

OWLS Director Report

April 20, 2023 OWLS Board of Trustees Meeting

JFC Budget Listening Session

Bradley and Diane attended the Joint Finance Committee's budget hearing in Wisconsin Dells on April 12th. OWLS Trustees are encouraged to submit testimony in support of the Wisconsin Library Association's budget request via the online portal:

<https://legis.wisconsin.gov/topics/budgetcomments/>. Or, you may use the dedicated email address: budget.comments@legis.wisconsin.gov. Comments will be circulated to all 16 committee members.



View additional photos and videos from the completed hearings here:

<https://wla.memberclicks.net/state-biennial-budget-process-2023-2025>

Infosoup App

Marketing for the Infosoup app launched on Monday, March 27th. We currently have 274 lifetime users and 204 new users in the last 30 days (data pulled on 4/14). Accounts created prior to launch were primarily library staff for testing purposes.

Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) Grant

The NEWI consortium (NFLS, OWLS, Winnefox, MCLS) has been awarded an Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) Grant. As grant administrator, Winnefox will hire 2-3 part-time staff who will schedule outreach events at all NEWI member libraries over the course of a year to help eligible patrons enroll in the ACP program to receive discounts on Internet service.

Library Programming Grants Update

Ann Hardginski (Kimberly) requested a total of \$3,900 to bring [Bubble Wonders](#) to the Clintonville, Hortonville, Iola, Kaukauna, Kimberly, Manawa, Marion, Seymour, Waupaca, and Weyauwega libraries. The amount per library ranged from \$200-\$500 because several of the libraries will feature multiple performances.

In addition to Bubble Wonders, CPL received a grant to bring the [Bright Star Touring Theatre](#) to Clintonville, using up their entire \$700 grant allowance.

In addition to Bubble Wonders, KIM received a grant to bring the [Cavanaugh Carriages](#) Petting Zoo to Kimberly, using up their entire \$700 grant allowance.

In addition to Bubble Wonders, WEY received a grant to bring [Dinosaur Dimensions](#) to Weyauwega, using up their entire \$700 grant allowance.

InfoSoup Road Trip

Total library visits reported by OWLS member libraries in 2022 was only 63% of total visits in 2019. We continue to hear from libraries that bringing patrons back to the library is a high priority. With this goal in mind, on May 1st, we will be launching our InfoSoup Road Trip promotion. Following this report, I will include the informational packet that Chad developed for library staff.