

OWLS Director Report

March 21, 2024 OWLS Board of Trustees Meeting

Hoot Con

Our third annual Hoot Con was held at three different locations this year in collaboration with NFLS.

- Thursday, March 7th at Brown County Central Library in Green Bay
- Friday, March 8th at Stephenson Public Library in Marinette
- Tuesday, March 12th at Little Chute Public Library

Approximately 130 people attended including library staff, system staff, and presenters. An evaluation survey is in progress. Sessions on Badgerlink, Libby, and customer service were especially popular.

More details about the event can be found here: <https://hoot-con.owlswp.org/>

CE Scholarships Report

The annual budget for continuing education scholarships started at \$9,000 in 2023, but the budget line was reduced to \$7,700 to reallocate unspent funds at the end of the year. 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 2023:

Appleton Public Library	Service Agreement funds for professional development	\$3,500.00
Clintonville Public Library	WAPL conference attendance (Director), ALA Conference Exhibit Hall (one staff), WLA conference attendance (Director and two staff)	\$1,341.00
Hortonville Public Library	ALA Conference Exhibit Hall (four staff), WiLS Strategic Planning Cohort, WLA Conference Attendance	\$858.00
Kaukauna Public Library	WAPL conference attendance (staff)	\$335.00
Little Chute Public Library	NWTC class (staff)	\$471.90
New London Public Library	WLA conference attendance (staff)	\$673.00

Waupaca Area Public Library	Play, Make, Learn Conference	\$372.00
Various children’s librarians	WLA virtual performer’s showcase	\$112.00
	TOTAL	\$7,662.90

System Effectiveness Feedback

As part of their library annual report, each member library board must submit a statement concerning system effectiveness to DPI answering the question, “Did the library system provide effective leadership and adequately meet the needs of the library?” Libraries are not required to share this statement with OWLS, but all of them have. All seventeen member libraries answered yes, and six libraries provided additional comments:

- We are very satisfied with the Outagamie Waupaca Library System.
- OWLS provides essential support to the Library. System staff are responsive to requests, knowledgeable, and friendly. They provide leadership and advice, as needed. It is an exemplary system to work within. We are very happy with them.
- We also want to say that we avail ourselves of the OWLS grants (for programming) annually and we are very grateful for those opportunities. Our system is terrific! And organized!
- OWLS funding provides our library the opportunity to offer more inventory and support for our employees and Board. In the years we have been with OWLS it has provided our Library above and beyond their statutory requirements.
- The Outagamie Waupaca Library System (OWLS) provides excellent support to its members, overseeing ILS access and maintenance, catalog consistency, providing tech support, providing programming materials, facilitating collaboration among libraries, and much more. This represents a cost savings to libraries as a whole well beyond what is invested at the system level.
- Our library system provided continuing education, help with staff training, summer library program, ILL delivery, WISCAT, Infosoup/Bibliocommons library catalog and Carl X/Carl Connect library software. They helped with computer purchases and maintenance, management software, WiFi access, our website, Ebooks, audio downloads, computer and technology problems and any other issues or questions that arise. They are always ready to assist with any questions submitted on an individual basis as well. They are a wonderful group to work with.