

OWLS Director Report

March 20, 2025 OWLS Board of Trustees Meeting

May OWLS Board of Trustees Meeting in Waupaca

Please mark your calendars. Our next board meeting on Thursday, May 15th, will be held at the Waupaca Area Public Library, downstairs in the city council chambers. Trustees are encouraged to attend in person, but remote participation will be possible.

Library Legislative Day

Bradley, Diane, and Veronica attended Library Legislative Day on February 11th along with representatives from several OWLS member libraries. We had record attendance and positive conversations with legislators and their aides. Cindy plans to attend a budget listening session with Senator Jacque in Kimberly on March 31st. The Joint Finance Committee should soon announce the dates and locations their regional budget hearings.

Appleton Public Library Building Project

Appleton Public Library opened on February 15th. Colleen and Tasha led OWLS staff on a tour of the newly renovated APL on February 21st. A tour for OWLS member library directors had to be rescheduled due to weather and will be held on March 26th. The OWLS Board of Trustees meeting on September 18, 2025 will be held at APL in the Cornerstone Conference room.

Here we are on the learning stair:



System Directors Retreat

On March 12th and 13th, I attended a retreat for public library system directors hosted by DPI at the Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells. We discussed shared challenges and best practices for public library systems. We also had training on compassion resilience and communications. At dinner on Wednesday, we took the opportunity to mark the recent passing of our colleague, [Steve Platteter](#), Deputy Director of the Prairie Lakes Library System and previously Director of the Arrowhead Library System.

Trustee Training

We had to cancel the Trustee 101 workshop scheduled for 3/11 in Manitowoc because only two people registered. Upcoming trainings are:

- [Trustee 201](#) – March 29th in DePere
- [Trustee 301](#) – April 10th in Oshkosh

Wisconsin Association of Public Libraries Conference in Oshkosh

Registration is now open for the Wisconsin Association of Public Libraries (WAPL) Annual Conference in Oshkosh, WI from April 30 - May 2, 2025. The schedule includes several sessions for Trustees and Friends. Register by April 3rd to take advantage of Early Bird rates. OWLS Trustees are eligible to apply for CE scholarships to cover attendance. Kristin and I will both be presenting at the conference.

Executive Order Impacting IMLS Funding

On Friday, 3/14, President Trump signed an [Executive Order](#) that impacts several federal agencies, including the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

We do not yet have enough information to say with certainty how this will impact Wisconsin public libraries. Laura Sauser, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Library Association, compiled these links to resources that explain the Wisconsin share of IMLS grants and where they go:

- [DPI/DLS LSTA page](#)
- [IMLS Grants to States page](#)
- [State allotment overview](#)
- [Wisconsin page on the IMLS website](#)

DPI also recently set up this page on their website to track the impact of federal funding on Wisconsin public schools and libraries. [Tracking Federal Funding Cuts: The Effect on Wisconsin | Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction](#). Watch this page for updates as information unfolds.

CE Scholarships Awarded in 2024

Date	Applicant	Library	Event	Requested	Awarded
01/01/24	APL	APL	Service Contract	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00
01/12/24	Hannah Dahlman	CPL	Power Up Leadership Conference	\$370.00	\$370.00
03/21/24	Molly Reinke	WAU	PLA	\$1,300.00	\$1,300.00
04/22/24	Jan Poppo	WAU	Human Resources Crash Course webinar	\$94.00	\$94.00
06/06/24	Meredith Miller	SCA	Leading with Confidence Webinar	\$49.00	\$49.00
07/10/24	Megan Kloeckner	LIT	Back in Circulation Again 2024	\$288.00	\$288.00
08/16/24	Laura Jandacek	WAU	Basics of Cataloging	\$162.00	\$162.00
09/17/24	Le Ann Hopp	MAR	Public Library Director Crash Course	\$94.50	\$94.50
09/25/24	Lauryn Wilcox	KIM	WLA	\$548.50	\$548.50
09/26/24	Taylor Weinfurter	LIT	WLA	\$337.50	\$337.50
10/01/24	Cindy Borgen	SEY	WLA	\$295.00	\$295.00
10/02/24	Jamie Hein	CPL	WLA - Jamie, Ashley Borman, Hannah Dahlman	\$883.89	\$883.89
10/18/24	Simon Baumgart	WAU	WLA	\$360.00	\$360.00
10/30/24	Holly Selwitschka	KIM	ALA CORE Forum	\$919.00	\$919.00
TOTAL					\$9,201.31