklet shared in this meeting’s information packet as [Exhibit 17](#). Going forward, Erica will focus on technology support and public services consulting in such areas as strategic planning, project management, and data aggregation and analysis.

Welcome, Erica!

Oshkosh Public Library/Winnefox Director Plans to Retire

After almost two decades of service, the director of the Oshkosh Public Library and Winnefox Library System, **Jeff Gilderson-Duwe**, has announced that he will be retiring from his shared roles on June 2. He explained that personal and professional considerations have convinced him that now is the right time to make the change.

“Both Oshkosh Public Library and Winnefox Library System have staff of amazing knowledge and skill,” said Gilderson-Duwe. *“It has been a privilege to work with them since 2005, and I’m proud of my role in supporting the excellence they bring to library and system services every day.”* He expressed his gratitude to the Oshkosh community and both boards of trustees for their steadfast support.

In this new chapter, Gilderson-Duwe is looking forward to spending more time with family and relaxing with a good book.

Sommersmith Named New Director of Winnefox Library System. Earlier this month, the Winnefox Library System Board voted unanimously to appoint Winnefox Library System Assistant Director **Clairellyn Sommersmith** to be the system’s first full-time Director since its establishment in 1976. Prior to joining the Winnefox Library System in October 2019, Sommersmith was the director of the Princeton (WI) Public Library.

WVLS and Area Library Staff Outreach

Matczak to Participate in iSchool Advocacy Crash Course Series. WVLS Continuing Education Consultant Jamie Matczak was asked to participate in an [Advocacy Series](#) this August for the iSchool at UW-Madison. The series will focus on different facets of advocacy, including community engagement, outreach, social media strategies, data visualization and presentation skills. Matczak’s webinar, “Fine-Tuning Your Presentations,” will be held at 12 p.m. on Thursday, August 17.

Blomberg Presents at 2023 WAPL Conference. Rib Lake Public Library Director Tammie Blomberg was a presenter at the 2023 Wisconsin Association of Public Libraries (WAPL) Conference held at the Best Western Premier Waterfront Hotel and Convention Center in Oshkosh April 26-28. In her presentation ***“My End of the Boat is Sinking,”*** Tammie shared what she learned about teamwork and library leadership throughout her diagnosis of and treatment for Stage 4 Metastatic Breast Cancer and Stage 1 Lung Cancer, and following a stunning loss of a long-time employee just three weeks after her diagnosis.



Racine Public Library's Medical Kits Target Community Health Issues

Nearly half of American adults have hypertension, the medical term for high blood pressure, and only one in four of those have their condition under control, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Having high blood pressure poses a risk for heart attack and stroke.

As a way of responding to this nationwide health epidemic, Racine Public Library (RPL) began offering kits last June that include a blood pressure monitor and information about community resources. RPL was one of several Wisconsin libraries approached by a local chapter of the American Heart Association to partner on blood pressure kits. In collaboration, RPL created five kits, including one in Spanish, to help address the county's comorbidity rates. Racine County is among the least healthy counties in the state, according to recent data collected from the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute.

RPL's social worker **Ashley Cedeño** says adoption of the kits has been slow, but staff members hope checkouts will increase as more patrons learn of their availability. Staff have promoted them on the library's website, in local media, and at a local health fair.

The long-term goal, Cedeño says, is to empower patrons and improve their community's well-being. Local nurses in training also regularly come to the library from Carthage College in Kenosha to perform basic health screenings, including checking vision, blood sugar, weight, and blood pressure.

"A library is no longer just a book repository; we are a hub," Cedeño says. "We [are always] trying to think of ways we can offer these resources when there are so many people who can't afford health care."
(edited from "A Checkup for Checkout: Medical Kits aim to target community health issues;" American Libraries Magazine March 1, 2023)

GRANT and SCHOLARSHIP PROJECTS

WVLS Awards ALA Annual Conference Scholarships

Two WVLS member librarians were awarded scholarships to attend the 2023 American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference, held June 22-27 in Chicago. Recipients are Marathon County Public Library Director **Leah Giordano** and Tomahawk Public Library Children's Librarian **Annette Miller**. This is the world's largest library event, offering programs, an exhibit hall, networking opportunities and author visits. The WVLS scholarship is valued at \$3,800, and covers costs such as conference registration, lodging, round-trip mileage and meals. Conference reports from Leah and Annette will be shared with the WVLS Board in August.

2022 LSTA Improved Discovery Solutions Grants

LSTA Cooperative Cataloging Grant. Eight Wisconsin Public Library Systems were awarded an LSTA grant to investigate current and potential cataloging standards across the state as suggested during the multi-year Public Library System Redesign (PLSR) study. Colleagues from each system worked with WILS consultants to design survey and focus group processes that were completed in February.

WiLS will use data analysis from the survey and focus groups to create a final report.

In an effort to wisely use unencumbered LSTA grant funds, WVLS and the other participating systems have been brainstorming ways these funds may be directed toward cataloging improvements that would be of benefit across all eight systems.

[LSTA Joint ILS Consortium Exploration Project](#). The grant for the WVLS/NWLS ILS Consortium Exploration has been awarded. A name for the project has been selected, Northern Wisconsin ILS Consortium Exploration (NICE). With the announcement of the grant award, a NICE Team was formed. The NICE Team met on March 21 and April 16. Highlights of these meetings and recent NICE Team activities are shared in this meeting packet as **Exhibit 16**.

2023 Grants

Wisconsin received \$3,250,330 in LSTA Grants to State Funds for the upcoming LSTA year. This is a slight increase over the previous year due to a federal increase in funding of \$180 million to the nationwide Grants to States program. DPI's Library Services team staff are currently drafting a budget and guidelines for the upcoming LSTA 2023 cycle.

2023 Technology – Increase Capacity for Technology Tools and Resources Sparsity Aid.

LEAN WI partners received unofficial notification that they would receive **\$75,297.00** in aggregate in 2023. LEAN WI partners are planning utilizations for this funding pending official notice of award.

2023 Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) - Extension of services for existing mobile hotspot devices and additional devices and services. LEAN WI partners were awarded an aggregate of **\$309,832.45** across three applications for continuity of existing mobile hotspot data services through 2023 and for additional devices and funding of services through 2023. LEAN WI partners are working with Kajeet to extend existing services seamlessly and to add capacity. An assessment and final decision regarding the procurement of additional awarded devices and service plans will follow the take rate review.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Three Northern Library Systems Advocate for State Library Aid

At 7 a.m. on Wednesday, April 26, library advocates stood in line outside Lakeland Union High School (LUHS) in Minocqua. They were there to register for an early testimony slot representing the Wisconsin Library Association (WLA) at the final 2023-2025 state budget public hearing before the legislative Joint Finance Committee (JFC). Thanks to their efforts, 22 librarians and trustees from WVLS, Northern Waters Library Service and Nicolet Federated Library System secured a prime spot in the first three rows of the LUHS theater. The three WLA speakers – **Kris Adams Wendt** (WVLS), **Dominic Frandrup** (Door

County Library) and **Kristie Hauer** (Shawano County Library) – stepped to the mic and shared five minutes of testimony during the first hour of the hearing. A copy of the testimony is shared with this document as [Exhibit 11a](#).

The Minocqua delegation was organized by Site Captains **Sherry Machones** (NWLS), **Kathy Pletcher** (NFLS trustee), and **Wendt**, all three members of WLA’s Library Development and Legislation Committee (LD&L). A photo page from the Minocqua hearing is shared with this document as

[Exhibit 11b](#). Wendt also coordinated statewide WLA efforts for similar hearings managed by site captains from LD&L and SRLAAW (System and Resource Library Administrators Association of Wisconsin) at Waukesha, Eau Claire, and Wisconsin Dells earlier in April. WLA testimony video and photos from all four JFC hearings, as well as additional information about the state budget process and WLA requests [can be found here](#) on the WLA website. An aggregate total of 75 library supporters participated statewide. Attending the Eau Claire hearing on April 11 from WVLS were **Janay Ziebell** (Neillsville Public Library) and **Nancy Amacher** (Withee Public Library trustee).



Figure 1 Clockwise: Kris Adams Wendt (WVLS), Erica Brewster (WVLS), Peggy O'Connell (Minocqua PL), Virginia Roberts (Rhineland District Library), Marla Sepnafski (WVLS), Mike Otten (WVLS trustee), Dominic Frandrup (Door Co. Library)

The JFC will meet through the end of May to debate and vote on various pieces of the budget bill. **Senator Mary Felzkowski** (R-Irma) and **Representative Tony Kurtz** (R-Wonewoc) have committed to introducing a motion to include the state library aid items championed by WLA. After JFC changes to the current budget are sent to the Senate and Assembly for floor votes in each house, the legislature usually delivers its final product to the governor by the end of June. The governor completes his veto review within 30 days of receiving the bill, and then signs it into law.

Wendt received several notes of appreciation from fellow advocates across the state. Samples include:

- *“Thanks so much for all the work you do, Kris!”* – **Hannah Good Zima**, Nicolet Federated Library System Outreach Coordinator
- *“Hey Kris, I also wanted to say how much I appreciate all your hard work that you put into the JFC hearing and the LLD events. I feel like all I need to do is show up as you have the rest covered. It makes my job so much easier knowing that you’ve taken care of all the backend. It’s truly wonderful and awesome. Thank you.”* – **Dominic Frandrup**, Door County Library Director
- *“Thank YOU, Kris! You are simply amazing. I was proud to be in Minocqua with you.”* – **Molly Lank-Jones**, Sherman & Ruth Weiss Community Library Director (Hayward)
- *“Dear Kris, I’m thinking baseball – your detailed preparations helped the delegation hit one out of the park!”* – **Mike Otten**, WVLS Trustee

V-CAT and ILS ADMINISTRATION PROJECTS

Key Projects

WVLS performed a system upgrade to Sierra to 5.6 on Tuesday, May 2. The upgrade went smoothly. A new feature/workflow for handling damaged materials is available.

Aspen Format Work. To best understand how Aspen interprets format information from the bibliographic record, WVLS ILS and Database Support Specialist **Rachel Metzler** collaborated with MCPL employees **Chris Luebke** and **James Bauer** to assess unique formats in Aspen. Rachel, Chris, and James met with the Aspen team to provide feedback. The Aspen team reacted quickly, changing the code in the meeting and for the next upgrade. As a result of this effort, Aspen is now responding in a more expected way for books + disc and blu-ray/DVD combo formats.

Aspen Record Grouping Training was held Monday, May 15. This training will covered grouping and ungrouping record results in Aspen to provide patrons with a great searching experience. An in-person training day is scheduled for Thursday, October 5. Other fall training dates are available [here](#). Library staff are encouraged to reach out to WVLS with any training needs.

Cataloging. Rachel Metzler provided three virtual cataloging trainings in March. Four attendees from one library at Item Attachment Training on March 8, four attendees representing two libraries attended a Marc Alert Training on March 15, and six attendees representing three libraries attended a z39.50 training on March 22. Rachel also provided an in person z39.50 training to Neillsville Director Janay Ziebell on April 6. These trainings are available twice yearly and by request.

Council and Committee Meeting Highlights

V-Cat Council. During its meeting on April 6 the V-Cat Council approved the January-February financial reports and draft updates to the following V-Cat Recommendations as suggested by the V-Cat Cooperative Circulation Committee:

- [Billable Noted Missing Pieces Form](#) - to include checkout library information.
- [High Demand Items](#) - to clarify information about hold overrides.
- [Overrides](#) - to clarify information about hold overrides.

A draft V-Cat library card application and proposed required fields was presented. While the draft application is a work in progress, the final application, when approved, is intended to be a standard form for all V-Cat libraries to use. V-Cat Council approved the use of V-Cat Special Project Funds to seek legal counsel review of the draft form and respond to questions related to patron records. Library directors were asked to review the draft application/proposed fields and submit questions/suggested edits by Friday May 12. The V-Cat Cooperative Circulation Committee will be reviewing submissions at their next meeting.

A proposed 2024 V-Cat Budget, approved by the V-Cat Steering Committee, was presented for member libraries to review.

[V-Cat Top 10 Accomplishments of 2022 \(Exhibit 11c\)](#) were highlighted.

WVLS and Backstage Library Works updated diacritics in 4171 bibliographic records. Work continues to correct an additional 252 records.

The Council reviewed how to handle items in Sierra with an in transit message, and a status other than 't' in transit to maintain accurate information for library staff and patrons.

V-Cat Bibliographic and Interface Committee. The Committee met on May 9 to discuss catalog utility vendors, cataloging jigsaw puzzles, Aspen formats, and other cataloging matters.

V-Cat ILS Evaluation and Review Committee. The Committee hosted three virtual site visits with libraries using Koha in April and May. Committee members met on May 11 to review information gathered during the site visits, determine additional information needs, and discuss final report requirements.

V-Cat Cooperative Circulation Committee. The Committee will meet in May or June to discuss tools for damaged and missing pieces workflows, standard library card application and patron record guidelines, and extended loan periods.

MARKETING PROJECTS

Website Services Projects

Erica Brewster began training with Anne Hamland to transition the website services support in April 2023. Brewster participated in the routine website office hours and worked one-on-one to learn the processes for supporting LEAN WI websites. Hamland completed the design for the Vaughn (Ashland) Public Library (NWLS) website and following final approval from the library staff, Brewster will work with the LEAN WI support team to make the website go live in May.

Several new tools were rolled out to help libraries manage their websites more efficiently. One new tool is a plugin for setting expiration dates to posts so a web manager doesn't need to go back into the website to manually remove information about an event after it is over. Several web site staff expressed their gratitude for the new tool. Examples include: *"Oh my goodness this is awesome! You just saved me loads of time. Thank you so much for the tip,"* from **Diana Shore** (Tomahawk Public Library). *"This is a super cool plugin! What a time saver!"* from **Rebecca Kilde** (Communications and Outreach, IFLS Library System). *"OH LOVELY! I have been wondering why in the world there is a post scheduler without an end date. You are saving me minutes of my life! Thank you so much for passing this along!"* from **Tracy Sorenson** (Menomonie Public Library Communications Specialist). *"I am soooo EXCITED for this feature! Thank you! It is going to make my life so much easier with all those posts."* from **Brandi Smith** (Chippewa Falls Public Library).

Brewster continues to familiarize herself with the current status of services for 94 websites across three library system to determine a sustainable level of support that assures current information and regular technical updates for security and consistency of service.

Hot off the Press!

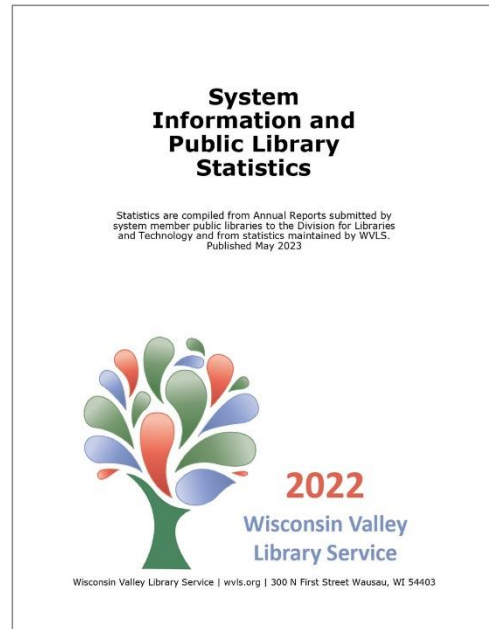
Printed just in time for the May WVLS Board of Trustees meeting, the **WVLS 2022 System Information & Public Library Statistics booklet** (shared later in the agenda as [Exhibit 17](#)) presents member library service trends with data recorded in members' annual reports, and highlights how libraries benefited their communities in 2022. The booklet also shares the benefits of the system/member library partnership.

WVLS Newsletter Highlights

Published during the first week of each month, the WVLS newsletter showcases ways that member libraries are providing service and support to their communities, national library news, WVLS updates and more. Recent articles include:

- [May 2023](#) - "Three Northern Library Systems Advocate for State Library Aid," "Using NovelList Plus to its Fullest Potential," "10 Things to Know About MCPL's Kitty Roesler," "Colby Holds Peeps Diorama Contest," "WLA Conference Call for Proposals Open," "Registration Open for Lake Superior Libraries Symposium," "NICE Team Update."
- [April 2023](#) - "Celebrate National Library Week 2023," "New Staff Member at WVLS," "Spring Webinar Series Focuses on Racial Equity," "Seed Libraries Starting to Grow," "Registration Still Open for WAPL Conference," "Three Lakes Hosts Fireside Chats with Candidates," "NICE Team Update."

Thank you to all area library staff for sharing news from their libraries!



TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS OVERVIEW

LEAN WI Core Infrastructure

The partnership is in the process of reviewing core switching update options for the datacenter and working on a joint bulk procurement of networking equipment for as-needed replacements of failing equipment and proactive replacement of end-of-life equipment at libraries. Routers and certain network equipment for libraries are still on backorder or in limited supply so the partnership is reviewing new product generations to ensure seamless replacement. A joint document listing current stock of equipment and specific equipment needs from each partner is in place to help us better understand our collective resources and upcoming needs. The partnership continues monitoring supply for opportunities to procure operational and lifecycle replacement equipment.

A combination of Windows Server updates in mid-2022 and current mode of backbone connectivity between the WVLS office and the LEAN WI Datacenter have hobbled the ability for WVLS to utilize the

LEAN WI Windows Deployment Services (WDS) to quickly “image” new or re-image existing computers. Prior to mid-2022, WVLS was able to simultaneously image up to 6 computers in parallel without issue, but the WDS-affecting Windows Updates now cause the connection between WVLS and the Datacenter to overload in some cases when even a single computer is being imaged. When this happens, it affects both WVLS staff and MCPL staff access to the Sierra ILS and other network resources hosted at the LEAN WI Datacenter.

IFLS has helped in some cases with WVLS sending PCs to IFLS for imaging and then having them sent back or directly to libraries, a practice which is still faster than manual provisioning but infeasible and untenable for the long term. This situation is catalyzing core routing equipment and config updates for the WVLS segment of the LEAN WI network. **Kris Schwartz** (IFLS), LEAN WI Engineering Lead, will be helping WVLS stage new routing equipment and testing WDS services over a new path isolated from the primary WVLS network path. In the short term, this should reenable WVLS’ ability to perform computer imaging processes without adversely affecting the legacy path and Sierra connectivity for WVLS or MCPL staff. In the longer term, this process represents the first stage of a long-overdue upgrade of WVLS’ routing equipment and connectivity strategy to the datacenter which aligns with the overall LEANWI blended WAN strategy utilized by IFLS and NWLS.

LEAN WI Service Explorations

Tony Kriskovich (NWLS), LEAN WI Support Lead, researched and presented the partnership an application version management utility which integrates with our existing enterprise management toolset. Licensing was procured for the partnership in late April as part of a joint effort intended to consolidate Antivirus licensing, client management, and common application updates support. This solution represents an alternative strategy for IFLS and NWLS which were using different tools previously, and an additive strategy for WVLS which had not yet incorporated application version management into core services.

Libraries Win Services

At the end of March, Dell released its new generation of desktop and laptop computers. Prior to the pandemic and global supply chain issues affecting computer manufacturing and availability, there was typically a long overlap (from several quarters to a year or more on occasion) where the previous generation and newer generation of computers were simultaneously available.

This new generation release is different in that it almost entirely replaced the previous pre-negotiated quotes and configurations overnight. An updated WVLS procurement form has been drafted and shared with a few libraries that had already put in procurement requests during the first quarter of 2023, or indicated they wanted to.

Brenda Walenton will be more integral to the WVLS computer procurement and provisioning process going forward as will **Erica Brewster** with our goal being to have all parts of procurement, staging, and deployment handled between the two of them as primaries with **Joshua Klingbeil** supplementing any part of the process when necessary as their backup.

WVLS Internal Projects, Library Projects, and Core Services Support

A comprehensive WVLS IT assets tracking process is underway. Spearheaded by **Brenda Walenton**, this process has led to an extensive weeding of old equipment and cabling that has been taking up considerable storage space. Asset tracking documentation has also been updated to reflect current assets. A joint experimentation of the Snipe-IT asset tracking application across LEAN WI partners is being considered.

Erica Brewster began work and training for technology support and has completed several site visits to libraries with deferred technology work due to the vacancy in the technology support position. A technology equipment and services assessment tool is being developed to evaluate the current status of computers and other equipment at each member library as well as begin the conversation of future needs, planning and budgeting. This coincides with overhauling the equipment procurement process as well as the announcement of end-of-support for Windows 10 (2025). Starting these conversations now will help libraries:

- plan and budget for replacing computers that won't support and upgrade to Windows 11,
- assess the status of Deep Freeze and other essential security tools on public and staff computers,
- determine if a system-provided program (e.g., Pharos computer timing software, Princh print management services, Kajeet hot spots) is working or would benefit a library and what is needed to continue that support, and
- generally improve communication between WVLS technology support and member libraries around the evolving topic of public and staff technology equipment and services.

PUBLIC LIBRARY CONSULTANT SERVICES

WPLC Board and Committee Meetings

Rachel Metzler attended several WPLC-related meetings specifically for the Budget Committee, Digital Library Steering Committee, Digital Library Selection Committee, and the in-person annual membership meeting and WPLC Board meeting. Highlights from these meetings include a draft WPLC budget being presented to the Board for review, to be voted on at the next WPLC board meeting on June 12. At the annual membership meeting, WPLC project managers from WiLS staff shared a review of the usage of Digital Library from the previous year. In addition, feedback was requested from the members about the magazine subscription, a plan for a visioning session was made, and DPI shared plans for the statewide delivery management.

At the Board meeting, the board agreed to renew the magazine subscription for two years at \$100,000 annually. This cost is in addition to the buying pool. A 501c investigation workgroup has been formed. This workgroup will be looking into the benefits of WPLC becoming a 501c and this work will start sometime this summer. [The Backup Technology Five-Year Plan](#) presented by the Technology Backup and Digital Archives Steering Committees was approved by the board.

Inclusive Services Consulting Report

Sherry Machones, NWLS and WVLS Inclusive Services Consultant, conducted orientations on inclusive services with the new directors at the T.B. Scott Library and Antigo Public Library. And, she continues to share a monthly *Inclusive Services Update* with each system's member libraries.

The **April Update** shared a Chinese American and Diasporic reading list from the American Library Association, articles covering UW Madison's new Institute for Diversity Science, circulating medical kits, a list of diverse holidays, and more.

The **May Update** highlighted the two new webinars in the Wisconsin Libraries Talk About Race series. May 4th's webinar was [How to Move Past Midwest Nice Towards Safety and Belonging](#) and the 17th's webinar was [Build Skills & Take Action to Stand Up for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion](#). Several other continuing education opportunities were listed as well as resources on poetry from disabled authors and current services from the Wisconsin Council of the Blind & Visually Impaired.

CONTINUING EDUCATION & TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

NEW! Trustee Trainings via United for Libraries

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction's Library Services Team is close to rolling out a new statewide program to provide access to a suite of trustee trainings from United for Libraries, a division of the American Library Association. [The mission of United for Libraries](#) is to support those who govern, promote, advocate, and fundraise for all types of libraries.

The Learning Live webinars are the hot items right now, as they feature timely topics. These webinars have been added to the DPI professional learning calendar that is shared on the WVLS Continuing Education website. Free attendance to the 3-day 2023 United for Libraries Virtual Conference from August 1-3 is included with this new program. [Follow this link and register](#) before participating in any learning activities. Note that it may take longer than one business day to get registered for the program.

As part of the service rollout, Public Library Administration Consultant Shannon Schultz has created an email distribution list for all public library trustees in the state. Shannon has sent an announcement to that list, and periodic updates about this new program will continue to be shared.

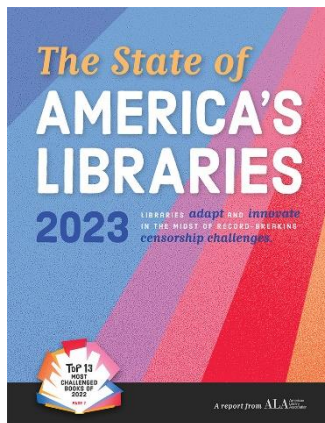
WVLS Director's Retreat

Due to COVID-19, WVLS will host its bi-annual Director's Retreat for the first time since 2019. The theme for the Retreat is "Coming Together" and it will be held on Friday, September 15 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Wausau. 'Save the Dates' have gone out to WVLS directors and plans are underway for a full day of programs and discussion. More information will be shared with the WVLS Board in August.

Another Children's Book Fest in the Books

The 35th annual Children's Bookfest was held in Rhinelander on May 1 and 2 featuring presenters and a display of award-winning books provided by the **Cooperative Children's Book Center** (CCBC). Children's Book Fest began as a WVLS youth services workshop that became an annual event. Following our example, similar events are now held throughout the state. School and public librarians, reading specialists, teachers and parents attending both the evening and day programs are enthusiastic about the opportunity to hear book talks by CCBC staff, and examine books from the CCBC Choices list. Those who attended the event also received a unique opportunity to learn how the CCBC's nationally requested intellectual freedom services can help libraries. Approximately 44 people attended the events held over the two-day period.

INFO TO GO



State of America's Libraries Report

Released annually during National Library Week in April by the American Library Association, this year's issue, "**2023 State of America's Libraries**" highlights the challenges U.S. libraries faced in the third year of the pandemic, and as political, economic and digital divides grew; and book challenges and bans surged across the country. But despite all these challenges, libraries thrived, pivoting to offer new and updated services to their communities. Adaptation and innovation shined in 2022, providing that there truly is "more to the story" at libraries. Read more here:

<https://www.ala.org/news/state-americas-libraries-report-2023>

UPCOMING EVENTS / MEETINGS

- May 1-2 – **WVLS Children's Book Fest**
- May 2 – DPI-hosted meeting of System Directors
- May 2 – Public Library System Marketing Cohort meeting
- May 2 – WVLS Tech Support, Clark County
- May 3 - **WVLS Executive Committee meeting**
- May 4 – **WVLS Trustee Orientations**
- May 5 – DPI-hosted meeting of System Delivery Coordinators
- May 9 – **WVLS V-Cat Bibliographic Control / Interface Committee meeting**
- May 9 – **WVLS/IFLS/NWLS Website Office Hours**
- May 9 – DPI-hosted meeting of System Directors
- May 9 - WLA Conference Planning Committee meeting
- May 9 – WPLC (Wisconsin Public Library Consortium) Technology Steering Committee meeting

- May 9 – Taylor County Broadband Committee meeting
- May 9 – [WVLS Trustee Orientation](#)
- May 10 – Forest County Library Board meeting
- May 10 – [Clark County Libraries' Advocacy meeting](#)
- May 11 – [WVLS V-Cat ILS Evaluation and Review Committee meeting](#)
- May 12 – COLAND (Council on Library and Network Development) meeting
- May 16 – [NICE \(Northern Wisconsin ILS Consortium Exploration\) Team meeting](#)
- May 16 – Statewide ILS Administrators meeting
- May 18 – [WVLS/IFLS/NWLS Website Office Hours](#)
- May 18 – [Cataloging training, Antigo Public Library](#)
- May 18 – SOMBAW (System Office Managers and Business Administrators of Wisconsin) meeting; WVLS office
- May 18 – Oneida County Library Board meeting
- May 20 – **WVLS Board of Trustees meeting**
- May 24 – DPI-hosted meeting of System Continuing Education Consultants
- May 29 – **WVLS OFFICE CLOSED**
- June 1 – [WVLS V-Cat Council meeting](#)
- June 8 – [WVLS V-Cat ILS Evaluation and Review Committee meeting](#)
- June 9 – [2023 Lake Superior Libraries Symposium – Matter of Fact: Information Literacy in an Age of Fake News](#); University of Minnesota Duluth Campus, Duluth, Minnesota
- June 13 – [WVLS/IFLS/NWLS Website Office Hours](#)
- June 13 – WLA Conference Planning Committee meeting
- June 15 – [WVLS/IFLS/NWLS Website Office Hours](#)
- June 20 – [NICE \(Northern Wisconsin ILS Consortium Exploration\) Team meeting](#)
- June 20 – DPI-hosted meeting of System Youth Services Consultants
- June 22-27 – [ALA Conference, Chicago](#)
- June 27 – Library Workforce Connection meeting
- June 28 – DPI-hosted meeting of System Continuing Education Consultants
- July 4 – **WVLS OFFICE CLOSED**
- July 11 - WLA Conference Planning Committee meeting
- July 13 – [WVLS V-Cat ILS Evaluation and Review Committee meeting](#)
- July 14 – [WVLS V-Cat Cooperative Circulation Committee meeting](#)
- July 14 – COLAND (Council on Library and Network Development) meeting
- August 1 - [WVLS V-Cat Bibliographic Control / Interface Committee meeting](#)
- August 4 – SRLAAW (System and Resource Library Administrator's Association of Wisconsin) meeting; Marathon County Public Library
- August 4 – WPLC (Wisconsin Public Library Consortium) Technology Steering Committee meeting
- August 11 – [WVLS V-Cat Cooperative Circulation Committee meeting](#)
- August 17 – [WVLS Library Advisory Committee meeting](#)

- August 17 - **WVLS/IFLS/NWLS Website Office Hours**
- August 19 - **WVLS Board of Trustees meeting**
- August 21-25 – **Wisconsin Trustee Training Week**
- August 22 - WLA Conference Planning Committee meeting
- August 23 – DPI-hosted meeting of System Continuing Education Consultants
- September 4 – **WVLS OFFICE CLOSED**

Thank you for reading!

Marla