

**AWSL Fall Business Meeting Virtual**  
Tuesday December 14th 11:30am  
(Rescheduled from WLA conference 2021)

Attendees: Brianna Wolbers, Anne Moser, Carrie Doyle, Kris Turner, Eva Stefanski, Jaime Healy-Plotkin, Catherine Loomis, Laura Sauser, Shawn King, Steven Rice, Val Magno, Tom Maloney, Carol Hassler (joined late)

Agenda

1. Introductions - attendees shared the favorite gift they had received
2. Approval of 2021 AWSL Spring business meeting minutes
  - a. Kris approved
  - b. Carrie seconded
3. Additions to Agenda/Announcements
4. Officer Reports
  - a. Chair (Anne) - Shared that Amy O'Shea is driving a book mobile in her new position. Summer gathering was attended by Anne, Carrie, and Eva.
  - b. WLA Board Representative (Kris)
    - i. WLA has a new Executive Director, Laura Sauser, who attended the meeting
    - ii. 2021 WLA in-person conference in Green Bay was well attended
      - 25 people attended the museum tour
      - 2022 WLA Conference will be in Lake Geneva
    - iii. Finances are down
      - WAAL and WAPL had virtual conferences that made the association money
      - WLA conference also made money
      - Working with Laura about recruiting more members
  - c. Vice-Chair (Eva) - No update. Asked for suggestions on what the V.C. role should look like.
5. Committee Reports
  - a. Newsletter (Carol)
    - i. No response to request for conference experience contribution
    - ii. Anne will mention in the Chair report that there are ongoing discussions of remaining a Division or changing to a SIG
    - iii. Article topic "New Normal" with multiple contributors of how the pandemic has changed things in their libraries
    - iv. Interview Steve Rice for member highlight. Possibly Eva next.
    - v. Carrie will give a write-up of the tour
    - vi. Kris will give a Board Meeting summary

- vii. Mention the new virtual bi-monthly town halls
- viii. Laura will send the AWSL newsletter out to other divisions
- b. Webmaster (Anne) - going well, Hannah does most of the updates
- c. WLA Membership Committee (Carrie) - no update, hasn't been able to attend meetings

## 6. Old Business

- a. Role for AWSL within WLA
  - i. Eva mentioned as a new member, she's not sure what she's getting from the division, especially since there were no special library presentations at annual conference
  - ii. Tom commented he would also like more info, "Our commonality as special libraries are our differences"
  - iii. Steven suggested WLA members really need to see the value in AWSL compared to joining other groups, thinks AWSL is useful because it gets us out of our niche areas and can help with visibility and recognition of all special libraries.
  - iv. Anne would like the Division to provide more presentation opportunities, thinks meeting more often will generate more energy in the group, suggested bi-monthly
  - v. Jaime is excited to see new people attending the meeting and would like the Division to provide opportunities to present at webinars
  - vi. Laura offered WLA resources to help host online speakers, reminded group that we are not limited to what we've always done, said WAAL might be interested in doing a combined conference with AWSL
  - vii. Kris liked the idea of mixing with other Divisions, suggested having once a month meetings like the State Librarians to discuss current issues, wants librarians that identify with other groups to know they are also considered special librarians
  - viii. AWSL tries to provide (1) learning and presentation opportunities, (2) helps to make special libraries more visible
- b. Membership recruitment
  - i. Carrie has been the AWSL representative to the WLA board for 3 years
  - ii. We continue to cycle through the same few people for officer roles
  - iii. Explain officer responsibilities to the Division to help recruit more members: 2 meetings a year, 1 social event, and a special library tour at the conference
- c. Possibility of becoming a SIG - no longer an urgent decision because Carrie is board rep and Eva is in-coming Chair so we have people to fill roles for the next year

## 7. New Business

- a. Bi-monthly town halls - because this virtual business meeting was well attended, AWSL will host virtual bi-monthly town halls, Eva volunteered to come up with topics, Laura will send the email invitation to other Divisions
- b. Current libraries' issues (specific names have been removed)
  - i. Running a system of 15 document libraries that are not staffed with librarians, and manager thinks anyone can fill the role
  - ii. One of two librarians left serving thousands of students because libraries are the first cut during lean times, either because people don't realize the library's worth or because they're not using the library as much as they can
- c. Ask for volunteers to host a library tour

8. Adjournment: Carrie motioned, Kris seconded

Next meeting: Fall 2022. Determine closer to date when and how meeting will be held.