

OWLS Director Report

December 16, 2021 OWLS Board of Trustees Meeting

ARPA Grant

The NEWI systems consortium (OWLS, MCLS, NFLS, Winnefox) has been awarded \$200,000 in ARPA funds for library space and safety improvement. NFLS is serving as the fiscal agent for the grant. Member libraries of the four systems will choose from a menu of items which includes tables, chairs, shelving, charging stations, privacy booths, and a variety of meeting room enhancements. Each library will have a budget of approximately \$3,000, which may be adjusted based on participation.

LSTA Professional Development Grant

In consultation with member library directors, we have decided to use this grant of \$8,400 to host a conference for OWLS member Directors and library staff. Tentatively named "Hoot Con," it has been scheduled for April 21 and 22 at the Mosquito Hill Nature Center. Katherine Freund from Little Chute, Allie Krause from Hortonville, Holly Selwitschka from Kimberly, and Sue Vater Olsen from Scandinavia are serving on the planning committee along with OWLS staff.

OWLS Staffing

We have posted the Computer Technician position and hope to hire very early in 2022. Dave Bacon and Julie Leopold from OWLS, and John Kronenburg from NFLS are participating on the hiring team.

OWLS Office Move

We have started the process of offering unneeded furnishings to member libraries. Items that are not claimed by member libraries will be listed for sale. OWLS staff have been cleaning out files, and we will bring in a shredding company in January. We are in the process of obtaining quotes from three moving vendors.

Library Legislative Day

WLA's annual Library Legislative Day is scheduled for Tuesday, February 8, 2022 at the Madison Concourse Hotel. OWLS and library trustees are strongly encouraged to attend.