

WLA L.E.A.D. Interest Group – Leadership, Excellence, and Development.

Interest Group Report 2018-2019

This was a successful year for the L.E.A.D. Interest Group! We had online meetings to 1) consider current issues regarding librarianship in Wyoming, 2) future plans for L.E.A.D., and 3) to develop the programs we planned on doing at WLA this year to encourage and develop leadership skills in Wyoming Librarians.

Activities for 2018-2019

- **Meetings:** At our in-person meeting on August 3, 2018 at WLA, members discussed plans for the fiscal year, including budget, membership fees and partnerships (ex. programs with other organizations and Interest Groups, like WLLI etc.; using membership fees for more expensive leadership programming every-other-year). Members also discussed having online meetings quarterly, an in-person meeting at WLA 2019, and staying active on our ListServ. Programming plans and marketing strategies were also areas of focus.
- Members were active throughout the fiscal year in the Interest Group ListServ and with communication; L.E.A.D. Chair emailed progress reports to members quarterly; conference call meetings were scheduled as needed.
- **Marketing:** It was announced in September 2018 that WLLI Graduates could join L.E.A.D. with membership dues waived for the first year. This was marketed right after WLA 2018 and also made known at the 2019 WLLI Graduate Retreat.
- One marketing strategy we came up with this year and started practicing was signing off emails/discussions with **LEAD On!** This came from the concept that having a brand, something identifiable as a group, is important and creates connection. A L.E.A.D. Bookmark was created for WLA 2019 too!
- The WLA Website was changed in November 2018, and detailed information was requested from Interest Groups – updated membership list, relevant links, current info, Mission Statement, etc. This was provided to the webmaster with members of L.E.A.D reviewing it before it was submitted. In June/July 2019, membership was again updated (retirements, etc.) and a statement for “how to join” added to the L.E.A.D. section.
- **Membership:** As of June 2019, L.E.A.D. has 17 current members.
- **Programs:** In Jan. 2019, the group started planning for programs. Abby Beaver, president-elect for WLA shared with Anna Street, L.E.A.D. Chair, a possibility: the president-elect of WLA, Wanda Brown, was offering to come visit some local chapters in 2019. L.E.A.D. contacted her to see if she would be willing to visit WLA. Wanda responded she was interested.
- An Online Meeting via conference call was held between all available L.E.A.D. members on Feb. 4, 2019. At this meeting members expressed excitement about Wanda possibly coming, but also considered what areas of leadership development we might ask her to focus on. Last year L.E.A.D. hosted a wonderful Diversity Leadership Program and facilitated a Customer Service Program at WLA 2018, but at this meeting members wanted to focus on other key issues in leadership development for WY. We especially discussed the importance of organizational and

professional membership in WLA and ALA, and concern in Wyoming on marked decline in membership. This led to the idea of asking Wanda if she can explain why ALA and memberships in local chapters is important, expanding on the concept of why libraries are important, why they matter, why librarians matter. A workshop on this topic alone at WLA 2019 would no doubt pique the interest of many librarians.

- Everyone in attendance Feb. 4th also chatted about the idea of having a Mentorship Workshop at WLA 2019, modeled after speed-dating. Johanna Tuttle presented this idea. We would pair those who came to the program with possible mentors, have tables set up with signs stating areas of interest like “Technology” “Childrens” “Management” “Teens” “Customer Services” etc. Participants could network, share contact information and gain knowledge from eachother. To conclude the meeting, Anna Street and Chris Van Burgh shared they would speak to Wanda Brown (Feb- March) in detail about her speaking at conference.
- Anna and Chris spoke via conference call with Wanda Brown March 3, 2018. While Wanda realized it might be difficult for her to come (some restrictions with ALA guidelines for conferences), it was a good discussion. We found out that ALA is **also** launching a national discussion on declining membership in profession librarian organizations. Chris, Brian Green and Anna Street developed a program with panel members who held leadership positions in ALA, WLA, etc., for WLA Conference 2019. Panel members will discuss leadership opportunities, the importance of memberships and what it has meant for them as librarians.
- L.E.A.D Members discussed all of these things and developed the programs fully via the ListServ, and regular communication.
- WLLI members approached L.E.A.D. about doing a program together before the March submission deadline. The program facilitator for the Unconference workshop model combined with L.E.A.D.’s Mentorship model to create one program. This resulted in two collaborative partnership opportunities for L.E.A.D!
- At WLA 2019, there are three programs officially presented/sponsored by L.E.A.D. :
 - 1) A Win-Win: The Role, Value, and Leadership Opportunities of Library Associations (L.E.A.D.)
 - 2) Everyone Brings Something to the Table (Unconference & L.E.A.D.)
 - 3) Find your Tribe: Leaders in Wyoming Libraries – (WLLI & L.E.A.D.)

Upcoming Activities for 2019-2020

For the upcoming year, L.E.A.D. will have Online Meetings and an in-person meeting at WLA 2019 on Friday, Aug. 9 at 8:00am. We will maintain and stay active on our ListServ. We will discuss the 2019 programs, things we learned, positive partnerships, and start developing leadership program ideas for 2019-2020.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anna Street,

L.E.A.D. Interest Group Leader