

# FORWARD

## WI ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES CONFERENCE '25



### CONFERENCE CHAIR

Heather Thompson  
Kenosha Public Library

### WAPL 2025 Features:

Sessions organized by  
**areas of interest**

Reception and social at the  
**beautiful Oshkosh Public Library**

**Networking opportunities**  
with library colleagues

**Breakout sessions** with  
library professionals sharing  
best practices and new  
innovations

**Keynote sessions** focused  
on a diverse array of  
contemporary topics  
important to the public  
library community



WISCONSIN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

*Are you excited to move your public library's services forward?* If so, you're invited to join us at the Wisconsin Association of Public Libraries (WAPL) Annual Conference in Oshkosh, WI from April 30 - May 2, 2025! This year's conference theme is—you guessed it—*Forward*. This is not just the Wisconsin State Motto, but a call to action. When we come together to learn from the creativity, innovation, and resourcefulness of our peers, we leave inspired to make the changes we want to see in our own communities.

And I promise you: there is no shortage of inspiring programs at this year's conference! In addition to a well-rounded slate of engaging breakout sessions that run the gamut from creating AI usage policies to providing top-notch reading recommendations for Horror fanatics, we are welcoming several phenomenal keynote speakers. Past ALA President Loida Garcia-Febo will kick off the conference by giving us tools for navigating uncertain times in our libraries. Author and Geology Professor Marcia Bjornerud will talk about reading the world around us (followed by a book signing!). Jeanne Wolfe, Director of the Ben Guthrie - Lac Du Flambeau Public Library, alongside a panel of tribal library representatives, will raise our cultural awareness and understanding of Wisconsin's tribal communities. On Friday afternoon, the conference will close with a legal information Q&A with Professor, Lawyer, and Librarian, Tomas Lipinski—so, be sure to come prepared with any burning legal questions you might have regarding public libraries!

Perhaps best of all, though, is that the WAPL Annual Conference is punctuated by plentiful break times, mealtimes, and activities that allow you to connect, learn from, and socialize with public library peers from across the state. Participants are encouraged to join us Wednesday evening to kick off the conference in a relaxed setting. A "South of the Border" buffet will be served and a cash bar will be available at the kick-off celebration. On Thursday evening, attendees will have the opportunity to participate in an exclusive tour and networking reception at the historic Oshkosh Public Library.

I sincerely hope you will join me at the 2025 WAPL Annual Conference. I look forward to welcoming you and learning how you want to move your library forward.

Heather Thompson  
WAPL Conference Chair

View the full conference agenda, including keynote and breakout session descriptions at <https://www.wisconsinlibraries.org/wapl-2025-conference>

# FORWARD

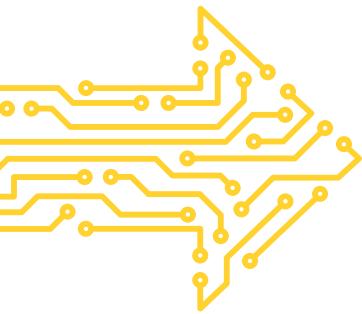
WI ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES CONFERENCE '25

April 30 - May 2, 2025

Oshkosh Marriott Waterfront Hotel & Convention Center

## FEATURED SPEAKERS

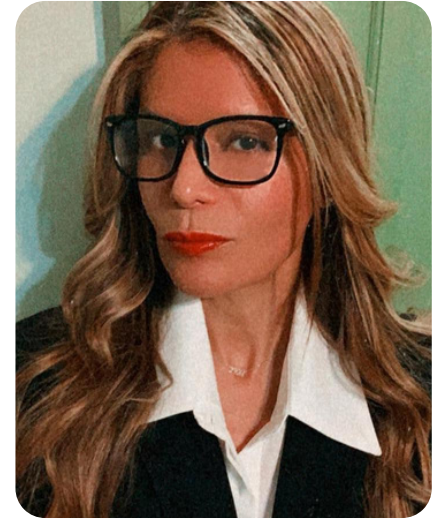
[REGISTER](#)



OPENING KEYNOTE

### Loida Garcia-Febo

2018-2019 ALA President &  
International Library Consultant



THURSDAY LUNCHEON KEYNOTE

Marcia Bjornerud, author of *Turning to Stone:  
A Geologist's Love Letter to the Wisdom of Rocks*

FRIDAY BREAKFAST KEYNOTE

Panel discussion: Native American Cultural Awareness  
of Wisconsin Tribal Communities with Jeanne Wolfe,  
Director, Ben Guthrie - Lac Du Flambeau Public Library

CLOSING KEYNOTE

Legal Information Q&A with Librarian Lawyer, Professor  
Tomas Lipinski

*Plus 36 breakout  
sessions on a variety of  
topics led by your peers.*

[View the Complete  
Program Schedule](#)



[wisconsinlibraries.org/wapl-2025-conference](https://wisconsinlibraries.org/wapl-2025-conference)

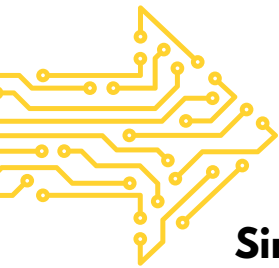
# Registration Rates Register by April 4 to take advantage of early bird rates!

## Full Conference

	Early Bird (by 4/4/25)	Standard (by 4/16/25)
WLA Member Registration	\$315	\$335
Non-Member Registration	\$480	\$500
Trustee/Library Friend/Retiree*	\$265	\$285
Students	\$190	\$210
Non-Industry Guests	\$235	\$255

Full conference includes Wednesday Opening Celebration buffet, breakfast, lunch and break on Thursday, breakfast and lunch on Friday.

**Note: We are unable to offer onsite registration. Registration closes after April 16, 2025.**



**REGISTER**

## Single Day

### Thursday Only

*Includes breakfast, lunch, and break*

	Early Bird (by 4/4/25)	Standard (by 4/16/2025)
WLA Member	\$225	\$245
Non-Member	\$355	\$375
Trustee/Library Friend/Retiree*	\$170	\$190
Students	\$140	\$160
Non-Industry Guests	\$160	\$180

### Friday Only

*Includes breakfast and lunch*

	Early Bird (by 4/4/2025)	Standard (by 4/16/2025)
WLA Member	\$205	\$225
Non-Member	\$335	\$355
Trustee/Library Friend/Retiree*	\$150	\$170
Students	\$125	\$145
Non-Industry Guests	\$140	\$160

- Trustees/Library Friends/Retirees must be WLA members. Nonmember Trustees/Library Friends/Retirees should register at the nonmember rate.
- Non-industry guests are spouses, family members, and other guests who attend conference functions that are not in the Library Profession. You do not need to register guests who are not attending conference functions.
- Students are defined as full-time students enrolled in a library science/services program. Proof of enrollment is required for students.
- Refunds for cancelled conference registrations will be provided, less a \$25 cancellation fee, for all requests received no later than April 16, 2025. No refunds after Wednesday, April 16, 2025.

## Conference Hotel

The conference hotel is the Oshkosh Marriott Waterfront Hotel & Convention Center, 1 North Main Street, Oshkosh, Wisconsin, USA, 54901. The WAPL conference rate is \$106.99 USD per night plus taxes and fees.\* Hotel room rates based on single or double occupancy. A \$10 per night fee will be assessed for any additional occupants. **The cut-off date for the conference rate is April 11, 2025.**



To make a room reservation at the Oshkosh Marriott Waterfront Hotel & Convention Center:

- [Click Here](#) to make your room reservation online; or
- Call: 1-855-230-1900

*\*There is a \$3 nightly municipal facility use fee, in addition to a 10% occupancy tax and 5% state sales tax.*

# Special Events

[REGISTER](#)

## Opening Celebration Buffet

Wednesday, April 30 | 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Catch up with your colleagues, make new friends, and create new connections in a relaxed setting. Enjoy a buffet and a cash bar. Pre-registration is required.

## WLA Foundation Button-Making Station

Wednesday, April 30– Friday, May 2 |

Hours and location will be available at registration.



Add some flair to your conference experience! Stop by the WLA Foundation-sponsored Button-Making Station and unleash your creativity. Decorate a custom button that celebrates this year's conference theme, "Forward", and proudly wear it on your name badge lanyard. It's the perfect way to add a bit of flair while showing how you're moving libraries forward. Don't miss out—come make a button and learn how the WLA Foundation helps take your member experience to the next level!

## At The Movies with Librarians: Foreward vs. Forward

Thursday, May 1 | 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Leander Choate Room

A conference tradition! Our panel will discuss books being made into movies slated for release in 2025. After enjoying exciting trailers, panelists will analyze how well (or poorly) these books may translate to the screen. Panelists will also rate films previewed at previous conferences. *Join us for this popular event!*

## Networking Reception at the Oshkosh Public Library

Thursday, May 1 | 6:00 p.m.– 8:00 p.m.

106 Washington Avenue, Oshkosh, WI

\$20.00 per person; pre-registration is required.

[View the Complete Program Schedule](#)



Join us at the beautiful, historic Oshkosh Public Library. Spend the evening in the library's famous Dome enjoying delicious food offerings while socializing with your colleagues.

Located in the heart of downtown Oshkosh, the library was built in 1900 and designed by famed architect William Waters. It is one of the most iconic and photogenic buildings in Oshkosh. Don't forget to say hello to the bronze lions Sawyer and Harris, the beloved Guardians of the Library!

The library is about a 7-minute walk from the conference center. Attendees are encouraged to carpool; transportation will not be provided. Free parking is available.

## Tour of the transformed Appleton Public Library

Friday, May 2 | 2:30 p.m.

Appleton Public Library, 200 N. Appleton Street, Appleton, WI

Free: Pre-registration required

Join us for a special tour of the newly transformed Appleton Public Library!

## Thank you to the Conference Committee

Chair Heather Thompson, Kenosha Public Library

Joe Bongers, Oshkosh Public Library

Tana Elias, Madison Public Library

Nicole Mszal, Hustisford Community Library

Roxanne Staveness, Rio Community Library

*Special thanks to Amy Mitchell, Beloit Public Library, for designing the conference logo.*

results @ hand

We have chosen the Results @ Hand app for our conference technology needs. Registered attendees will be able to download the Results @ Hand app or access the app from their smartphone, tablet, or PC web browser. The app will feature our entire conference agenda, speaker handouts, venue maps, community message boards, sponsor information, and tools to interact with other attendees.