

## **OWLS Director Report**

July 18, 2024 OWLS Board of Trustees Meeting

### **Exciting Bandwidth News!**

Earlier this year OWLS requested the following increases of DOA (Department of Administration) for TEACH (Technology for Educational Achievement) bandwidth:

- OWLS office from 2 to 5 Gbps (gigabits per second)
- Appleton Public Library's new building to 2 Gbps
- All other sites to 100 Mbps (megabits per second) to match the updated FCC definition of "broadband"

We're very pleased to announce that in conjunction with DPI, DOA has agreed to increase every library site (across the state!) to meet broadband standards. This represents a 2-5 times increase in speed for every OWLSnet library. OWLS's increase was effective July 1; APL's increase will go into effect when they move back to Oneida Street; and the vast majority are expected to happen this year. As of July 1, Algoma, Hortonville, Kaukauna, Kewaunee, Kimberly, Little Chute, New London, Waupaca, and Sturgeon Bay libraries have been upgraded.

The upgrades are expected to occur with virtually no downtime and will not require any technician (OWLSnet or AT&T) to go on site. No library will see an increase in fees, nor will they need new equipment.

Caveats: APL is (as usual) the exception. APL is getting a 10 times increase in speed and will need a tech onsite and new equipment. There will be a higher monthly rate for APL's circuit as well because APL is increasing beyond 1 Gbps. The OWLS main office will also need some additional equipment, but we were already working on network infrastructure updates. Only a minor tweak was needed to accommodate the speed change.

(Thanks to Bryan for drafting this report, which I edited for length and to include more recent library upgrades.)

### **Summer Library Board Visits**

I visited Scandinavia Public Library on 6/25, but the board meeting was canceled at the last minute for lack of a quorum, unavoidable due to a medical emergency. (Everyone is OK now!) Meredith and I took the opportunity to continue her new director training. I visited the Lola Village Library on 6/26, and Lila was present as trustee of both OWLS and the library. Cathy attended the Fremont meeting with me on 7/1. The Friends of the Neuschafer Community Library in Fremont have just purchased land as the future site of a new library and community center. My visit to Manawa was rescheduled for August due to flooding on July 5<sup>th</sup>. The library stayed dry, but the parking lot required inspection before opening. Flooding was extensive, and the residents of Manawa have a long recovery ahead. Between the writing of this report and our meeting, I will attend the Kimberly Public Library board meeting with Veronica and Cindy

and the Appleton Public Library board meeting with Cathy. Please let me know if you would like to attend any of the remaining visits.

<b>2024 Summer Board Visits</b>					
<b>Library</b>	<b>Board Meeting Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Visit Date</b>	<b>OWLS Staff</b>	<b>OWLS Trustees</b>
<b>Seymour</b>	First Monday	5:30 PM	8/5/2024	Kristin	Bobbie
<b>Manawa</b>	Second Tuesday	5:30 PM	8/13/2024	Bradley	
<b>Weyauwega</b>	Third Monday	4:00 PM	8/19/2024	Bradley	Cathy
<b>Hortonville</b>	Fourth Tuesday	4:00 PM	8/27/2024	Bradley	Cathy
<b>Marion</b>	Third Monday	5:00 PM	9/16/2024	Kristin	
<b>Kaukauna</b>	Fourth Tuesday	5:30 PM	9/24/2024	Bradley	

**Staff Update**

Our new part-time Circulation Specialist, Jean Kwaterski, started on Monday, July 8<sup>th</sup>. Jean retired from UW-Oshkosh earlier this year after 24 years in a variety of leadership and supervisory roles. Jean brings a wealth of customer service and technical experience that will serve OWLSnet member libraries well. We’re excited to welcome Jean to the OWLS team!

**July AAC Meeting**

The Administrative Advisory Committee (AAC) will meet on Friday, July 19<sup>th</sup>. Agenda topics include inclusive cataloging practices, a review of OWLSnet database subscriptions, renewing OWLSnet agreements, and revision of the Lucky Day collection policy.

**Vacation**

I will be on vacation out of state for two weeks starting July 29<sup>th</sup>.