Happy December!

It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve as your 2017 Wisconsin Library Association President. Here are a few memorable events of this past year.

Thanks to the leadership of the Library Development & Legislation (LD&L) Committee and our lobbyist, Steve Conway, we were successful in getting an additional $1.5 million added to the budget for library system aids. Thanks to all of you for contacting your legislators and helping with this effort.

In August, 20 librarians from around the state completed the first annual Leadership Development Institute. Students learned about business communication, change management, collaborative thinking, and critical decision making during the three-day experience. Congratulations to the graduates and thank you to all who volunteered to make this event a reality. The next Leadership Development Institute is scheduled for August 8 - 10. Hope to see you there!

This year’s WLA Conference, Recharge, was wonderful. It was so great to see so many of you there.

Special thank you to all the Conference Committee members for your hard work to create a successful conference experience. See you next October 23 - 26 in LaCrosse!

(Cont. page 3)
Vision & Mission
- The Wisconsin Library Association, is committed to developing educational programs and volunteer opportunities to help shape tomorrow's leaders. WLA values the long-term benefits to both the association and to its member libraries in greatly expanding the number of seasoned leaders within the Wisconsin library community.

Program Design
- Leadership Development Institute was designed by and for librarians (3 years in development)
- Program design based on research and best practices
- Program Components
  - 5 overarching leadership competencies with leaner outcomes
  - Leadership style assessment completed for each attendee
  - 2 ½ day interactive and highly immersive learning event
  - 5-6 Cohort Groups participate in each program
  - Instructors from within and outside of the library industry
  - Focus on decision making, ethics, value and integrity
  - Financial support for attendees from small libraries
  - Upon completion of program participants become part of an electronic community to help continue personal and professional growth
  - Program integration with WLA WeLead Program
It has been a busy and exciting year for WLA – and it has been my honor and privilege to serve as your Executive Director during this time. 2017 brought many changes and accomplishments. The establishment of Special Interest Groups, the creation of the Leadership Committee, the rollout of the Leadership Development Institute and the new Call for Volunteers online process were all important changes that will continue to keep our association exciting and relevant into the future. I know that change can sometimes be scary and disruptive in our personal lives. However, strategic and thoughtful change is essential to the longevity of any association.

This is also a perfect time to say “thank you” to the many volunteers throughout WLA that help keep the wheels on the bus turning. I believe that it’s safe to say that the association could not move forward another day without the support, creative energy and dedication of our volunteers. Added to the list of essential elements is also the amazing partnerships that WLA is so fortunate to have. Many thanks to SRLAAW, WiLS, Madison College, DEMCO, First Business and EBSCO for your contributions over the past year.

And, most importantly—thanks to all of you as WLA members for without your support we would not be an organization. Thank you for staying with us, for supporting our mission and for your generous contributions to the WLA Foundation. May this holiday season bring you all the joy and peace you deserve. I look forward to seeing you all next year when the adventure continues!

(From page 1)

In 2017, we also had some changes to the WLA organizational structure. We introduced the Special Interest Group (SIG) option as a more flexible way for communities to develop within WLA. There is a lot of interest in SIGs and we already have six with more to come.

These are a few of the many things that the WLA accomplished this year. We can’t do this without you and your membership in WLA. Thank you! And, spread the word. We need you and your colleagues to join (or rejoin) WLA in 2018.

Have a great holiday season and a successful 2018!
2017 WLA Conference – It’s A Wrap!

By: Angela Meyers, Publicity Co-Chair, 2017 WLA Conference

More than 750 people joined us in Wisconsin Dells for the annual Wisconsin Library Association Conference held at the Kalahari Resort & Conference Center October 17-20. With more than 130 programs, events and activities to choose from, there was never a dull moment.

We welcomed Grace Lim as our Wednesday keynote speaker. Lim is a college instructor at UW-Oshkosh and the brains behind Humans of Oshkosh, which began as a class assignment and turned into a celebration of Oshkosh residents. Lim’s message emphasized the power of storytelling and how we can all work toward the common good through our stories. Librarians must continue to take the lead role in the telling, the protecting and the sharing of these stories.

All the way from Helsinki, Finland, Linda Liukas joined us on Thursday to speak about her children’s coding series, Hello Ruby. Liukas shared that computer science needs a different set of thinking skills. Just a few decades ago, you could take apart a computer and see how it worked. Today our technologies are integrated and built into the motherboard, making it more and more difficult to see how computers operate. Liukas explained that programming today looks like modern poetry, not 1s and 0s. And if code is the new language, perhaps, instead of grammar classes, we need poetry.

A few of our special speakers included Emily Drabinski, who spoke on critical librarianship in challenging times, and former Governor Martin Schreiber, author of My Two Elaines, as he shared insights into becoming his wife’s caregiver, who is living with dementia. An attendee shared that Jessamyn West, a luncheon speaker and session presenter, was “excellent—encouraging, challenging, inspiring and even funny!”

The sessions for library staff were robust and varied, such as decolonizing library science, marketing on a shoestring, employee retention, managing millennials, storytelling and slinging books like a bartender. Cutting edge topics like white privilege and the dark web drew much attention. The Public Library System Redesign (PLSR) also had several workshops to inform the library community about the process, to solicit feedback and to answer any questions.

The conference isn’t just about attending sessions though. With over 50 vendors, free professional headshots, an Indie Author garden and a Career Center, there was much to do in the exhibit hall. There was also an opportunity for WLA attendees to have their résumé reviewed as well as an option to print business cards. One attendee shared, “I LOVED the Career Center. Super easy to use and especially helpful for me because I don't have official business cards yet.” The Career Center folks reported that they printed over 500 business cards over a two-day period and the professional photographer filled every time slot! The Indie Author Garden was a new concept for WLA and was very well received by both the authors and attendees of WLA.

WLA attendees were delighted with the selection of special events and excursions available in Wisconsin Dells, including a fall hike at Mirror Lake State Park; Baraboo and Kilbourn Library open houses; excursions on the Wisconsin Ducks; and tours of a distillery, the Crane Foundation and an art studio.

On behalf of the WLA Conference Committee, we thank you for spending a few days learning, connecting and recharging in the Dells. We hope to see you in La Crosse, October 23-26, at the Radisson Hotel and La Crosse Center.
## 2018 WLA Conference & Live Events Calendar

<table>
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<th>Event</th>
<th>Details</th>
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| WLA Board Retreat             | January 11, 2018  
Deforest Public Library  
203 Library Street  
DeForest, WI 53532 |
| Leadership Orientation        | January 12, 2018  
Deforest Public Library  
203 Library Street  
DeForest, WI 53532 |
| Library Legislative Day       | February 20, 2018  
The Madison Concourse Hotel  
1 W Dayton Street  
Madison, WI 53703 |
| WAAL Annual Conference        | April 25-27, 2018  
Best Western Premier Waterfront Hotel & Convention Center  
1 North Main Street  
Oshkosh, WI 54901 |
| WAPL Annual Conference        | May 2-4, 2018  
Country Springs Hotel & Conference Center  
2810 Golf Road  
Pewaukee, WI 53072 |
| Government Information Day    | Date to be determined                                                   |
| SSCS One Day Conference       | May 24, 2018  
UW-Baraboo/Sauk City  
1006 Connie Road  
Baraboo, WI 53913 |
| WLA Annual Conference         | October 23-26, 2018  
Radisson Hotel La Crosse and La Crosse Center  
200 Harborview Plaza  
La Crosse, WI 54601 |
WANTED: Newsletter Editor/Coordinator

WLA is looking for an energetic, creative volunteer to pull together articles, photographs, announcements and a calendar of events for the quarterly electronic newsletter. This role is assisted by WLA staff and reports directly to the WLA Executive Director.

Skill Requirements:
- Experience writing articles for publication
- Locating interesting library stories and best practices
- Use of software to minimize file size of graphics and photos received from content contributors
- Proofreading
- Coordinating broadcast email announcements
- Politely reminding content contributors about the deadline
- Use of Microsoft template and Adobe Acrobat for final newsletter format

Payment: WLA Annual Conference Registration

Time Commitment: 1-2 hours / Week

Applicants: Send email message to Plumer Lovelace, Executive Director at lovelace@wisconsinlibraries.org or call 608.245.3643

Are you an Amazon Customer? Consider using your purchase to support the WLA Foundation!

Simply go to the AmazonSmile website to make your purchase. The AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice. On the AmazonSmile website, select “Wisconsin Library Association Foundation Inc.” as your charitable organization.
Letter From Our Foundation President

By: Linda Pierschalla, WLAF President

Dear Library Community,

As I finish up my year as President of the WLA Foundation Board, I look back and wish I could have done more if I had the luxury of time. We are all busy with our jobs, families, outside interests and everything else that may take us away from giving back to our Association that works hard to put our profession in a positive light. However, I am proud of what the Foundation accomplished in 2017, mainly providing scholarships for those in our profession.

The Foundation funded three $300 scholarships for people to attend the Leadership Development Institute training program that was offered for the first time this year. We also funded the following scholarship awards:

- Library Education ($1,400): Petra Duecker
- Sally Davis (Madison student, ($1,350): Andrew Heckroth
- Vida Stanton (Milwaukee student, ($1,600): Emily Zorea
- Bauer Continuing Education ($850): Cory Peppler
- Hoegh award ($900): Jennifer Bernetzke

It was truly gratifying to hear the response back from the recipients as to how much the award would help them out financially as well as how thrilled they are to be in a profession that means so much to them. Your generous giving to our Foundation, whether it’s through bidding on the silent auction items at conference time, attending our fun fundraiser events or making your annual tax deductible donation – your hard-earned dollars are used and appreciated.

In closing, I want to thank all the members of the WLA Foundation Board for giving their time during the year and WLAF is in good hands as Jon Mark Bolthouse takes the reins as 2018 President.

Have a wonderful holiday season.

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Get the full experience of being a WLA member...volunteer!

Becoming a volunteer allows library professionals to develop leadership skills, create professional development opportunities, expand career networks and learn more about your association. It also plays an important role in advancing the mission of the Association and benefitting libraries throughout the state. If you are interested in volunteering, send your message to wla@wisconsinlibraries.org; include in the subject line, “WLA Volunteer.” Thanks for your continued support.