OWLS Acting Director report
August 17, 2017 OWLS Board of Trustees Meeting

Staff at OWLS
OWLS Circulation Specialist Molly Lawlor celebrated her one-year anniversary at OWLS on August 10th.

On August 16, Dave will attend Camp Tech-a-Talka, a meeting for Wisconsin library system technology professionals at the Portage County Library.

On August 18, I will attend the SRLAAW meeting at Marathon County Public Library in Wausau. Agenda topics include PLSR, cross-county payments, and LSTA 2018 prospects.

I plan to attend the WLA conference in Wisconsin Dells in October. Conference registration will be open soon. The conference schedule has been posted, and hotel rooms can be reserved now. Details can be found here: http://wla.wisconsinlibraries.org/events-conferences/annual-conference/wla-conference-home

Project Updates
All of the new routers have been installed at OWLSnet member libraries. The NFLS office will receive their new router soon, and then the router project will be complete. The next big tech project will be ESET antivirus upgrades.

Libraries in Kimberly, Little Chute, Kaukauna, Kewaunee, New London, Waupaca, Sturgeon Bay, and Hortonville have received their Badgernet circuit upgrades.

Hortonville, Waupaca, New London, Door County, and most OWLS staff are now using Office 365 email. Please note my new email address: bshipps@owlsweb.org. We are on track to roll out the service to all libraries in the fall.

Library News
On August 17, I will attend our annual budget meeting with the Outagamie County Executive. I expect they will maintain the 100% funding level for libraries, but will not reinstate the $15,000 rental assistance payment to OWLS.

On August 23 at 2pm, OWLS will host a webinar in which Appleton and New London library staff will present highlights from ALA 2017 in Chicago. You are welcome to attend. Registration is here: https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2835535319041570562

On August 29, I will meet with Marion Public Library Director, Le Ann Hopp, to discuss the library relationship to system and state. This is part of our new director orientation process.

We have scheduled a meeting of OWLS member directors for Friday, September 8 at Scandinavia Public Library. Topics will include county funding and best practices for county billing, delivery, PLSR, OWLS staffing, the system plan, and the OWLS budget.

PLSR update
Members of the PLSR Steering Committee will host regional meetings around the state in late September. A meeting in Outagamie County is tentatively planned for Thursday, September 28 from 1:00-3:00 pm. I will share more details as they become available.

There will be many PLSR-related sessions at the WLA Conference in October.

You can subscribe to receive regular PLSR updates via email here: http://www.plsr.info/updates/

State Aid update
The increase in state aids to library systems recommended by the Joint Finance Committee remains uncertain pending approval of a budget by the legislature and the Governor. The proposed increase of $1.5 million for state library systems was negotiated for distribution over the 2-year budget biennium as follows: $500,000 in the first year and $1,000,000 in the second year. Library systems will have the three areas of focus for services to be developed with this additional funding: Internet/broadband, workforce development, and lifelong learning.

Trustee Training Week is August 21-25. Details can be found here:
http://www.wistrusteetraining.com/register.html

OWLS Trustees are invited to attend two trustee training workshops hosted by Winnefox:
Trustee 201: The Library Board as Employer, Sept. 14, 6-8pm at Ripon Public Library
Trustee 301: Open Meetings and Public Records Laws, Sept. 20, 6-8pm at Caestecker Public Library in Green Lake.
Fliers with more details are included in your board packets.