



Wednesday, May 3, 2017



"Need to Know" Legislative Newsletter for Library Leaders

...from Wisconsin Library Association

CONTENT HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Federal Budget Update**
- **State Budget update - Photos/video links from JFC hearings**
- ***Libraries Transform!* poster project**
- **Legislators @ the Library**
- **Legislative Reference Resources**



Wisconsin delegation to ALA's National Library Legislative Day, May 1-2, 2017

Federal Budget Update



As previously reported, the FY18 White House budget called for eliminating the Institute of Museum & Library Services (IMLS), the only federal agency charged with providing support to libraries and museums. Shutting down IMLS would subtract a total \$231 million (\$183 million of which are LSTA funds) from the three-legged stool of federal, state and local funding support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and 35,000 museums. 2016 [IMLS Grants to States Program allocated \\$2,670,703 to Wisconsin](#).

GOOD NEWS FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: The push for US House members to sign letters of support for IMLS (as well as Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL), a smaller program that has been the primary source for federal funding of school libraries) garnered signatures from one-third of the entire House of Representatives. Backing came mainly from the minority party, but was sufficient to be noticed. The 2017 omnibus appropriations bill under consideration includes an extra \$1 million to IMLS.

WORK TO BE DONE: Please continue to seek opportunities for messaging our U.S. Representatives about the importance of IMLS, LSTA grants to states and IAL to local libraries. [You can check the ALA list of supporters for updates](#). Meanwhile...

U.S. Senate Support Needed for Federal Library Funding!

Focus has shifted to members of the U.S. Senate with a goal of putting a majority of all 100 Senators on record in support of IMLS and IAL.

[GO HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION!](#) [TAKE ACTION NOW!](#)

Senator Tammy Baldwin has signed on to support LSTA and IAL for FY17, as well as LSTA for FY18. **Please thank Senator Baldwin for her support and ask her to back FY18 IAL funding as well before May 19.**

[OFFICE LOCATIONS & PHONE NUMBERS](#)

Senator Ron Johnson has, so far, not responded with a firm commitment to either program. **Please contact Senator Johnson and ask him to support federal funding for libraries by signing both the "Reed/Collins LSTA" and "Reed/Grassley/Stabenow IAL" Dear Appropriator letters before May 19.**

[OFFICE LOCATIONS & PHONE NUMBERS](#)

2017-2019 State Budget Update

There was an amazing turnout of librarians, trustees and citizen library supporters to provide testimony at six public hearings before the powerful [Joint Committee on Finance](#) in April! **See below for a list of participants and video links.**

The committee of 16 legislators includes 8 each from the senate and assembly (12 from the majority party and 4 from the minority party). Other legislators communicate their priorities to their JFC member "budget buddies."

ACTION ITEM: Using information found at the links under LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE RESOURCES at the end of this newsletter, send your Assembly Representative and Senator a friendly message.

1. You can express regret that you could not attend one of the Joint Finance Committee hearings in April to join your colleagues who supported library funding requests in the 2017-2019 state budget.
2. Then extend an invitation for the legislator to hold a listening session or office hours at your library, or just drop by anytime so you can show them the ways in which library services are important to the people you both serve.

Need a refresher on WLA's state budget priorities and talking points?

- [Budget Request Background](#)
- [Budget Request Priorities](#)

Joint Finance Committee Hearings



April 3 – Platteville

The main speaker was Jim Ramsey (Middleton PL). He was joined by Vickie Stangel (Dodgeville PL Director), Jessie Lee-Jones (Platteville PL Director), Jennifer Bernetzke (Lancaster PL Director), Emma Radosevich (Platteville Public Library Outreach), and Greg Plotz (Boscobel PL Trustee).

Platteville video: <http://www.wiseye.org/Video-Archive/Event-Detail/evhdid/11392>
Library testimony starts at 2:25:00



April 5 – West Allis

The main speaker was Nick Dimassis (Beloit PL Director). He was joined by Connie Meyer (Bridges Library System Director, WLA LD&L Co-Chair), Betsy Bleck (Oconomowoc PL Director), Leann Lehner (Jefferson PL Director), Barbara Draeger (New Berlin PL Director), John Klima (Waukesha PL Interim Director), Dick &

Kathy Nawrocki (Bridges Library System Board president and his wife), Marion Onesti (Trustee for Bridges Library System and New Berlin PL), Patti Orzel (New Berlin PL Board president), Rose Sura (Trustee for Bridges Library System and Waukesha PL), Peggy Haass (Menomonee Falls PL trustee), Angela Meyers (Bridges Library System staff), Jill Lininger (Oak Creek PL Director).

West Allis video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uuoZy_SSSuk

Library testimony starts at 1:37:00



April 7 – Berlin

The main speaker was Clairellyn Sommersmith (Princeton PL Director). She was joined by Laura Fultz (Berlin PL Director), Nicole Overbeck (Wautoma PL Director), and Jim Miller (Winnefox Library System/Hancock PL trustee).

Berlin video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y5zQQytHy_w

Library testimony starts at 1:25:18



April 18 – Spooner

The main speaker was Julie Belongy (Thorp PL Director). She was joined by Jocelyn Ford (NWLS Trustee/Washburn Co. Supervisor), Molly Lank-Jones (Hayward PL Director), Sandy Mackie (NWLS Trustee), Sherry Machones (NWLS Director/WLA LD&L), Patti Meyer (Larsen Family Library Director in Webster), Marla Sepnafski (WVLS Director), Michael

Sheehan (NWLS Assistant Director), Amy Stormberg (Shell Lake PL Director), and Kris Adams Wendt (WVLS/WLA LD&L).

Spooner video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lth_Rp33u3E

Library testimony starts at 00:50:00



April 19 – Ellsworth

The main speaker was Pamela Westby (L.E. Phillips PL Director in Eau Claire). She was joined by Heather Johnson (River Falls PL/WLA LD&L), Nancy Miller (River Falls PL Director), Tiffany Meyer (Ellsworth PL Director), Judy Perkins and Curt Wandmacher (Ellsworth PL Trustees), John Thompson (IFLS Director), Kathy Setter (IFLS staff), Bridget Krejci (IFLS staff), Deb Faulhaber (IFLS staff), J. Michael Norman and Mary Ellen Brue (IFLS Trustees).

Ellsworth video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zCD9bqb9d24>

Library testimony starts at 1:42:20



April 21 - Marinette

The main speakers were Corrie Campbell (Nicolet Federated Library System board president) and Amy Peterson (Lena PL Director). They were joined by Kathy Pletcher (WLA LD&L Co-Chair and NFLS Trustee, Brown Co.), Jennifer Thiele (Marinette County

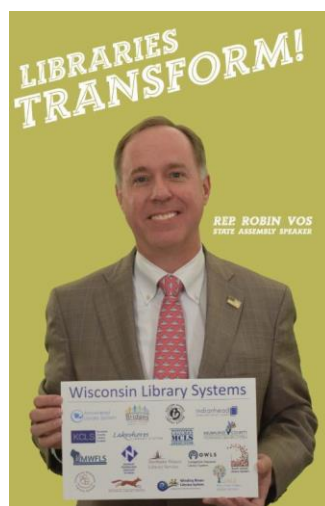
Consolidated Library Service Director), Ken Harter (NFLS Trustee, Oconto Co.), Cheryl Maxwell (NFLS Trustee, Marinette Co.), Paul Gustafson (NFLS Trustee, Marinette Co.)

Marinette video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MHoR37hVu2M>

Library testimony starts at 1:55:00.

Libraries Transform! Poster Project

WLA is in the process of updating the inventory of legislators immortalized on a *Libraries Transform!* poster. More faces still need to be collected! Contacts will be made with local libraries from the remaining legislative districts to help with this continuing project. **We need your help coordinating in-district photos at library locations for legislators whose posters have not yet been added to the collection and then presenting the finished posters to legislators with attendant local publicity.** Each legislator holds a composite library card showing system logos. It's the perfect way to enhance relationships and generate positive local publicity while supporting the modest public library system funding increase for 2017-2019!



Sample poster showing
Rep. Robin Vos
(R-Rochester)

NEW! The poster project is being expanded to include Wisconsin's U.S. Congressional Delegation! Stay tuned for more information and how you can help....

A Wisconsin Library Association Foundation grant will enable the creation of one presentation poster copy for every legislator, to be awarded at their home library.



Jessica MacPhail (Racine PL) and Steve Ohs (Lakeshores Library System) present Speaker Robin Vos with his *Libraries Transform!* poster on Legislative Day.

Legislators @ the Library



Can you spot the legislator in this photo?

Kudos to Tomahawk Public Library Director Mary Dunn for featuring 35th District Representative Mary Felzkowski's "Libraries Transform" poster in the Tomahawk PL National Library Week display.

Additional copies of completed posters may be purchased for display at local libraries (a friendly welcome when legislators return for a listening

session or office hours) for \$20 by contacting the WLA Office.

Extend an invitation for your legislators to hold a listening session or office hours at your library, or drop by when they're in your community so you can show them the ways in which library services are important to the people you both serve.

Send us your "Libraries Transform!" News! Do you have stories or photos from Library Legislative Day, legislative listening sessions held at your library or other visits with legislators to share? Contact Kris at kawendt@wvls.org

Legislative Reference Resources

[WLA's 2017-2018 Legislative Guide](#) is sorted for public library system boundaries and includes libraries in each legislative district.

- Click links for companion guides listing [Wisconsin Legislative Leaders](#) (including members of Joint Finance Committee) and [New Members of the Assembly and Senate](#). FRESHMAN legislators need library love! **If your Senator or Representative is on the new members list, invite them to your library!**
- To verify your correct Senate and Assembly districts, enter your personal address or the address of your library in the search box at [Who are my legislators?](#)

Addresses for State Senators: P. O. BOX 7882, Madison, WI 53707-7882

Addresses for Assembly Representatives:

LAST NAMES A-L: P.O. Box 8952, Madison, WI 53708-8952

LAST NAMES M-Z: P.O. Box 8953, Madison, WI 53708-8953

Concluding Thought

"A library is like the best person you know – politely quiet but endlessly informative, amazingly knowledgeable but charmingly discreet, open to everyone yet subject to your every whim, and, sadly, flammable if one isn't careful. Be careful with yours."

--Lemony Snicket

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About the WLA...

The Wisconsin Library Association engages, inspires and advocates for library workers and supporters to improve and promote library services for the people of Wisconsin.

Visit our [website](#) to learn more about us and how you can get involved.

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