



President's Report – November 2021

Summary of activities since last Board Meeting:

1. Sent an email to WLA membership to thank and congratulate the WLA Executive Board officers, summarize the mission and tenets of the organization, and to encourage members to find ways to participate in the association.
2. Created and shared a recurring Zoom meeting link for the Executive Board. Sent a follow-up email to membership to let them know about the change in meeting date/time. Received positive feedback from several members, notably school librarians.
3. Appointed a Chair for the Awards/Grants Committee: Angela Wolff (Laramie County Library System). She was one of two remaining members of the committee and had longer tenure. Nicholle Gerharter (the other remaining member) was kind enough to create and share committee reports for 2020 and 2021. Documents were uploaded to the WLA website.
4. Campbell County Situation:
 - a. Worked with several library colleagues to create a letter of support to send to the Campbell County Commissioners and the Campbell County Board of Directors. The letter was sent on October 14. Thank you to everyone that worked on the letter!
 - b. The next day, the WLA Facebook page received two direct messages, one of which was directed at me and was threatening in nature. Elizabeth Thorson blocked the users from making further comments. Filed a police report with Cheyenne Police Department per the recommendations of the Laramie County Attorney (#2021- 56427). No further information.
 - c. Along with several members of the Executive Board, met with John Chatska from EveryLibrary to discuss strategy and a potential partnership. Team began work on recruiting several people to write letters to the editor responses to the opinion letter published in the Wyoming Tribune-Eagle on October 15. Lisa Scroggins created talking points to share with library stakeholders that may be interested in sending a letter to the editor or writing an op-ed. Talking points were shared with several stakeholders. There have been several additional opinion pieces in news media in Wyoming supporting Wyoming Libraries, including Rod Miller in the Cowboy State Daily on October 20: "The Gillette Library: Bonfire of the Vanities, Redux"; Diana Enzi in the Gillette News Record on October 26: "Campbell County Public Libraries are essential to our community"; and Don Morris in the Wyoming Tribune-Eagle on November 3: "Library books informing teens about sexuality are appropriate."
 - d. On October 27, the Weston County Attorney's Office (as a special prosecuting entity designated by the Campbell County Attorney's Office) announced they would not be pursuing any criminal charges against Director Lesley and Campbell County Public Library. Shared update with Executive Board email list.
 - e. Received a draft proposal from EveryLibrary.
5. Started preliminary work on the draft 2022 WLA Budget. Hoping to have a draft ready in December or January.
6. Started work on coordinating awards presentations with Jamie Markus for the State Library as recipient of the Outstanding Library Award (preliminarily scheduled for December 7 at 3) and for Rachael Svoboda as recipient of the Outstanding Librarian Award (date still pending for early December). Jacob Mickelson is working on getting the physical awards and coordinating presentations for the other two awards.
7. WLA's membership with the Freedom to Read Foundation lapsed. Worked with Amigos to pay for membership renewal.
8. Asked the Conference Committee to do a feedback survey of members to prepare for next year's conference. Have not heard back from them. Amelia Gilbert resigned as chair of the committee.
9. Attended the WLA Legislative Committee meeting on November 2. There was not a quorum. Caitlin White may have more to share.
10. Sent an email to each of the newest WLA officers to help with onboarding: Conrado Saldivar, Susan Parkins and Lisa Scroggins.
11. Received an email from MHP regarding WLA's 2020 tax return filing, which was delayed to November 15, 2021. After lots of back and forth email, the firm Amigos recommended last year (which we have an engagement

letter with) has been nonresponsive. The firm is dealing with staffing issues like most places in the world. MHP is now working on the 2020 tax return.

12. Received a petition to create a new Programming Interest Group. The petition met the criteria to create a new interest group (at least 5 WLA members) and was approved by the President, Vice President and Past President via email. Prior to notifying membership, wanted to ensure the Executive Board was aware. The purpose of the interest group will be “to connect Wyoming library employees who are interested in organizing groups, events, programs, sharing ideas to help facilitate a better library community, and making connections between patrons.” Next steps: 1) Amigos to get the interest group added to the membership form, including a \$10 interest group fee; 2) Elizabeth to add the interest group to the WLA website; and 3) I will send an email to notify WLA members after the board meeting. Amelia Gilbert is the Programming Interest Group lead.
13. Abbey Beaver submitted an Amended Annual Report for Profit and Nonprofit Corporations to the Secretary of State's Office for WLA to be in compliance for 2021.