

OWLS Director Report

March 16, 2023 OWLS Board of Trustees Meeting

JFC Announces Budget Listening Sessions

The Joint Finance Committee announced four public hearings on the 2023-25 state budget. The public hearing schedule is:

- **10 am – 5 pm: Wednesday, April 5 - Waukesha**
 - Waukesha County Expo Center, Main Arena
 - 1000 Northview Rd, Waukesha
- **10 am – 5 pm: Tuesday, April 11 – Eau Claire**
 - UW-Eau Claire, Davies Student Center
 - Ojibwe Grand Ballroom (Third Floor)
 - 77 Roosevelt Ave., Eau Claire
- **10 am – 5 pm: Wednesday, April 12 – Wisconsin Dells**
 - Wilderness Resort, Glacier Canyon Conference Center
 - Sandstone Meeting Room
 - 45 Hillman Road, Wisconsin Dells
- **10 am – 5 pm: Wednesday, April 26 - Minocqua**
 - Lakeland Union High School
 - 9573 State Highway 70, Minocqua

Additionally, Wisconsinites may access the online portal to submit testimony which will be circulated to all 16 committee members: <https://legis.wisconsin.gov/topics/budgetcomments/> as well as a dedicated email address: budget.comments@legis.wisconsin.gov.

Hoot Con

Our second annual Hoot Con for OWLS member directors and staff was held at the Little Chute Public Library on Friday, March 3, 2023 from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm. Over 100 library staff representing 19 libraries and 8 OWLS staff attended. Forty-nine participants completed an evaluation survey in which 90% of respondents agreed with the statement, “This event was helpful and informative.”

The conference was primarily funded through an LSTA professional development grant. More details about the event can be found here: <https://hoot-con.owlswp.org/>

TLC Training

Cindy Phillips and Ebony Pacheco-Hoos from TLC are in Wisconsin this week providing face-to-face CARL training at four locations in OWLSnet. They will also present at the AAC meeting this Friday.

CE Scholarships Report

The annual budget for continuing education scholarships was increased to \$9,000 in 2022, and a surplus in the CE Program expense line was also applied to scholarship requests. Of that total, \$3,500 was paid directly to APL for use toward staff professional development as indicated in our service agreement. The remaining funds were distributed to directors and staff of other OWLS member libraries in accordance with the CE scholarships policy. Trustees and Fox Valley Literacy staff are also eligible. The following scholarships were distributed in 2022:

Appleton Public Library	Service Agreement	\$3,500.00
Neuschafer Community Library (Fremont)	Wisconsin Library Association conference (Director)	\$507.77
Kaukauna Public Library	Wisconsin Library Association conference (two staff)	\$1,244.00
Kimberly Public Library	Wisconsin Library Association conference (Director)	\$500.00
Little Chute Public Library	Wisconsin Library Association conference (Director)	\$500.00
Sturm Memorial Library (Manawa)	Participation in WiLS Strategic Planning Cohort	\$997.50
New London Public Library	Association of Rural and Small Libraries conference (Director)	\$926.91
Scandinavia Public Library	Participation in WiLS Strategic Planning Cohort	\$1,000.00
Waupaca Area Public Library	Wisconsin Library Association conference, ALSC National Institute, and iSchool Basics of Cataloging (three staff)	\$969.52
	TOTAL	\$10,145.70