



WLA NEWS

Information from the Wisconsin Library Association
Summer 2022

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In This Issue . . .

By Laura Sauser, WLA Executive Director

My first spring and summer seasons as an official "Wisconsinite" have been a whirlwind of activity with lots of visits to places around the state, including Sheboygan, Oshkosh, Wausau, Rhineland, Sturgeon Bay, La Crosse, Eau Claire, Wauwatosa, Kenosha, Milwaukee, Appleton, and more. Every day in this job reinforces that Wisconsin is a wonderful state filled with beautiful libraries and welcoming and dedicated library staff!

This summer issue of *WLA News* covers a wide range of important topics and features, including:

- Information about the WLA Statement on Intellectual Freedom and the Freedom to Read, a pronouncement developed by the WLA Board of Directors in support of Wisconsin libraries and library workers.
- Article submissions from our members, including news about the Oak Creek Public Library's new Sikh book collection; an accessibility app launched by the W.J. Niederkorn Library; and small business planning kits, bookmobile services, and adopt-a-pet events at the Hedburg Public Library. (Keep sending those articles my way!)
- Updates on the Life membership category and the work of a special task force charged with updating the WLA Organization Manual.
- Information about upcoming educational events and meetings, including the WLA annual conference in November, webinars, and special interest group meetings.
- Tips on inviting legislators into your library and a word of caution about fake email solicitations about libraries popping up around the state.
- An interview with Barbara Alvarez, a WLA member recently named to Library Journal's list of "Movers & Shakers 2022."
- Photos from the 2022 WAAL, WAPL, and SSCS conferences. Many thanks to our conference volunteers, speakers, and our attendees who helped make those events a success!

These are just a few highlights from this issue. Happy reading and enjoy the rest of the summer!



President's Message

By Nyama Reed, 2022 WLA President

The past few months as WLA's 2022 President have been a whirlwind. We kicked things off in January with a WLA Board Retreat and WLA Leadership Orientation. Moved right into February with Library Legislative Day in person in Madison. It is a very different experience going from office to office with Steve Conway, WLA's lobbyist, since he knows EVERYONE and is obviously liked and respected by all. His expertise and relationships are invaluable for WLA and I've learned a lot from working with him.

Spring was a lovely time to drive to the WAAL, WAPL, and SSCS conferences. The conferences had informative sessions and inspiring speakers. I'm glad I brought tissues, as I needed them for my eyes rather than my allergies a few times. We are steadily planning the Annual Conference for November 1-4 at the Grand Geneva Resort & Spa in Lake Geneva. I toured the space as part of the conference planning committee, and I was in awe. It is much more like having a conference at a resort rather than a hotel. I'm really looking forward to having an energetic conference there, to meet new people, and to catch up with friends.

As we move into the middle of the year, the WLA Board is making progress on updating our values, which will help inform our future strategic planning process. Our goal is to set firm, thoughtful, groundwork to guide WLA into 2023 and beyond.

A vital part of our values work was discussing intellectual freedom and the freedom to read. We have been working on those issues diligently for several months. I offer a mea culpa that our process was behind the scenes and took a while. We received feedback that some members worried we weren't being proactive in supporting these foundational library values. The effort to get our Statement on Intellectual Freedom and the Freedom to Read (see page 3) just right, alas, led to a slow process. At the Board level, our support of these values was not in question and never wavered!

In addition to the statement, the WLA Intellectual Freedom Special Interest Group (WLA IF SIG), developed an intellectual freedom resources page for our website (www.wisconsinlibraries.org/intellectual-freedom-resources). This page will be updated as we add more resources from Wisconsin and national resources. The WLA IF SIG has been meeting regularly, with a growing group of attendees.

As we work on new initiatives, you will be informed via the *WLA Bulletin*, *WLA News*, and our website. If intellectual freedom or another issue speaks to your heart, please reach out to me or Laura Sauser.

Please email me at n.reed@wfblibrary.org any time with your comments, compliments, or concerns.

Leader to Leader Quarterly Chat

WLA Leaders (unit/division/roundtable/special interest group chairs and committee members; standing committee members, board members, and any other leaders) are invited to attend the fall WLA Leader-to-Leader Quarterly Chat! This informal, "open mic" event is an opportunity for you to talk with other WLA leaders, share ideas, solve problems, and build relationships with your WLA colleagues.

September 22

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. (virtual)

Join us via the Zoom link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/92418466088?pwd=YINhUzVucE1GUXhtQnVlVIBTSVMYzZ09>

The Wisconsin Library Association advocates for libraries and library workers across our state in a variety of ways - from direct lobbying of state government leaders to educating our members on important issues and providing a platform for peer-to-peer resource sharing. An important part of our advocacy work is upholding intellectual freedom, protecting the freedom to read, and providing our members with resources to address local challenges. The WLA Board of Directors has developed this statement to support Wisconsin libraries and library workers. For additional resources, visit the Intellectual Freedom Resources page on the WLA [website](#). To download a pdf copy of the statement, [click here](#).

WLA Statement on Intellectual Freedom and the Freedom to Read

The Wisconsin Library Association affirms its support of personal liberty, the freedom to read, and intellectual freedom for people across Wisconsin.

Freedom to Read

Over 130 years ago, the Wisconsin Library Association (WLA) formed to support the establishment of public libraries in the state. Today, our membership represents a wide range of libraries that serve a variety of communities – from college campuses to corporations, rural villages to urban areas, and more. Just as our state motto is “Forward,” WLA and Wisconsin libraries are steadfast in supporting our communities as they move forward in education, business, and life enrichment.

Libraries have grown and changed since the 1800s, but their primary mission remains the same: to ensure all people can exercise their right to intellectual freedom and the freedom to read. The First Amendment’s right to freedom of expression encompasses intellectual freedom, which includes an individual’s right to receive information on a wide range of topics from a variety of viewpoints. Publicly funded libraries play an important role in facilitating this free and open access to information. [1]

We know that our families and community members have varying interests, hobbies, and beliefs. What one person selects to use from their local library for themselves, or for their family, is an exercise of their personal liberty, their freedom to read, and their intellectual freedom. To meet the broad and varied needs of Wisconsinites, libraries and library staff work diligently to build exceptional collections that represent the stories and interests of all Wisconsinites.

Supporting the Freedom to Read with Policies and Standards

Every library in Wisconsin should have a materials selection policy, approved by their administering body, which includes a formal process for the reconsideration of library materials. We remind administrators, boards, municipal leadership, librarians, and communities that the reconsideration and removal of library materials must be done in accordance with administratively approved policies. Such formal processes promote the Constitutional values of transparent governance and free speech and ensure local control over community institutions.

When someone requests that a library item be reconsidered, libraries should follow the approved policies for completing an objective review of the material. The removal of library materials without due process inhibits libraries’ ability to provide comprehensive and inclusive collections for their full community. Banning, removing, or censoring material violates the community’s right to intellectual freedom and the freedom to read.

The Wisconsin Library Association recommends that libraries, boards, and other decision makers:

- Follow library-approved policies when responding to requests to reconsider library materials.
- Consult with their library administrators and librarians when reviewing requests for reconsideration.
- Utilize the expertise of their librarians and library professionals in making collection decisions that will impact all library users.

As we have for over 130 years, WLA and its members will continue to support personal liberty, the freedom to read, and intellectual freedom for people across Wisconsin.

[1] J. Haydel, ‘Libraries and Intellectual Freedom’, The First Amendment Encyclopedia, 2009, <https://www.mtsu.edu/first-amendment/article/1125/libraries-and-intellectual-freedom>, (access 7 JUNE 2022)

Intellectual Freedom Special Interest Group (SIG) August Meeting

This special interest group provides an opportunity for members to be more closely engaged with intellectual freedom principles and issues through programming and networking. Meetings are virtual and open to all WLA members. Contact Kristina Gómez at intellectualfreedomsigwi@gmail.com with questions.

The August meeting will start with time for announcements and share-outs from members. We'll hear updates from the IF SIG work groups: Needs Assessment, Support Network and Training.

Date: August 22, 2022

Time: 11:00 a.m. - Noon

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89363981206?pwd=emcxMUUpNZE1QVnINS2tJQkdveCtVZz09>

Meeting ID: 893 6398 1206

Passcode: 296498

Additional agenda items can be sent to Kristina Gómez by Friday, August 19: intellectualfreedomsigwi@gmail.com.

Join the Inclusive Services Special Interest Group

The Inclusive Services Special Interest Group was formed in late 2019-early 2020 to promote inclusion by helping library staff, friends, and trustees recognize and implement inclusive practices. The SIG will accomplish this through organizing and/or sponsoring continuing education opportunities and reflecting and discussing inclusive services within libraries and the profession. It is also a great opportunity to network and receive support from colleagues who are working on inclusivity in various parts of the state!

How have SIG members contributed so far?

- Written a short article for *WLA News*
- Provided learning opportunities on topics related to inclusivity (*Example: Nick Demske presented on Anti-racism and Intentional Recruitment Efforts, which can be found here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=mim7qSQrseg*)
- Participated in statewide projects, such as the Libraries Talk about Race project (www.wislibidea.com).
- Created a demographics survey to learn more about our members
- Many have shared professional learning opportunities and projects related to inclusive services at meetings

Mark Jochem, Workforce Development Consultant, South Central Library System, is the Inclusive Services SIG Chair and Shauna Koszegi, Outreach and Continuing Education Consultant, Southwest Wisconsin Library System, is serving as Secretary. Please contact Mark (Jmjochem@scls.info) or Shauna (skoszegi@swls.org) to learn more!

September Meeting

The next virtual Inclusive Services SIG meeting will take place on September 28 from noon - 1:00 p.m.

[Click here](#) to join the Zoom Meeting.

Meeting ID: 811 9342 5302

Passcode: 298223

Update to Life Memberships

Life membership is a special status given to WLA members who have been members for 25 years or more. Over 200 WLA members have achieved this important milestone, and we appreciate their ongoing support!

The WLA Board of Directors recently made some changes to our Life memberships to provide the association with additional dues revenue, to enable working members to achieve this status, and to create an opportunity for our membership community to celebrate this very special accomplishment.

These changes include:

- The existing pool of Life members who achieved this status prior to July 1, 2022 are asked to make a modest dues contribution of \$25 annually.
- WLA Members with 25 or more years of membership who are still in the workforce will now be eligible for Life status, a distinction previously reserved for retirees. *Life members still in the workforce will pay their regular dues until retirement.* Prospective Life members will need to submit an [online application](#) in order to be considered for Life member status.
- Starting this year, Life members will be recognized in a special ceremony during the Annual Membership Meeting at the WLA Annual Conference and with special ribbons on their conference name badges. We hope you will join us in Lake Geneva November 1 – 4, 2022!

To learn more, visit the *Join Us* section of the WLA website.



Coming Soon! Updates to the WLA Organization Manual

A task force appointed by the WLA Board of Directors is working to make much-needed updates to the WLA Organization Manual.

For the next several months, the task force will review each section of the manual, draft updates and additions to the manual, and submit any necessary revisions, additions, and recommendations to the WLA Board of Directors for approval. The goal is to have this work completed by the new leader orientation in early 2023.

Chaired by WLA Secretary Desiree Bongers, members of the task force include: WLA Past President Sherry Machones; WLA board liaisons Tracy Vreeke, Cathryn Miller, Gina Rae, Linda Jerome, Jennifer Cook, and Carrie Doyle; and WLA Executive Director Laura Sauser.

Many thanks to the task force members for taking on this Herculean task!

WLA Foundation Officers Elected

At the June meeting of the WLA Foundation Board of Directors, the following officers were elected for 2022:

- Paula Ganyard, Vice-Chair
- Nanette Bulebosh, Secretary

Congratulations!

Wisconsin Library Association (WLA)

CULTIVATING A GREAT RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR MUNICIPAL CLERK

Tuesday, September 20, 2022
10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.



Public libraries and municipalities have the shared goal of supporting the diverse needs of their community. To ensure success, it is critical that public library boards, directors, and staff have a good relationship with other representatives of the municipal government, especially the municipal clerk and/or finance director.

This webinar will discuss these unique roles that exist within your municipality and how they can work together for the benefit of your community. You'll learn best practices from public library representatives and their municipal partners who have worked together to build successful working relationships.

PANELISTS

- Jerry Deschane, Executive Director, Wisconsin League of Municipalities
- Marie Moe, 1st Vice President Wisconsin Municipal Clerks Association & City Clerk, City of Portage
- Shannon Schultz, Public Library Administration Consultant, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
- Steve Thiry, Director, West Bend Public Library
- Debbie Bird, Director, Portage Public Library
- Lizbet Santana, City Clerk, City of West Bend

**REGISTER
TODAY!**

- \$20 for Members of the Wisconsin Library Association & Members of the Wisconsin Municipal Clerks Association
- \$25 for nonmembers

To register online, go to: <https://bit.ly/3JdSQ6r>.

To register by phone, call (680) 245-3640.

**PROGRAM
PARTNERS**

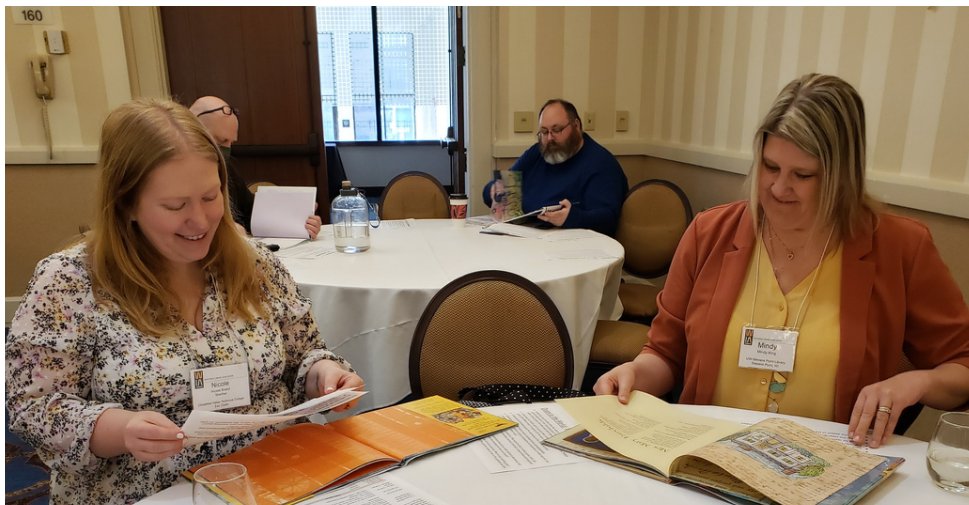


WISCONSIN
LIBRARY
ASSOCIATION

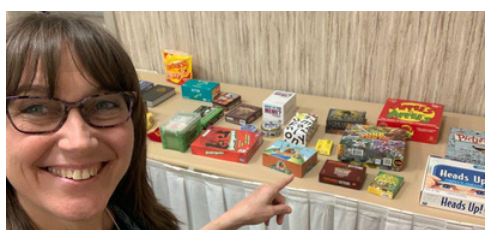


2022 Spring Conference Recap in Photos

Thank you to all of our planning committees, speakers, and most of all - our attendees!



Wisconsin Association of Academic Librarians (WAAL) Conference, April 20 - 22, 2022



Wisconsin Association of Public Libraries (WAPL) Conference, May 11 - 13, 2022

2022 Spring Conference Photos, cont



Support Staff & Circulation Services Conference, May 26, 2022

Support Wisconsin Libraries with a Gift to the WLA Foundation

Help the Wisconsin Library Association Foundation advance its mission of supporting the role of Wisconsin libraries as essential institutions. The Foundation funds:

- WLA Conference Keynote Speaker
- WLA Awards and Honors reception
- Scholarships and grants for aspiring librarians
- Resources for the education of, and critical connections with, state legislators
- The Wisconsin Heritage Center initiative



To learn more about the WLA Foundation and to make a donation, visit wisconsinlibraries.org/foundation.

Leave a legacy! Name the WLA Foundation as a beneficiary of your will, life insurance policy, retirement plan, or other planned giving vehicle. Visit with your financial advisor for more information.

Call for Presenters: Wisconsin Open Education Symposium

The Wisconsin Technical College System presents the 2nd Annual Wisconsin Open Education Symposium hosted by Gateway Technical College. Organizers are accepting proposals for the second annual, virtual event held October 28, 2022. The Committee is looking for engaging presentations on the theme "Open for Equity."

Potential topics include, but are not limited to:

- Finding, adopting, adapting, creating OER
- Faculty experience with OER or open pedagogy
- Advocating or sustaining open education

- Innovative approaches to reducing learning resource cost
- Student perspectives on open education in the classroom
- Other related topics focused on equity or student success

Presentation formats include recorded lightning talks, panel presentations, poster presentations, live presentations.

Visit the [Symposium website](https://wisconsinlibraries.org/symposium) for more information.

“Everything’s Coming Up Lake Geneva”

Submitted by Anna Zook, WLA Annual Conference Publicity Chair



The WLA Annual Conference Planning Committee is pleased to announce that Alison Macrina from the Library Freedom Project will be our opening speaker on Thursday, November 3. Alison’s keynote address, “Intellectual Freedom and Social Justice: Library Values in Conflict,” will focus on the role libraries play as the front in a hyperpartisan culture war. Alison will also be hosting a breakout session later that morning about holding library vendors accountable to privacy and information equity values.

Just a reminder – our opening keynote speaker is Jason Reynolds, #1 New York Times bestselling author whose award-winning book *Look Both Ways: A Tale Told in Ten Blocks* was a National Book Award Finalist, Carnegie Medal winner, and named best one of the best books of 2019 by NPR, School Library Journal, and many more. For more information on this Speaker please visit www.simonspeakers.com.

Now that you know the when (Tuesday, November 1- Friday, November 4, 2022), the where (Grand Geneva Resort), and two of our highlighted speakers for the fall conference, it’s time to keep your eyes on WLA’s Facebook page and conference landing page to quickly discover more details about the conference as they unfold. You can like the WLA at <https://www.facebook.com/WisconsinLibraries> and bookmark the WLA conference page today: https://whova.com/web/wapla_202205/. More details coming soon...

Volunteer Needed! Exhibits Co-Chair



We are seeking an additional volunteer to help with conference exhibits. This volunteer will be paired with an experienced Exhibits Chair who needs an enthusiastic co-chair to help with this year’s conference. *(Ideally, this volunteer will also be willing to consider taking on a greater leadership role with conference exhibits for 2023.)*

You will help with planning and outreach to exhibitors leading up to the conference and help staff the exhibit hall during the conference.

This is a great opportunity to meet new people and expand your professional network!

Contact Conference Chair Barry McKnight, bmcknight@lacrosselibrary.org or WLA Executive Director Laura Sauser, sauser@wisconsinlibraries.org for more information.

WLA Foundation Silent Auction Returns!

Rise to the Challenge and help the Wisconsin Library Association Foundation (WLAF) fundraising efforts at the fall conference!

The Silent Auction will be returning to the Annual Conference and WLAF encourages you to consider a donation. Whether a basket, a gift certificate, or stand-alone item, your donation will help WLAF continue to provide support scholarships and grants for aspiring librarians, the WLA Conference Keynote Speaker, the WLA Awards and Honors reception, and resources for the education of, and critical connections with, state legislators.

Start brainstorming now! Contact Melissa Krause (mkrause@fremontpl.org) or Rachel Arndt (rachel.arndt27@gmail.com) with any questions or for help with ideas.



Q & A with a Library "Mover & Shaker"

Congratulations to Barbara Alvarez, Associate Lecturer and Instructor at UW-Madison, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and Clarion University for being named to Library Journal's list of "Movers & Shakers 2022."

Q: This isn't the first time your efforts were recognized by your peers! Your work with dementia-friendly programming at the North Shore Library received a WLA Programming Innovation Award in 2019. Who or what inspires you?

A: Librarians inspire me! Ever since I began working in libraries in 2011, I have been amazed by the people in this profession. They are so creative, innovative, thoughtful, and genuine. As someone who has worked predominantly in public libraries, it is amazing to see how many opportunities there are for us to uniquely collaborate with our communities. We are in a very special position where we can be allies and partners in the spaces that are meaningful to our patrons.

Q: What does this national recognition from Library Journal mean to you personally and professionally?

A: This is such an honor. I've long admired the people who have been recognized as Movers and Shakers in Library Journal. It is so fascinating to read about people's backgrounds, specialty areas, and their goals for this profession. I'm grateful to have even been nominated for this award. I know that there are countless other individuals who are doing incredible library work that deserve recognition. I encourage you to nominate your colleagues for awards- they deserve it!

Q: Describe your career path up to this point. What attracted you to librarianship?

A: I've always loved libraries. Some of my happiest memories as a child are sifting through books at the library and helping my mom with the Friends of the Library book sale. In high school, I volunteered at the library for three years. But I never considered librarianship as a profession until the summer before my senior year of college. I was completing a fellowship at the University of Iowa and doing weekly research at a campus archive when I got to know the librarians and archivists pretty well.

I admired their work and they recommended that I look into getting my Masters degree in Library and Information Science. After a cursory glance at the MLIS programs it clicked- I knew this was the profession for me. Librarians have truly shaped my career- even before it started!

I graduated with my MLIS from the University of Illinois-Urbana/Champaign in 2012 and have worked in five different libraries in Illinois and Wisconsin. These have included public libraries, a digital asset management library, and a corporate archive. I always find myself looking for ways to build partnerships with the community that the library serves- whether it's public or employees. That sense of purpose has buoyed me no matter where I've landed.

Q: What advice would you have for librarians or library workers who are seeking to reclaim their passion for their work after the challenges of the past few years?

A: The past few years have been especially challenging for public librarians. This pandemic showed us that librarians truly are integral to our communities and daily lives and I hope librarians and library workers are able to get some much-needed rest and recuperation. Sometimes doing the minimum to get through is all we can do and that's okay.

But when you're ready to get going again, I recommend that you do a personal inventory of the work that you've done throughout your career- whether it was librarianship or otherwise. Do you find any common threads? Perhaps you gravitate toward communications or event planning. Find out what you are naturally pulled toward and embrace that. Even if you can carve out a couple hours a week that really lights you up, that can help reclaim your passion.

Library Journal Mover & Shaker, cont.

Q: *What's next for you?*

A: I am in the process of completing my PhD in Information Science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. I also teach at three different LIS schools throughout the nation and host webinars and 2-4 week classes with library associations and organizations. Lastly, I am working on completing my second book with ALA Editions. It is set for publication in Spring 2023. You can learn more and stay in touch at www.barbaralvarez.com

Q: *Anything you'd like to add?*

A: I'm so grateful to be in this profession and to work amongst some truly wonderful people. Congratulations to all of you on the important work that you do in your communities. Lastly, I'd like to give a big thanks to the Wisconsin Library Association for the work that you do to advocate and educate for the library profession.

What's Happening Around Hedberg Public Library

Submitted by Elizabeth Hough, Marketing Manager, Hedberg Public Library



"Kara Blue (left) and Kathryn Jackson (right) explore the new Small Business Chrome Kits in the Hedberg Public Library's Small Business Resource Center.

Hedberg Public Library, along with other Rock County libraries, have partnered with the Rock County Small Business Development Center to offer small business planning kits.



The HPL Bookmobile visits one of the community's P4J (Preschool for Janesville) locations with their mascot, Mosi.

The Hedberg Public Library Bookmobile has scheduled stops at Janesville schools, parks, and community events all summer long. Visit HedbergPublicLibrary.org/bookmobile for a full calendar of stops.



An adoptable dog at the Hedberg Public Library.

Hedberg Public Library has partnered with the Humane Society of Southern Wisconsin to host a monthly Adopt-a-Pet at the Library event. Visitors to the library will be able to meet one or two adoptable pets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 9:30-11:30 a.m.

WAPL to Sponsor Virtual Library Hunt

Submitted by Teresa Schmidt, WAPL Chair

Wisconsin Association of Public Libraries (WAPL) wants to know about your library! We are planning a scavenger hunt of sorts for all Wisconsin Public Libraries and would love to have you and your library be part of the hunt.

We are looking for facts and information about your library that your fellow library workers would be able to track down via searching the internet, or by calling or chatting with your staff.

Please use the Google form found at <https://bit.ly/MyWisconsinLibrary> to submit your library factoids. And thank you for participating!

Leadership Rosters Needed

Attention unit leaders, committee chairs, and more!
Your help is needed to ensure the WLA database is up to date.

If you have not already done so, please send your Leadership Roster for 2022 to wla@wisconsinlibraries.org.

[Click here](#) to download the roster form.

Reference & Adult Services Section (RASS) Update

The Reference & Adult Services Section (RASS) has been discontinued due to inactivity.

If there are members interested in re-forming this section as a WLA Special Interest Group, please contact WLA Executive Director Laura Sauser via email at sauser@wisconsinlibraries.org.

WAAL Update

Submitted by Catherine Miller, WAAL Board Liaison

WAAL (Wisconsin Association of Academic Librarians) will be pilot a new event called the WAAL Showcase starting in the fall. Each quarterly WAAL Showcase will be held at a different academic library in regions across the state. The hope is that librarians and library staff will be within reasonable driving distance of at least one showcase per year.

During the day-long showcase, the host library will offer a tour, and librarians and staff at the host library will present about a specific topic. This will be a great opportunity to meet others in the academic library field. We hope to see you there! More information to come!

Outreach Services Roundtable Virtual Presentation

Submitted by Jennie Fidler, OSRT Chair

WLA members are invited to attend this upcoming presentation hosted by the Outreach Services Roundtable. Register to attend and/or to receive a link to the recording.

Conversation Cafés: Engagement Strategies to Encourage Dialog

Wednesday, September 28

11 am-12 pm

Register [here](#).

Libraries are the perfect place for communities to have meaningful discussions about important (and often controversial) topics. Learn how an academic library and a public library are using outreach programming to facilitate conversations and engage their communities in dialog.

Contact Marc Boucher at mboucher1@issu.edu with questions.

Wisconsin Library Heritage Center Seeks Nominations for the Wisconsin Library Hall of Fame

Deadline for Nominations: Friday, September 9

Submitted by Annie Bahringer, Chair, Library Heritage Center Steering Committee

Do you know of an exceptional Wisconsin Librarian? Induction into the Wisconsin Library Hall of Fame is granted to individuals who have made an exceptional contribution to the statewide improvement of library service in Wisconsin over a sustained period of time.

Individuals who have worked in and/or advocated for Wisconsin libraries will be considered. Both living and deceased individuals are eligible for selection.

Examples of exceptional contributions and factors taken into consideration in the nomination and selection of members of the Wisconsin Library Hall of Fame include:

- An individual's record of leadership in the Wisconsin Library Association and/or other statewide library organizations/institutions.
- The overall importance and impact of an individual's contribution to the improvement of library service in Wisconsin.
- An individual's contributions to the improvement of library service at the national level.

Selection of inductees into the Wisconsin Library Hall of Fame is made by the Wisconsin Library Heritage Center Steering Committee. The Wisconsin Library Heritage Center is an initiative of the Wisconsin Library Association Foundation.

Nominations of both living and deceased individuals will be accepted, provided the required nomination form is submitted by Friday, September 9th, 2022.

Nominations should provide sufficient information about the individual being nominated so that the Steering Committee can make an informed judgment about whether the individual is worthy of being inducted into the Hall of Fame. The nomination should cite credible sources for supporting information.

A list of the inductees with brief biographies is found at the Wisconsin Library Heritage Center website. (<http://heritage.wisconsinlibraries.org/hall-of-fame>) For general information, questions about the nomination form, procedures or award category criteria, please contact Annie Bahringer, Chair, Wisconsin Library Heritage Center Steering Committee: milwaukeeewriter@yahoo.com.

Changes to the Library of the Year and Librarian of the Year Awards

Submitted by Vince Mussehl, Awards & Honors Committee Chair

Great news! In an effort to streamline the nomination process and make nominations and awards more equitable, the Awards & Honors Committee has made some exciting changes.

Beginning this year, applications for the Library of the Year and Librarian of the Year awards have transitioned from a paper document to a digital form. During previous years, some applications were submitted but not complete; we anticipate the digital format will help to reduce incomplete applications. In addition, the questions have been simplified for the nomination process and a rubric will be used to determine award winners.

Additional information can be found on the Awards page on the WLA website. Be sure to encourage nominations among your staff, colleagues, and community! NO

To access the nomination form, go to: wla.memberclicks.net/awards-honors-form-2022. Note: You will be asked to login to your MemberClicks profile. If you don't have an account, you will need to set one up to access the form.

Welcome New 2022 WLA Members!

(January 1 - June 30, 2022)

Shari Axelsen, John Bosshard Memorial Library
 Annie Baumann, Viterbo University
 Maria Becker, Concordia University
 Ashraf Ben Khalifa, Wisconsin Valley Library Service
 James Berven II, Kaukauna Public Library
 Cindy Borgen, Muehl Public Library
 Anne Brasier, Middleton Public Library
 Erik Braun
 Samantha Carter, UW-Milwaukee SOIS
 Emily Ceithamer, Mukwonago Community Library
 Hanna Collins, Slinger Community Library
 Michaela Daly, UW-Madison iSchool
 Melissa Ernst, UW-Madison iSchool
 Mary Evers, St. Francis Public Library
 Eric Huemmer, Mukwonago Community Library
 Julie Irwin, Friday Memorial Library
 Kristine Jaeger, UW-Milwaukee SOIS
 Christy Janczewski, Wisconsin Valley Library Service
 Michelle Johnson, Hammond Community Library
 Samantha Jones, UW-Madison iSchool
 Abbie Joranger, Mount Mary University
 Kristen Lagerstam, Beaver Dam Community Library
 Brendan Lenzner, Marquette University - Raynor
 Memorial Libraries
 Stephanie Lewin-Lane, Hales Corners Public Library
 Anna Lian, University of Wisconsin Parkside
 Mary Lopez, Milwaukee Public Library
 Sarah Ludington, La Crosse Public Library
 Kelly McKewin, University of Kentucky
 Sarah Melendy, Brown County Library
 Bethany Meyer, South Milwaukee Public Library
 Martin Morante, Oscar Grady Public Library
 Angela Morse, St Norbert College
 Jenny Nelson, Oregon Public Library
 Rachel Nelson, UW-Milwaukee SOIS
 Medora Nelson-Ferris, La Crosse Public Library

Cheryl Nessman, Mead Public Library
 Katelyn Noack, IFLS Library System
 Mike Olson, Valdosta
 Judith Peterson, Wisconsin Valley Library Service
 Elizabeth Pickhard, UW-Milwaukee SOIS
 Lisa Ponto, Pauline Haass Public Library
 Tracy Raasch, UW-Milwaukee SOIS
 Carli Reinecke, UW Green Bay
 Margaret Reuland
 Christal Schermeister, Presque Isle Community Library
 Molly Schroeder, Brown County Library
 Sharon Schwichtenberg, Iron Ridge Public Library
 Carolyn Seaver, Albertson Memorial Library
 Delanie Sharpe, Clintonville Public Library
 Delanie Sharpe, Clintonville Public Library
 Trish Skofronick, UW-Milwaukee SOIS
 David Snyder, Brown County Library
 Samantha Spottek, Plymouth Public Library
 Anita Streich, Beaver Dam Community Library
 Helena Sumbulla, UW - Eau Claire
 Dawn Tevis, La Crosse County Library
 Rachel Thomas, Amery Area Public Library
 Roxanne Velazquez, University of Wisconsin-Madison
 Deidre Vergeer, Burlington Public Library
 Brenda Walenton, Wisconsin Valley Library Service
 Ellen Ward-Packard, UW-Milwaukee SOIS
 Krystal Watkins, Monticello Public Library
 Cindy Wendt, Minocqua Public Library
 DeAnza Williams, University of Wisconsin-Madison
 Information School
 Kimberly Williams, UW-Milwaukee SOIS
 Allison Wray, Germantown Community Library

Institutional Members

Burlington Public Library
 Cedarburg Public Library
 Hammond Community Library
 John Bossard Memorial Library
 Muehl Public Library

Be a Member, Get a Member Campaign 2022!

Refer a new member to join the Wisconsin Library Association and both you and the new member will be entered in a drawing for a chance to win a cash prize (\$250 each). Visit wisconsinlibraries.org/be-a-member-get-a-member to learn more.

This program has brought in 20 new members so far this year. Thanks for helping to grow WLA!

NomCom, Who?

Submitted by Betsy Bleck, Nominating Committee Chair

Is it tragically uncool to give yourself a nickname? I hope not, because WLA's Nomination Committee did just that: *NomCom*. Please consider us the Bennifer of WLA – except unlike Bennifer, NomCom hasn't posed for the tabloids aboard any yachts. Yet.

NomCom took our portmanteau on the road recently to present panels at the WAAL and WAPL conferences. Laura Sauser and Nyama Reed repped NomCom at the SSCS conference, as well. Panelists discussed their path to leadership and what they have gained from volunteering, and their stories were so inspiring! WLA leaders not only benefit the organization, they grow their own professional skills and networks, as well.

NomCom's message is simple: There is a place in leadership for every member of WLA, no matter your particular combination of time and talents. It takes a lot of volunteer leaders to make WLA work, and we want you!

Please get in touch so that NomCom can plug you into the perfect role for you. A good place to start is by [logging into your MemberClicks profile and answering this brief questionnaire](#).

NomCom thanks you!

W.J. Niederkorn Library Launches Accessibility App

Submitted by Jamie Mercer, Head of Youth Services, W.J. Niederkorn Library



This May, the W.J. Niederkorn Library launched an accessibility app, Sensory WJN, to help children and families with children on the autism spectrum and/or other sensory needs to help prepare them for their visit, as well as help them navigate the library on their visit. The app, developed in partnership with Infiniteach, was funded by the Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities (BPDD) Sparks Building Connections Grant.

Jamie Mercer, Head of Youth Services, applied for the Sparks Grant in September of 2021. The BPDD outlined the purpose of the Sparks Grant as providing people with disabilities more social connections by participating in inclusive, meaningful community activities. Jamie proposed a series of Sensory Friendly Family programs along with the development of the Sensory App in partnership with Infiniteach. Munchkin Mondays and Sensory Saturdays have been a great success that we are thrilled that we can now pair with the app.

The app includes an "Explore" section where users can read and/or listen to guides explaining what to expect when going to the library, during storytime and when leaving W.J. Niederkorn. The app also includes a "Communicate" section where users can tap on a picture to talk and ask for help. Additionally, there is a section where families can create a visual schedule on their visit. The app can be found and downloaded for free on the following platforms:

- iOS: <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/id1622621117?platform=iphone>
- Android: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.infiniteach.accessibility.wjnlb>

Candidates File for 2022 Fall Partisan Primary and General Election

Do They Know Where Your Library Is?

Submitted by Kris Adams Wendt, LD & L Committee

Library advocacy work with elected officials at both the local and state levels never stops. Every opportunity for relationship building and demonstration of how libraries transform lives is important. WLA members have made tremendous strides in this regard during the past decade. Librarians and library supporters have stepped up to proactively establish relationships with legislators and acquaint them with the vital work that libraries do as a prelude to deliberations for the next state budget, rather than waiting to be merely reactive.

During election season, set partisan politics aside and focus on getting to know current legislators better as members of "the incumbent party!" Proactive acknowledgment of all candidates running for open seats, as well as candidates running against incumbents, provides an additional opportunity to meet, greet and inform potential new friends who, if not elected, will nonetheless become more knowledgeable about library value.

Reach out to invite incumbents and candidates to your library for a cool drink, free Wi-Fi, restroom facilities, AND (most important!) A GUIDED TOUR of all the amazing things that happen there!

The Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC) website (elections.wi.gov) is where to find the names of registered candidates for the August 9, 2022 Fall Partisan Primary.

This election is for Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, a U.S. Senator, U.S. Congress Representatives, State Senators (odd-numbered districts) Wisconsin Assembly Representatives (all districts). County offices up for election, where applicable, are Sheriff, Clerk of Circuit Court and Coroner.

Boundaries for congressional, state senate and assembly districts were redistricted this year. [CLICK HERE](#) and enter your voting address and/or library address to verify correct districts and current office holders.

Wisconsin's comprehensive voter information portal is myvote.wi.gov. Thursday, August 4, is the last day to request absentee ballots by mail.

Malicious Social Engineering Scams Pretend to Support Local Libraries

Submitted by Kris Adams Wendt, LD & L Committee

WLA has received reports of Wisconsin citizens receiving puzzling email solicitations purporting to originate from political organizations suggesting that their specific local library needed public support to counteract unspecified challenges to library materials and requesting participation in a poll or survey.

The names and some content from legitimate political PACs are appropriated for these similar mail messages sent by sham PACs like scam robocalls hide behind legitimate residential and business phone numbers.

Two "tells" are the email return address may contain an extra "e." after the @ as in info@e.igitimatePACname.org and the presence of grammatical errors like "River Falls's Public Library."

With campaign season underway, other phishing scam emails may appear to come from your library soliciting funds for a political action committee, political cause, or political party. Remind your patrons that your library will not send messages raising funds for political candidates or causes. No library would give permission to a third-party political PAC to use its name for surveys or polls collecting personal information. Library patron database information is NEVER shared for outside purposes.

Oak Creek Library Unveils Sikh Book Collection

Submitted by Jill E. Lininger, Library Director, Oak Creek Public Library

On April 9, the Oak Creek Public Library proudly unveiled a Sikh book collection, the first of its kind, with an open house event attended by a gathering of library patrons, members of the Sikh Temple of Wisconsin and the Sikh Coalition, and local dignitaries including Mayor Bukiewicz, former United States District Attorney James Santelle, and Lieutenant Governor Mandela Barnes.

The idea for a collection about Sikh culture and religion began in 2020 when library staff met with Dr. Kulwant Singh Dhaliwal of the Sikh Temple of Wisconsin and Santelle, who investigated the 2012 mass shooting at the Temple and now maintains a strong relationship with the local Sikh community. After preliminary research, they discovered that no other public libraries in the area nor the nation had a collection focused solely on the Sikhs.

When the pandemic forced the library to close its physical doors to patrons, Library Director Jill Lininger and Access Services Manager Sarah Corso took the opportunity to compile a list of materials that fit their parameters most closely. "Much to our chagrin, we had difficulty finding materials published in English and available for purchase in the United States," noted Lininger.

With help from members of the Sikh Temple, who facilitated the purchasing and shipping of materials from India, the current collection stands at approximately 120 items.

"We strove to make the collection available to all ages, so we have children's items, popular materials, and even academic research. We're excited to help educate about the importance of diversity in our community," said Lininger. "We hope the connection of people and culture starts here at the Library but continues to stretch out across the entire community so we can learn, heal, and continue to push forward on the path of progress."

Harman Singh, Senior Manager of Education at the Sikh Coalition, agreed. At the collection unveiling, he stated that as the tenth anniversary of the tragedy in Oak Creek approaches, the renewed commitment to education and growth is timely – and that offering the Sikh collection to library patrons serves as an opportunity for everyone to learn, grow and enter a new world of understanding, connection, and community.

Singh praised the library staff, "You have all done what public libraries do best – bring people together in pursuit of education and community."

Lieutenant Governor Mandela Barnes echoed those sentiments. "Libraries strive to develop programs and collections as diverse as the populations they serve, and that's what we're celebrating today. I hope the connection of people and culture starts here at the Library but continues to stretch out across the entire community so we can learn, heal, and continue to push forward on the path of progress."

According to Lininger, the Sikh collection will be the first in a series of featured collections, specially curated by library staff to highlight the diversity, talents, and history of our local, state, and national communities.

The Sikh collection is located on the second floor of the library. We encourage all patrons to take advantage of this excellent community resource!



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Office Space Available

If you are aware of a business or organization looking for a well-equipped, small office space with great neighbors, please contact Tom Klement.

You're Newsworthy!

Email news, ideas, updates, and stories for the 2022 Fall WLA Newsletter to sauser@wisconsinlibraries.org no later than September 1.

Mark Your Calendar!

Intellectual Freedom Special Interest Group (SIG) Meeting

August 22, 2022
11:00 a.m. - Noon (virtual)

Registration Opens for WLA Annual Conference

September 1, 2022 (*subject to change*)

WLA Foundation Board of Directors Meeting

September 2, 2022
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. (virtual)

Deadline for nominations to the Wisconsin Libraries Hall of Fame

September 9, 2022

Deadline for nominations for WLA Awards & Honors

September 15, 2022

WLA Board of Directors Meeting

September 16, 2022
La Crosse Public Library
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Cultivating a Great Relationship with Your Municipal Clerk Webinar

September 20, 2022
10:00 - 11:30 a.m. (virtual)

Virtual Leader to Leader Quarterly Chat

September 22, 2022
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. (virtual)

OSRT Conversation Cafe: Engagement Strategies to Encourage Dialogue

September 28, 2022
11:00 a.m. - Noon (virtual)

Inclusive Services Special Interest Group (SIG) Meeting

September 28, 2022
Noon - 1:00 p.m. (virtual)

WLA Annual Conference

November 1 -4, 2022
Grand Geneva Resort & Spa, Lake Geneva

