

OWLS Acting Director report

July 20, 2017 OWLS Board of Trustees Meeting

Staff at OWLS

Patty Hankey will retire on August 1st after 22 years at OWLS. There will be an open house for Patty after the AAC meeting on July 21st and a staff potluck on July 27th. OWLS Trustees are welcome at both events. Patty's core duties, including daily, weekly, monthly, and annual reports; procuring and distributing supplies for libraries; maintaining email and web site accounts; and providing customer service to libraries, have been reassigned to various OWLS staff, and Patty has spent much of the summer training everyone. We are extremely grateful to Patty for her patience in training us, her excellent documentation of procedures, and for 22 years of service. Patty will be missed, and we will think of her every time we hold a meeting in the OWLS Nest surrounded by her beautiful photographs.

I will be on vacation July 24-31.

Project Updates

On June 30th, I trained OWLS Cataloger, Amanda Lee, APL librarians Sara Kopesky and Diana Sandberg, and an APL practicum student on uploading digital collections to CONTENTdm. Amanda will take over uploading new collections for OWLSnet member libraries.

Dave expects to have all 33 new routers installed at OWLSnet member libraries by the end of July.

The Badgernet circuit upgrade at OWLS is scheduled for early morning on Tuesday, July 18.

Waupaca and Scandinavia have been serving as test sites for moving email services from a local server to Office 365, and Evan expects to have them fully migrated to the new platform by the end of July. OWLS staff accounts will be migrated in August. We hope to roll out the service to all libraries in the fall.

I met with Joy Schwarz at Winnefox on July 12th to discuss continuing education plans for 2018.

Bradley, Evan, and Dave met with Jamie Matczak and John Kronenburg from NFLS on July 14 to discuss customer service and communication expectations between NFLS, NFLS libraries and OWLSnet.

Library News

On June 29, I met with new Kimberly-Little Chute Director, Steve Thiry, to discuss the library relationship to system and state. This is part of our new director orientation process. I will soon schedule a similar meeting with Le Ann Hopp at Marion.

We have tentatively scheduled a meeting of OWLS member directors for Friday, September 8 in Waupaca County.

Waupaca Area Public Library Assistant Director, Dominic Frandrup, has accepted a position as Director at the Antigo Public Library. Dominic's last day at Waupaca will be August 4.

PLSR update

The PLSR Steering Committee met July 12-13 in Oshkosh to plan for Phase 3 of the project. On July 12, I participated in the conversation between the PLSR Steering Committee and the System Directors. As a result of that conversation, the steering committee plans to improve and streamline communication with system directors and seek more involvement from system directors as the process moves forward. System directors highlighted the importance of our relationships with our member libraries and with our counties in building the necessary support to implement PLSR recommendations.

The steering committee will share the outcomes of the planning retreat in subsequent meetings with various stakeholder groups, including at the System Directors and Resource Library Directors at the SRLAAW meeting on August 18th in Wausau. I will attend that meeting.

You can subscribe to receive regular PLSR updates via email here: <http://www.plsr.info/updates/>

State Aid update

The increase in state aids to library systems recommended by the Joint Finance Committee remains uncertain pending approval of a budget by the legislature and the Governor. The proposed increase of \$1.5 million for state library systems was negotiated for distribution over the 2-year budget biennium as follows: \$500,000 in the first year and \$1,000,000 in the second year. Library systems will have the three areas of focus for services to be developed with this additional funding: Internet/broadband, workforce development, and lifelong learning.

IMLS update from ALA

Last week, the House Appropriations subcommittee that deals with library funding (Labor, Health & Human Services, Education and Related Agencies) voted to recommend level funding in FY2018 for the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS, \$231 million), likely including \$183 million for the Library Services and Technology Act, as well as \$27 million for the Innovative Approaches to Literacy program.

The Subcommittee vote is one important step in the lengthy congressional appropriations process. We have not saved FY18 federal library funding yet. We expect the full House Appropriations Committee to vote on the subcommittee bills as early as Wednesday, July 19.

Trustee Training Week is August 21-25. Details can be found here:

<http://www.wistrusteetraining.com/register.html>