

OWLS Director Report

February 18, 2021 OWLS Board of Trustees Meeting

OWLS and COVID-19

Eleven of thirteen OWLS staff continue to work from home in accordance with CDC guidelines that recommend remote work whenever possible. Sorting continues in APL's meeting rooms. According to WI DHS (<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/disease.htm>) case activity in both Outagamie and Waupaca Counties is now in the High range after many months in the Very High range. Some member libraries have recently shifted their service levels to allow more patron access to buildings or plan to do so soon. I have developed a staggered schedule that would allow OWLS staff to work at the office more often if they choose to. This schedule may be implemented in March.

Libraries and COVID-19

OWLS continues to host monthly online Directors Chats. I continue to hold weekly online office hours. Library service levels are under the control of local library boards, so service levels vary based on local conditions. OWLS member library report service levels as follows (as of 2/15/21):

- Closed: 0 libraries
- Curbside only: 9 libraries (APL, BCL, FPL, HPL, KIM, LIT, NLP, SCA, SEY)
- Open doors; limited service, restricted access: 5 libraries (CPL, KAU, MAN, WAU, WEY)
- Browsing/lingering permitted with greater access: 3 libraries (IVL, MAR, SHI)
- Fully restored: 0 libraries

New OWLS Trustee

I am pleased to introduce Tyler Baeten, soon to be appointed as an OWLS Trustee from Outagamie County. Tyler is an Information Technology Instructor at Fox Valley Technical College and a resident of Little Chute. Tyler will be joining us a guest at our February meeting pending his appointment by the county board of supervisors.

Laptop Lending Program Launched

Julie completed configuration of the PSC laptops last week, and we issued a press release on Friday. The press release is included with this report. WHBY picked up the story and called me for a brief interview Monday morning, which is expected to air on Monday afternoon (2/15).