

MEMORANDUM:

To: Winnefox Library System Trustees
From: Clairellyn Sommersmith, Director
Subject: Report of System Activities
Date: 25 November 2024

Director Activities: I am currently finishing my first year as Chair of the Wisconsin Library Association's Leadership Committee. This committee runs the WLA mentorship program, partnering experienced librarians in the state with newer librarians or individuals who have recently moved in higher roles. We just paired the next 14 pairs for the 2025 calendar year.

I co-hosted two Trustee 101 sessions this fall. These workshops, along with a monthly Trustee Tale blog and information videos, are the result of the NEWI-wide push for more trustee education. Additionally, I attended several member library board meetings to provide education or to support boards as they worked through the hiring process. Those libraries include: Ripon, Westfield and Neshkoro.

System News: Winnefox will be hosting its Annual Meeting with all member library directors on Tuesday January 28. Following our morning session of updates and future goals for the system, we will be hosting Jamie Matczak, the education consultant at Wisconsin Valley Library Service. She will be speaking on "Giving Great Customer Service." Jamie has given over 80 presentations on marketing, social media, customer service and communications.

Library News: Two small library directors announced their resignations from their positions. Andra Mory and Dawn Belter, from Pine River and Poy Sippi respectively, will be stepping down from their posts at the end of the year.

Ripon Public Library has hired a new library director. Alex Coggeshell will be starting at Ripon on December 4. She was previously the Adult Services Librarian at Waukee Library in Iowa.

State News: Librarians, trustees, and other supporters will be heading down to Madison on Tuesday February 11, 2025. This is a chance to thank the legislature for their support of libraries and advocate for continued support. This is an important year as we are beginning to discuss and advocate for the next biannual budget. Registration for the event can be found here: [Library Legislative Day \(wisconsinlibraries.org\)](https://www.wisconsinlibraries.org)

We had our quarterly SRLAAW meeting (System and Resource Library Administrators' Association of Wisconsin) in November and discussed the current 6 million dollar increase being lobbied for by the Department of Public Instruction for library system services. As we talk to legislators in the next year, we will be highlighting library services to homeschool families, those looking for employment, and young families with a focus on early literacy.