



# WLA News

Information from the Wisconsin Library Association  
Winter 2021

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## President's Message

*By Sherry Machones, 2021 WLA Board President*

As we near the end of 2021, I'd like to reflect on my WLA presidency. Two years ago, I started with a vague idea of what kind of President I wanted to be but not a clue of who I was destined to become. I feel like this organization poured into me much more than I did it. Each person I met on my journey holds a special place in my heart for always encouraging, empowering and educating me. The work was rewarding but the lessons about how to show up more fully in the world will remain with me. When thinking back to the significant developments over the past two years... it might not seem impressive on paper, but just surviving a pandemic cannot be understated. We were able to offer a virtual one-day conference last year to bring us all together when we had never felt so alone. This year, we were able to orchestrate and flawlessly execute an entirely virtual Library Legislative Day that led to our successfully securing additional funding for library systems and resources, a feat that many thought was impossible. WLA then faced its biggest challenge: recruiting a new Executive Director to lead the organization into the future. I cannot thank the WLA Board enough for all the support they gave me managing the association in the interim and assisting with the national search. Having Laura Sauser at the helm, I know that we are destined for a reimagined organization that serves all types of libraries and library workers; an association truly responsive to its members.



Personally, the highlight of the year for me was the Fall WLA Conference. I'm proud of the herculean efforts of the conference committee, led by Desiree Bongers, and our Conference Liaison, Roxane Bartelt, to provide our members a way to get back on track and revitalize our souls. The positive spirit at the conference was absolutely infectious (in a good way) and I thank you all for making it so vibrant.

I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as President of WLA for the last two years. I hope my work has helped make the Association and the Wisconsin library community stronger. It's bittersweet to leave this leadership position after all we've been through and all the things that are left to accomplish. I want you to know how grateful I am to have had the privilege to work with all of you through the years. Don't worry about me sailing into the sunset just yet, however! I still look forward to being very active in various advocacy roles in the Association. I will forever be looking to ensure future successes for us!

All my best,  
Sherry Machones  
2020-2021 Wisconsin Library Association President

# Director's Message

By Laura Sauser, WLA Executive Director



It was great to meet so many of you at the Annual Conference! After a long absence due to the COVID-19 pandemic, over 450 attendees representing all kinds of libraries came together to learn, share ideas, and re-connect. The event was as much a “family” reunion as it was a professional conference!

Many thanks to Conference Chair Desiree Bongers, the Conference Committee, Conference Liaison Roxane Bartelt, the staff and Friends of the Brown County Library, our sponsors and exhibitors, and the many other volunteers who helped make this year’s event so successful.

During the annual Membership Meeting held during the conference, I shared an overview of the WLA’s initiatives for 2022. In case you missed it, here’s a summary:

## Member Recruitment and Retention

- The WLA is coming to you! Incoming WLA President Nyama Reed and I are working on several new member recruitment strategies, including regional recruiting visits in the new year.
- We will bring back the popular “Be A Member, Get a Member” Campaign for 2022. Starting January 1, 2022, when you refer a new member to join WLA, both you and the new member will be entered in a drawing for a chance to win \$250 each.
- The tiered dues structure for trustees/friends/foundation board members announced earlier this fall will be marketed in targeted ways in 2022.
- For those non-library institutions (vendors, supplies, corporate, and non-profit organizations) with interest in discounts and advertising, a tiered membership opportunity is in the works.

## Non-Dues Revenue Strategies

- A plan for advertising in WLA’s digital publications (WLA News and the WLA Bulletin) and our website is in the works.
- We’re exploring a wide range of partnerships, program ideas, and other strategies that we hope will lead to additional revenue for the association. Please share your ideas!

## Enhanced Program Offerings and Member Communications

WLA exists to help our members be successful! Our traditional conferences and other trainings provide rich content, but we know we can do more. We also understand that, despite what the old adage says, absence does not make the heart grow fonder. We want to make sure you don’t forget about WLA between our in-person events. Look for more programming, such as webinars, an enhanced social media presence, and increased marketing and communication efforts in the new year.

## Advocacy for Wisconsin Libraries & Library Workers

Advocacy for Wisconsin’s libraries and library workers is a key part of our mission. In 2022, we’ll continue to work with the WLA lobbyist and through the LD & L Committee to strengthen relationships with elected officials and other stakeholders. We’ll also provide you with resources to prepare you to advocate for your libraries at the local, regional, and state level.

## Strategic Planning/Visioning

I’m looking forward to facilitating strategic discussions with the WLA Board of Directors next year. We have a strong foundation built by past and current leadership. From this position of strength, we need to continue to examine how we do business, the benefits we offer our members, and our strategic partners to ensure we continue to grow.

Finally, my personal initiative for 2022 is to get to know you, your challenges, and the topics of interest to you. My WLA orientation will continue into the new year and I look forward to visiting you at your library. Please continue to invite me to your events or just to drop by to say hello! Contact me at [sauser@wisconsinlibraries.org](mailto:sauser@wisconsinlibraries.org) or at [515.865.6264](tel:515.865.6264).

# Support Staff & Circulation Services (SSCS) News

By *Samantha Vogel*

## New SSCS Board Members

Please join us in welcoming two new members to the Support Staff & Circulation Services board. Michael DeVries from Beloit Public Library and Paisley Sichone from La Crosse Public Library. Michael will be the SSCS Director-at-large – Circulation and Paisley will be the SSCS Director-at-large. We are still looking for a Vice Chair and a Director-at-large – Academic to serve in 2022. If you are interested in serving in either of these positions, please contact Cynthia Arauz at [carauz@lacrosselibrary.org](mailto:carauz@lacrosselibrary.org).

## 2021 Virtual SSCS Conference Recap

It was the first time that the SSCS Conference was hosted virtually and overall it was a success. A big thank you to all the speakers who shared their knowledge with us. Another big thank you to the participants!

## Paralibrarian of the Year Award Winner



Each year, the SSCS Board receives several nominations for the Paralibrarian of the Year Award. This prestigious award recognizes the essential role of support staff who provide excellent library service, are committed to free access of information, encourage reading and the use of the library's resources, and work to break down barriers. The SSCS Board would like to congratulate all the 2021 Paralibrarian nominees. Thank you for all you do!

We are pleased to announce the 2021 Paralibrarian of the Year Award goes to Courtney Metko. Courtney has been working as the Children's Assistant Librarian at the Muskego Public Library for the past two years. However, her dedication to the library field started when she worked as a Library Aide at the district public school libraries and she has since transferred her skills and love of reading to public libraries. As a mother to three teens and several puppos, Courtney brings a passion for reading, children and fun to the Muskego Public Library. Her great passion and ingenuity this past year led four of her colleagues to nominate her for this award. In Courtney's words, "Once COVID hit, it was time to change things up, get even more creative and come up with fun programming ideas".

The nomination letters we received for Courtney clearly demonstrated that she excels at her job. What's more, she bridges barriers between MLIS and non-MLIS staff by being a "strong teammate [and] working tirelessly to offer her assistance to all library staff". She also has been a valuable asset for the Muskego Public Library by creating a "bridge that closes the gap between [the public library] and the school district, and helps the staff build better relationships and services for families." The SSCS committee is so happy to award Courtney Metko as the 2021 Paralibrarian of the year award." She received complimentary registration to the SSCS Virtual Conference and the WLA Annual Conference, including the award ceremony.

Congratulations, Courtney!

## Save the Date

The 2022 Support Staff & Circulation Services One-Day Conference will be held on Thursday, May 26, 2022. Stay tuned for further information. Details will be posted on the WLA website.

# WLA 2021 Library Awards & Honors Winners

By Joseph Bongers

The Wisconsin Library Association is pleased to announce the 2021 Library Awards & Honors Winners, selected for their outstanding contributions to libraries and librarianship:

**WLA/DEMCO Librarian of the Year: John Thompson, IFLS Library System**  
**Nominated by: Leah Langby, IFLS Library System**

**Library of the Year: Leon-Saxeville Pine River Library**  
**Nominated by: Judy Newland, Leon-Saxeville Pine River Library**

**Programming Innovation Award: Aram Public Library's Summer Storyteller Series Nominated by:**  
**Linda Zell, Aram Public Library**

The winners' accomplishments were recognized and celebrated during the WLA Annual Conference in Green Bay on November 18. More information about this year's winners can be found on the WLA [2021 Awards & Honors page](#).

There are two great ways for you to contribute to this process in 2022. We all know libraries, library staff, and library supporters who are doing amazing work in Wisconsin. Please consider submitting a nomination that will help us give them the recognition that they deserve. Now is the time to start thinking about a nomination. More information about the awards and criteria can be found at <https://www.wisconsinlibraries.org/awards-honors>. Remember to be concise and confident in your nomination!

The second option is to join the Awards and Honors Committee. This is a great way to get involved in the association and a fun way to learn more about the great work being done by and for libraries all over Wisconsin. For more information about serving on the committee, please email Hannah Bunting at [bunting@wisconsinlibraries.org](mailto:bunting@wisconsinlibraries.org).

## 2021 Awards & Honors Recipients

### WLA President's Volunteer Award

Desiree Bongers, Ripon Public Library  
 Jim Ramsey, Stoughton Public Library

### WLA Leadership Committee

Mentor/Mentee Recognition

### Elizabeth Burr/Worzalla Award

Cathy Camper for Ten Ways to Hear Snow

### Wisconsin Notable Children's Author

Pat Zietlow Miller

### WLA Literary Award

Ayad Akhtar for Homeland Elegies

### Wisconsin Notable Authors

Kimberly Blaeser  
 Neil Gaiman

### SSCS Paralibrarian Award

Courtney Metko  
 Muskego Public Library

### Programming Innovation Award

Aram Public Library's Summer Storyteller Series, Delavan

### Library of the Year Award

Leon-Saxeville Pine River Library

### WLA/DEMCO Librarian of the Year Award

John Thompson  
 IFLS Library System, Eau Claire

### Wisconsin Library Heritage Center Library Hall of Fame Inductees

Carol L. Diehl  
 Thomas J. Hennen, Jr.  
 Paul Nelson  
 Alice Sturzl

# Building Relationships with Public and School Librarians

*In the spirit of work at the national level through ALA's State Ecosystem Initiative and the new [Public Library & School Library Collaboration Toolkit](#) done through collaborative efforts of AASL, YALSA, and ALSC, WEMTA, WLA, and DPI are working together to support and foster communications and collaborations among Wisconsin public and school librarians in order to better support the communities we serve. Each quarter, we will share a resource, strategy, or example with you that could be used as a talking point in your community. Please use these ideas to initiate or continue to build relationships with public and school librarians.*

## **Extend Your Professional Network with Dual Membership in WLA and WEMTA**

Belonging to professional organizations creates opportunities for growth, avenues for networking, and expands our community of practice. Belonging to TWO organizations can double your opportunities without doubling your financial investment! The Wisconsin Library Association (WLA) and the Wisconsin Educational Media and Technology Association (WEMTA) are both rich with value for their members, and they offer discounts to members who join both.

## **WLA/YSS Highlights**

WLA offers professional support and opportunities through committee work, mentorship opportunities and four conferences a year: the 3 ½ day fall annual conference; a 1 day support staff day; a 3 day public library-focused conference and a 3 day academic library focused conference. In addition, WLA's very active Youth Services Section offers webinars and opportunities to meet-up virtually; supports the Elizabeth Burr/Worzalla Children's Book Award and produces [Youth Services Shout-Out](#), an active blog with events, information and opinion pieces on all things in library youth services.

## **WEMTA Highlights**

WEMTA offers support to empower educators to provide learning experiences that prepare students to flourish in an information-rich world. WEMTA hosts regular webinars and sends out a Digital Dispatch newsletter with updates on what the organization is working on. There is an annual 3 day conference held in the spring each year focusing on books, technology and other library related topics. One of the most active committees works closely with members in Madison on Legislation and Advocacy for students, libraries and librarians.

Want to be part of these strong networking communities to continue school and public library partnerships? Here's how to join:

- **WEMTA Membership:** WLA members can [join WEMTA](#) for the reduced rate of \$25 annually
- **WLA Membership:** WEMTA members can [join WLA](#) for the reduced rate of \$50 annually.

*This message brought to you through the collaboration of Wisconsin Educational Media & Technology Association (WEMTA), Wisconsin Library Association (WLA), and DPI School and Public Libraries. If you are interested in working on future tidbits or have other suggestions for collaborations, please contact [Marge Loch-Wouters](#) (WLA) or [Raquel Rand](#) (WEMTA) .*

Stay on top of the latest Youth Services Section (YSS) news by subscribing to the YSS Blog at [yssevents.blogspot.com](http://yssevents.blogspot.com). The YSS Blog is up-to-date spot for library staff serving youth around Wisconsin to find relevant news, events, and resources.

Check out the recent post entitled [Book Challenges - Be Prepared](#).

# Inclusive Services, Mental Health, and Self-Care

By Elizabeth M. Timmins

I serve as the Inclusive Liaison for the Outagamie Waupaca Library System (OWLS) and a member of the WLA Inclusive Services [Special Interest Group \(SIG\)](#). I was also in a work group for this wonderful tool called the [Inclusive Services Assessment and Guide for Wisconsin Public Libraries](#).

A primary focus for me, for inclusive work, is self-care. I sincerely believe that in order to do quality work we must maintain our health on all levels: mental, physical, and spiritual. In the guide, we invite all librarians from across the state to assess how they are taking care of themselves. We know that self-care is not selfish. Rather, it empowers us to have stamina and resilience.

On March 30 of this year, my colleague at OWLS, Amanda Lee, put a post on Facebook that touched my heart. This is a portion of the post, shared here with Amanda's permission:

"Today is World Bipolar Day so I thought I'd share a bit about what bipolar is like and how treatment this past year has impacted my life. I contemplated long and hard about what picture to post. The 5 medications I take every day? The diary card I fill out for DBT? The alarm clock I need to set to get up at 7 a.m. every, single day. These are all crucial to my well-being and help me manage bipolar.

Treatment has changed my life. Getting properly diagnosed was the first step. I was incorrectly diagnosed with major depressive disorder and treated for that for 11 years. Being diagnosed and treated for ADHD and anxiety has also been important. As mentioned above, medication, therapy, and sleep hygiene have also been crucial. Since being diagnosed in January 2020, I've lost 20 lbs. run a 5K, lowered my cholesterol and triglycerides, finished projects, learned new things, kept my house clean (mostly), and didn't think about leaving my job or moving or getting a new pet once. It's easier to take care of myself when I'm not overwhelmed with emotions. I just feel better. I still suffer bipolar mood swings, but they are less intense and shorter in duration. If you are having trouble dealing with emotions, I encourage you to reach out to me or someone for help. It can get better! [#bipolarstrong](#) [#mentalhealthmatters](#)"

I am a middle-aged person who came of age in an era when mental illness was stigmatized. Beyond that, expressing one's struggles with depression, as an example, was seen as unprofessional when I was in college and preparing for a career. Thank goodness things are changing and young people such as Amanda are leading that positive change. There is a healthy openness and dialogue evolving around mental health challenges. I appreciate that I have learned from Amanda's brave post, both her story and her willingness to put herself out there for the benefit of others.

Here's the deal. We all have ups and downs with our mental health. Bolstering mental health is inclusive because it is a universal condition! We can strive to be more compassionate and empathetic to one another about struggles and triumphs. Thanks for reading and please reflect on this topic. Thanks so much to Amanda for sparking this article and for her willingness to be quoted.

"The purpose of the Inclusive Services special interest group is to promote inclusion in Wisconsin libraries by helping library staff, friends and trustees recognize and implement inclusive practices. The Inclusive Services SIG will provide support of inclusive practices through organizing and/or sponsoring continuing education opportunities and the SIG will reflect and discuss inclusive practices within the Wisconsin Library Association."

Get more information about WLA's Special Interest Groups at [wla.memberclicks.net/sigs](http://wla.memberclicks.net/sigs).

# Beloit Public Library Hosts National AIDS Memorial Quilt and Special Program

By *Beloit Public Library*

[Beloit Public Library](#) (BPL) and the [National AIDS Memorial](#) (NAM) partnered to bring six sections of the [AIDS Memorial Quilt](#) to Beloit as part of World AIDS Day observances.

The display took place inside the library from November 30 through December 7 and was part of World AIDS Day observances, as well as a commemoration of the more than 700,000 American lives lost to AIDS since the first cases were reported in the United States 40 years ago this year. World AIDS Day was December 1.

BPL was one of 42 locations across the country to host sections of the AIDS Memorial Quilt and one of only two public libraries to do so.



“We are honored to work together with the National AIDS Memorial to bring these six quilt panels to Beloit on this momentous anniversary and share its stories of hope, healing and remembrance,” said Jeni Schomber, head of library services at BPL.

HIV is on the rise, particularly among young people, communities of color and in southern states. Quilt displays are used to raise greater awareness about the story of AIDS, and prevention, treatments, and resources available within the community.

The City of Beloit presented a proclamation at its regular November 15 City Council meeting to acknowledge the display and other events taking place at the library for this occasion. Along with the display and presentation, BPL also hosted a COVID-19 vaccine clinic and an American Red Cross blood drive.

BPL worked with the National AIDS Memorial to curate the selection of the quilt for display, which featured panels with connections to Wisconsin and made to honor and remember the names of friends and loved ones lost to AIDS.

One panel included a tribute to Beloit College alum Michael Riesenber, who died as a result of the disease in 1993. His classmate, the award-winning author Ann Bausum, presented a special program on December 1 (World AIDS Day) with the display as the backdrop.

Titled *Pandemics: The Fight Against AIDS in America*, Bausum discussed our country’s response to the AIDS crisis on the 40th anniversary of the first reported cases in the United States. In what turned out to be an era of denial, fear, and unimaginable loss, countless brave activists confronted this devastating syndrome and now, an HIV/AIDS diagnosis is no longer considered a death sentence. Bausum told the story of how that came to be and also drew comparisons between AIDS and COVID-19.

[Watch the news story \*Beloit Public Library displays panels of historic AIDS quilt from November 29, 2021.\*](#)

Read more about the National Aids Memorial quilt and special program at <https://beloitlibrary.org/library-hosts-national-aids-memorial-quilt-and-special-program>.

## TB Scott Free Library of Merrill Goes Fine-Free

By Laurie Ollhoff

Wednesday, November 17, 2021, was a monumental day for T. B. Scott Free Library and its patrons: they went fine-free. This means that patrons will no longer be charged fines for overdue materials, and existing fines were purged from T. B. Scott patron records.

While T. B. Scott Free Library is the first local library in northcentral Wisconsin to eliminate late fines, this change follows a nationwide trend set by New York Public Library, Madison Public Library, and others. Late fines present a barrier to the most vulnerable in our community, including children, the elderly, and the disabled: the very people who need the library the most. And, surprisingly, late fines are not very effective in getting people to return materials on time.



Patrons will still be financially responsible for lost and damaged materials, and if an item is more than 30 days overdue, the library will assume it to be “Lost” and charge accordingly. There are also a small number of nontraditional circulating items that will still accrue late fines, such as the Items for the Library of Things collection. But no longer will books and movies rack up charges if they come back late.

Late fines represent less than one half of one percent of the library’s annual operating budget, so the overall financial impact will be minimal. The library hopes to recover the difference with donations.

In conjunction with going fine-free, the library ran a food drive with all donations going to the Merrill Community Food Pantry.

Has your library implemented a fine-free policy? If so, we would like to know how fine-free has gone over in your community. Email your feedback to [sauser@wisconsinlibraries.org](mailto:sauser@wisconsinlibraries.org).

## Menomonee Falls Public Library’s New Makerspace: The Forge

By Menomonee Falls Public Library

[The Forge](#) is the new makerspace at the [Menomonee Falls Public Library](#). Dedicated to learning, creating, and connecting with other people, the space is filled with gadgets and gizmos that patrons might not otherwise have access to.

“It’s awesome!” says Michele. “There are very few places where you can get together with friends and just create. It’s very freeing and just a really fun time.”

The Forge has a 3D printer, a vinyl cutter, a button maker, a leather stamping set, and some sewing machines, with a serger on the way.



[Read more about The Forge at Great Things Happen when Art and Community Come Together.](#)

## WLA Author Highlight

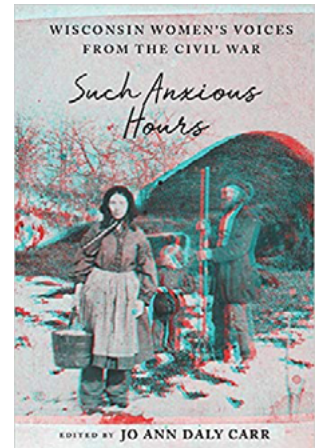
WLA Member Jo Ann Daly Carr is a librarian and director emerita of Media, Education Resources, and Information Technology at the University of Wisconsin–Madison School of Education. She recently released *Such Anxious Hours: Wisconsin Women's Voices from the Civil War* (University of Wisconsin Press, 2020), a collection of diaries and letters of eight Wisconsin women living during the Civil War.

**Q: Give us a brief overview of your book (plot summary, genre, fiction, nonfiction, etc.).**

**A:** *Such Anxious Hours: Wisconsin Women's Voices from the Civil War* tells the story of the Wisconsin home front during the Civil War using the diaries and letters of eight Wisconsin women. These women provide a chronology of the war and its impact on Wisconsin from the evacuation of Fort Sumter in April 1861 to the assassination of Abraham Lincoln in April 1865. A concluding chapter examines the post war lives of these women in the context of the changes that the war brought to Wisconsin and to the United States.

**Q: Your book is based on the letters and diaries of real women from history. How did you find these women? What inspired you to share their stories?**

**A:** Libraries and library services were integral to the entire process of writing this book. I was inspired to share the stories of Wisconsin women during the Civil War after attending a program at the Fitchburg Public Library in which four writers shared their recent books about Wisconsin men during the Civil War. When I asked, "What about the women?", no one could answer me. That wasn't surprising given the fact that the last book on Wisconsin women during the war was written in 1911!



I found a few of these women in books written by professional historians about U.S. women in the war but most of them I found by reviewing almost 2000 WorldCat records for Wisconsin Civil War letters. In all I found 35-40 women but chose these eight as they provided a chronology of the war from the viewpoint of ages (17-45) and from locations in cities, small towns, and farms. And then archives, library collections, digital collections, and interlibrary loan were used to find these women's stories as well as background information to provide a context for their diaries and letters.

**Q. What do you hope readers take away from your book?**

**A:** I hope that they gain the same things that I did. One of the greatest take-aways from the book for me was a much deeper appreciation of the contributions of military families to the Civil War and to all our nation's wars. I also heightened my realization about how much of our history is hidden-sometimes due to misinformation, sometimes due to neglect, and sometimes due to the systems that libraries use. Very few of the catalog records for the archives that contain the letters of these women are listed under the names of the individual women, so I had to read the finding aids for almost all 2000 records! I also hope that those readers who are associated with local historical societies encourage the cataloging and preservation of their own materials. I fear that so much of our history will continue to be neglected and lost if archival materials are not made more accessible.

**Q: Is there any advice you'd like to share for WLA members who are interested in writing?**

**A:** Many years ago, I was advised to "Follow your passion, not your plan." Until I attended that program at the Fitchburg Public Library I had not planned to return to historical research in retirement-but, here I am.

My second piece of advice is to be certain you have a deep interest in the topic and that your primary interest is in sharing the story. I worked on my book for five years and was fortunate that the proposal was accepted by the second publisher whom I contacted. But the sales of this title were adversely impacted by COVID. According to WorldCat, I actually lost sales after March 2020 as libraries returned print copies and moved more of their collections to a digital format. So, be prepared for the unexpected and enjoy the process. And don't take reviews personally (unless they are favorable!)

To learn more, visit [joanndalycarr.com](http://joanndalycarr.com).

If you're a WLA member with a new book to announce, please email the details to [WLA@WisconsinLibraries.org](mailto:WLA@WisconsinLibraries.org).

## Lead with WLA!

By Betsy Bleck, WLA Nomination Committee

Listen, I'm not going to talk to you about New Year's resolutions. New Year's resolutions are fraught, right? Oh, the pressure and the folly! We expect to wake up on January 1 with a completely new personality, budget, and schedule. Someone who has the time, resources, and worst of all, the energy to:

- Learn new things (Ukelele? Ballroom dance? A firm grasp of what "cheugy" means?)
- Get jacked (three raw eggs and Peloton every morning!)
- Be a better person (Make over internal monologue to be more "Emily Post" and less "Ebenezer")

So, I get that me having the nerve to come in here and encourage you to try something new in 2022 is not very nice. But I'm going to do it anyway. And how about if you take me up on this idea, you can let go of one of your other New Year's resolutions?

Here is my idea for you: You would be great in a leadership role in WLA! By volunteering, you could be the raw eggs that help make WLA even stronger than it is today. There is a leadership role for people of all skills, strengths, and schedules. [Please tell WLA about you and your interests by completing the "Lead with WLA" form.](#) Then, a member of WLA's Nomination Committee will be in touch with you. Easy! Much easier than learning that ol' ukulele.

## Support Wisconsin Libraries with a Gift to the WLA Foundation

Help the Wisconsin Library Association Foundation advance its mission of supporting the role of Wisconsin libraries as essential institutions.

The Foundation funds:

- WLA Conference Keynote
- WLA Awards and Honors
- Scholarships and grants for aspiring librarians
- Resources for the education of, and critical connections with, state legislators



To learn more about the WLA Foundation and to make a donation, visit [wisconsinlibraries.org/foundation](https://wisconsinlibraries.org/foundation).

*Leave a legacy!* Name the WLA Foundation as a beneficiary of your will, life insurance policy, retirement plan, or other planned giving vehicle. Visit with your financial advisor for more information.

## Save the Date!

Be sure to save the following dates for upcoming webinars, events, conferences and more.

**December 10:** Partnering to Connect Library Patrons to Health Insurance Webinar with Covering Wisconsin

**December 15:** Public Libraries & Healthier Communities Webinar with the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, Region 6

**January 14:** Volunteer Orientation at DeForest Public Library

**February 8:** Library Legislative Day at Madison Concourse Hotel

**April 20 - 22:** WAAL Conference at Sheraton Milwaukee, Brookfield

**May 11 - 13:** WAPL Conference at The Ingleside, Waukesha

**May 26:** SSCS One-Day Conference (Location TBD)

**November 1 - 4:** WLA Conference at Grand Geneva Hotel, Lake Geneva

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### The WLA office has officially gone fully remote!

If you are aware of businesses or organizations looking for a well-equipped, small office space with great neighbors, please contact [Tom Klement](mailto:Tom.Klement).

## YOU'RE NEWSWORTHY!

Email news, ideas, updates, and stories for the 2022 Spring WLA Newsletter to [sauser@wisconsinlibraries.org](mailto:sauser@wisconsinlibraries.org) no later than March 1, 2022.

# Be a Member, Get a Member Campaign

We're pleased to bring back the popular "Be a Member, Get a Member" campaign for 2022. Starting January 1, 2022, when you refer a new member to join the Wisconsin Library Association, both you and the new member will be entered in a drawing for a chance to win a cash prize (\$250 each). Past campaigns have brought in 200 new WLA members, and we hope this new campaign will help grow our membership even more.

### How it Works

Convince a friend or colleague to join the Wisconsin Library Association and both of you can qualify to enter our prize drawing for \$250 each. In the upper right corner of the membership form add your name in the "Referred By" box. Each referral gives you an additional chance to win. Each referral gives you an additional chance to win.

The drawing will take place in November 2022 at the WLA Annual Conference in Lake Geneva. Contest dates run January 1, 2022 through October 22, 2022.

### Contest Rules

The definition of a "new member" is an individual who has not previously joined WLA, or who has not been a member for the past three calendar years.

1. If a new member forgets to add a colleague's name in the "Referred By" box on the application they can contact the WLA office to request a correction.
2. A member may have their name submitted multiple times based on new member applications.
3. The WLA Board and office staff are not eligible to participate.
4. This campaign is not applicable to institutional memberships.
5. The deadline for names to be submitted for consideration is October 21, 2022.

Please help share the value of membership in the association that has been an important part of your career. Your efforts will bring growth and stability to WLA.

## Trustee Memberships

WLA conferences and other educational programs offer your trustees and volunteer leaders the chance to learn more about libraries, gain a broader perspective on their important role, and interact with others who share a passion for libraries. We're pleased to invite your library trustees, foundation board members, and friends board members to join WLA with this tiered dues structure:

- Boards with 5 or fewer members - \$100
- Boards with 6-8 members - \$150
- Boards with 9-14 members - \$200
- Boards with more than 14 members - \$300
- Individual board members - \$50

To learn more or to purchase board memberships, please email [wla@wisconsinlibraries.org](mailto:wla@wisconsinlibraries.org) or call [608-245-3640](tel:608-245-3640).