OWLS Director report
March 16, 2017 OWLS Board of Trustees Meeting

- Dave Bacon has been asked to be on the BCN Advisory Council which advises the Department of Administration on issues related the operation of the network. It's great to know that Dave's good work is being appreciated outside of OWLS!
- The new Kimberly-Little Chute library director will be starting at the end of March.
- On Feb 20, I attended the SRLAAW meeting in Madison. Among other topics, we discussed changes to patron registration procedures, in order to address legislators concerns. The recommended changes included a maximum 18 month patron expiration date or using an external database to verify patron addresses. OWLS is discussing these issues with member libraries and talking with other libraries about possible technological solutions.
- OWLS has had discussions with WiscNet about their IBoss solution for computer filtering. IBoss uses an appliance that sits in the server room. One of the advantages to this service is that filtering can be set up on a library-by-library basis. Libraries can choose to filter some or all of their computers, while other libraries choose not to filter at all. We've obtained a "loaner" unit for testing.
- The annual reports for OWLS libraries will be completed much earlier than last year, although not all of the reports were submitted to DPI by March 1. The OWLS system office, library director and library boards were contacted by DPI. Since then, the Marion and Kaukauna reports have been received by DPI, and the Appleton Library board will be meeting this week to approve their report. The notice from DPI included the following language:

  > *While out of compliance, public libraries and library systems may not be eligible to receive LSTA grant awards. Because we have limited time to review annual reports and address issues before certifying state aid amounts to the Department of Administration, the second payment of 2017 state aid to systems may also be delayed or reduced while member libraries and/or systems are out of compliance. Compliance events are recorded and compiled by the Division for future reference.*