

OWLS Director report

August 27, 2015 OWLS Board of Trustees Meeting

OWLS Meetings and activities since the last OWLS board meeting include:

- OWLS and APL staff visited FVTC on July 24 to assist them in their conversion to Sierra.
- I had an interview with the Shawano Leader on July 22 regarding the bill sent to Shawano County on behalf of the Marion and Clintonville public libraries. The next week, I had an interview with Fox news about the same issue. The interview was supposed to air the next morning (July 28) but I didn't see it. Another person interviewed for the story had not seen it either, so we're not entirely sure that it aired.
- I met with the Outagamie County Executive on Aug 3 to discuss the budget request for 2016.
- I attended the SRLAAW meeting in Stevens Point on Aug 7. A few highlights:
 - The 10 steering committee members for the Public Library System revision process have been appointed, and include two member from OWLSnet: Beth Carpenter from the Kimberly-Little Chute library and Kristie Hauer from the Shawano library. Appointment letters went out the week of the 10th.
 - While COLAND originally laid out a 2 year road map, it's more likely now a 3 year process.
 - DPI is also going through a similar, but hopefully shorter, process to update public library standards.
 - System funding is flat in 2016, 2017. Some reimbursements were re-calculated based on counties moving to and from systems, but OWLS remains the same.
 - COLAND has quite a few vacancies, and DPI encourages interested individuals to apply.
- I visited the Kaukauna Public Library on Aug 10, meeting with the director to talk about the new building project, and how their lease will be structured.
- I visited the Hortonville Public Library on Aug 13, and met with the board to talk about their interest in providing filtered Internet access.
- Dave continues to work with the Kaukauna library on preparations for their new building. Construction has begun. The building remodeling and construction is expected to be completed by January 1.
- Windows 10 has arrived. It's not yet ready to be used in production at OWLSnet libraries – there are several applications that don't yet work with it, although Sierra does work just fine on Windows 10.
- Dave is working with the Shawano library to test Sierra in the Wild on a Windows 10 laptop.
- We've placed an order for the new Sierra Application Server. This will be the first time in over 15 years (and before) that OWLS has not owned a Sun server. End of an era! The Linux based Dell server is much less expensive than Sun and so is the maintenance. The cost of the server plus maintenance isn't much more than the cost of maintenance only on an Oracle server. The server has arrived in the office and Dave is starting setup, which is a pretty involved process.
- There's a movement in the state to have smaller system board sizes. It's part of the recommendations from COLAND, and there is one concrete proposal floating around that would

allow the minimum system board size to be 11 instead of 15. This is aimed primarily at two county systems, like ours.

- Evan and Dave are attending a library system technology meeting in Stevens Point on Aug 20.
- There will be an OWLS Directors meeting on Aug 18, held at the Appleton Public Library.
- Last reminder – Trustee Week webinars will be held Aug 17 to 21. Please contact Bradley Shipps at OWLS if you wish to view any of the webinars in the OWLS Nest. Waupaca area board members are invited to view the webinars in the Waupaca Library Conference Room. Registration is here: <http://www.wistrusteetraining.com/register.html>
- We're in the process of finalizing the Encore schedule. Encore Webinars for staff will be held, short videos are being put together and Evan is evaluating ongoing training needs. Most of the existing problems have been resolved, and we're confident that most of the remaining issues will be fixed soon. The public access date for Encore is August 24. I encourage you to take a look at the new catalog after that date. The tentative switchover date is Tuesday, September 8.
- Linda Hagan, board representative from the Waupaca area, has accepted a position with the Waupaca Area Public Library and will be resigning from the OWLS board. (Per State statute 43.17 (1) employees of public libraries cannot serve on the board of the Public Library System.)

Upcoming issues

- The 2016 System plan is due October 15. Systems are required to submit program budgets in accordance with Division guidelines. A draft plan will be ready for the September board meeting. It does not have to be approved at the September meeting; DPI will accept it after the Oct 15 board meeting.