

Director's Report

May 2024

Meetings and Visits

The coordinators and I continue to discuss our 2025 budget priorities. All things considered, the budget process is moving along quite smoothly.

As weather has been cooperative, I have been able to continue with library visits. To date, I have visited libraries in Dane, Green, and Sauk counties.

I attended my first Wisconsin Public Library Consortium (WPLC) and System and Resource Library Administrators' Association of Wisconsin (SRLAAW) meetings as a system director in May. WPLC is responsible for Wisconsin's Digital Library. SRLAAW deals with statewide legislative and policy issues that impact public library service in Wisconsin. Each group meets quarterly.

The May All Directors Meeting included discussion about the draft 2025 SCLS budget and member fees, as well as the vote the 2025 OverDrive Advantage budget. The Advantage program allows the system to offer additional electronic materials to our system members.

Wisconsin Association of Public Libraries (WAPL) Conference

The 2024 WAPL Conference took place from Wednesday, May 1, through Friday, May 3, at the Holiday Inn Stevens Point Convention Center. Jean Anderson, Mark Jochem and I attended the full conference, and Tracie Miller attended on Thursday. Martha Van Pelt presented with Devin Flanigan of Keller, Inc., on the SCLS building project.

Personnel

Portage County Public Library has posted the library director position, which will be vacated upon Larry Oathout's retirement on September 6, 2024. The first round of interviews will be conducted during the first week of June. Tracie Miller will serve on the search and screen committee. Larry has been the director since 2016, and has brought many smart questions and a fair share of levity to the public library community. He will be missed.

Wyocena Public Library has posted its director position, which will be vacated when Darrell Fehd retires in June. Darrell was already a retiree when he began working at the Wyocena Public Library part-time, and he took the position of director after the position remained vacant for some time. Darrell's commitment to the library is admirable.

Good News

A dedication celebration has been set! South Central Library System staff have named its main meeting room the Hamon Room after longtime director Peter Hamon (1981-2005). Peter and his wife Ann will be participating virtually. Please join us in person or at SCLS headquarters or via Zoom at 1 pm on June 10. Contact Shannon to RSVP if you wish to attend in person.

Respectfully submitted by,

Shannon M. Schultz