

OWLS Director Report

November 20, 2025 OWLS Board of Trustees Meeting

County Funding

Both Outagamie and Waupaca Counties have passed 2026 budgets that include 100% funding according to the formulas in the county library service plans and including the new electronic collection subsidies!

Board Appointments

We have three trustee terms ending on December 31, 2025. I am happy to report that all three incumbents are seeking reappointment. The Waupaca County Board has appointed Michelle Frola to a new three-year term beginning January 1st. I submitted reappointment applications for Bastia Looker and Wendy Hartman to Outagamie County Executive Thomas Nelson and will look for those appointments on the Outagamie County Board's December agenda.

WLA Conference

I attended the WLA Conference in Middleton in October along with Chad, Kristin, Pete and Diane. I co-presented two sessions on board appointments and open meetings/records. Kristin served on the literary awards committee and helped organize the authors showcase. Chad served as publicity chair on the conference planning committee. At Thursday evening's awards and honors reception, Appleton Public Library was recognized as Library of the Year!

Legislative Day

Library Legislative Day will be held on Tuesday, February 10, 2026. Since this is a non-budget year, our message to legislators will be, "thank you and check out the amazing things you have funded!" Registration will open the first week of December. Please consider attending!

OWLS-NFLS Merger Exploration

One of the objectives in our strategic plan is to, "Intentionally and inclusively explore the feasibility of a merger between NFLS and OWLS." WiLS has completed the phase one report. In January, we will ask both system boards to vote on whether to proceed with the next phase.

Upcoming OWLS Board and Committee Meetings

- Thursday, December 4, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. – Executive Committee