

Bridges Library System Staff Reports

May 2023

Karol Kennedy – Library System Director

Adjacent County Funding: I verified many adjacent county library funding requests over the last month. This is done for both Waukesha and Jefferson Counties as a part of the annual budget process. The deadline for requests is July 1 each year. If a library hasn't yet made their requests, this is a reminder that the deadline is approaching. Having the requests filed early does help everyone as budgets are being developed now.

Public Communications Coordinator: I am excited to announce Bridges' new Public Communications Coordinator, Emily Heller, will join our team Monday, May 15. Emily has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Marketing & Graphic Design from St. Norbert's College. She has worked in the marketing, design, and communications industry for more than 18 years. For the past five years, she has been the Public Communications Coordinator for Waukesha County Department of Parks and Land Use. Emily comes to us with a wide range of skills and experience, a love of libraries, and a commitment to teamwork and promoting great community services.

Waukesha County Minimum-to-Exempt Standards: I completed the annual library minimum-to-exempt standards calculations and details were sent to Waukesha County libraries. Using information from each library's 2022 annual report, an overview is provided to each library board related to their specific minimum to exempt requirements. Each library board must certify they will meet their requirements in 2023 as a part of the Waukesha County library tax exemption process. The certification is due back to the library system by August 31. These minimum-to-exempt standards are an additional requirement in Waukesha County. They are part of the Waukesha County Library Service Plan.

Library Passport Challenge: Mellanie Mercier and the Passport Program Committee have been working hard to plan and prepare for this project running June 1 – August 31. Community members are encouraged to visit as many Bridges libraries as possible and get their library passport stamped to earn entries into a drawing for prize baskets. The program aims to raise awareness of our libraries as destinations, along with highlighting all the activities and services public libraries offer.

Read with B93.3: Radio DJs from B93.3 read stories to families at New Berlin Public Library in April. Menomonee Falls Public Library is up next on their tour on Wednesday, May 17 from 11:30 AM-12:00 PM. Every time library visitors check out at one of our 2023 Read with B93.3 libraries (New Berlin, Menomonee Falls, Delafield, and Waukesha) through June 21, they can enter to win a great prize basket (including Summerfest tickets!) thanks to our B93.3 partners! You can also hear Bridges Library System promotional spots throughout the day on B93.3. It's been fun to hear them talking up libraries on the radio!

Continuing Education: I attended the Wisconsin Association of Public Libraries (WAPL) Conference held in Oshkosh. The WPLC Membership and Board Meetings and the System and Resource Library Administrators Association of Wisconsin (SRLAAW) quarterly meeting were held in conjunction with the

Conference. I also attended sessions on building a strategic plan, connecting school and public libraries, and legal foundations of patron involvement in collection building and maintenance.

Laurie Freund – Coordinator of Library Development

United for Libraries Learning Statewide Access: Wisconsin DPI Library Services Team has now rolled out the learning suite that includes live webinars, Short Takes for Trustees videos, Trustee Academy, On-Demand webinars, tip sheets and toolkits, digital publications, practical guides and more. Library Friends and Foundation members are also welcome to this suite. Public library trustee presidents and library directors receive emails announcing upcoming live webinars and other news. Live webinars are also posted on the [Wisconsin Libraries Professional Learning calendar](#) (also found by clicking on the “Calendar” tab in the [SEWI Libraries](#) website).

Sunsetting SEWI Adult Public Programming Facebook Group: This closed group in Facebook was created in 2016 to allow library staff members across the SEWI region to chat and share programming ideas and activities using social media to make it easy to interact. Activity in this group has greatly dwindled over the years, so after several discussions at SEWI Adult Public Programming meetings, our SEWI Library System Partners meeting, and with an opportunity to voice any thoughts on this topic in the Facebook group, it was determined that the usefulness has past and that it is no longer needed. The closed Facebook group was deleted on May 1, 2023.

SEWI Library Directors Retreat (August 25): No worries about snowstorms this year! This annual professional development and networking opportunity has been moved from December to August. The date is set for Friday, August 25 at New Berlin Public Library. Details and registration information will be coming soon.

Upcoming Meetings for Adult Services: Here are some upcoming meetings that will be of interest to adult services and public programming library staff members. Details and registrations will be sent to adult services library staff as we get closer to each of these dates:

- **9am, July 19:** Bridges Adult Services Meeting at Pewaukee Public Library. In-person meeting.
- **1pm, September 21:** Bridges Adult & Inclusive Services (Hybrid) Meeting. Physical location: Delafield Public Library. Online option will be available.
- **1pm, October 9:** SEWI Adult Public Programming (Hybrid) Meeting. Physical location: Matheson Memorial Library in Elkhorn. Online option will be available.
- **1pm, Dec 13:** Bridges Adult Services (Hybrid) Meeting. Physical location: Oconomowoc Public Library. Online option will be available.

Bridges Trustee Appreciation 2023: Mark your calendar for Thursday, September 28th from 6:00 – 8:00 pm at Watertown Public Library. This event is where we thank our library board members and provide an opportunity to show them what our member libraries have done to service their communities. The focus this year will be on art and libraries. More information will be coming.

My CE Activities: I have attended the following so far this year:

- Wild WI Winter Web sessions (Jan 25-26): The Future is Unwritten, 10 Rules to Successfully Manage Change, Reference Repertoire, A Sustainable Approach, Climate Justice, and Master of None.
- Pro-active Planning for Library Staff Transitions webinar (Apr 19)

Angela Meyers – Coordinator of Youth and Inclusive Services.

Inclusive Services

Library Memory Project

The Library Memory Project is featured in the [Social Engagement Innovations and Best Practices](#) publication (see page 3). This publication spotlights a variety of programs featured on the [engAGED Innovations Hub](#) that employ a variety of social engagement innovations.



Youth Services



Kids' Choice Selection Meeting

The Kids' Choice Selection Committee gathered at the Waukesha Public Library on May 1 to narrow down list of titles nominated by the kids in 4th-6th grade during this year's [Kids' Choice Awards](#). There were 14 people in attendance, including five school library media specialists and seven member libraries represented. We had over 1,900 nominated titles and whittled it down to 18. The final 15 titles will be selected by May 15 to be used in the 2023-2024 Kids' Choice Awards. **Fieldtrip to the Collaborative Children's Book Center**

I organized a fieldtrip to the [Collaborative Children's Book Center](#) (CCBC) in Madison. The CCBC is a non-circulating library of current, retrospective, and historical books published for children and young adults. We had 10 libraries represented and 14 library staff gather at the CCBC. We chartered a shuttle bus to pick up at Goerke's Corners in Brookfield and then at the Johnson Creek Park and Ride. The CCBC staff presented the best books of 2022 with a special emphasis on diverse titles. We also learned more about CCBC's web site search features and their Intellectual Freedom Information Service. We had time to browse the library and hand-examine books.

Summer Library Program

I've been working on securing incentives for the Summer Library Program for the member libraries. This year, we will have 27 incentives. We have two new incentives this year: Whitewater Aquatic and Fitness Center and Lou Malnati's Pizzeria in Brookfield and Waukesha. Rachel McCracken from the Bridges office has jumped right in to help with getting the coupons printed, counted, and out to the libraries.

Continuing Education: Checking In With the Disability Community, Autism is Welcome Here, and an AI & ChatGPT guided discussion.

Beth Bechtel – Database Management Librarian

Catalogers' Meeting: Eleven libraries were represented at the April online catalogers' meetup. Discussion topics included making manga easier to find in the catalog, creating on-the-fly bib records, and how library staff can request the book repair machine via the new Bridges website.

Catalog Clean-up: The Wisconsin Public Library Consortium deselected outdated travel guides from the OverDrive state collection this month. I systematically removed the 505 travel titles and their items from the CAFÉ catalog.

Other catalog clean-up projects this month included investigating serial and magazine bibliographic records and working with catalogers at libraries when editing of serial information was needed. I also reviewed titles that start with the initial articles *a, an, the, el, la, los, and las* and made coding changes to ensure those titles show properly in catalog search results.

Continuing Education: I attended a few interesting webinars offered last month. Most useful was OCLC's "Create and replace WorldCat bibliographic records" webinar. Instruction was provided for using WorldShare Record Manager to create, update, and replace WorldCat bibliographic records. I currently use the OCLC Connexion Browser for original cataloging, but that product will be discontinued in 2024.

Rachel McCracken - Departmental Executive Assistant

Cooperative Purchase Zoom Enterprise: Bridges Library System provides a Zoom Meetings & Webinar License at a discount to participating libraries and systems in Wisconsin. This process was rolled out in late March and will be final on June 1, 2023 when the new licenses take effect. We have 43 participating and the billing was completed in early May.

Outreach Materials: Bridges provides many items such as backdrops, photobooth frames, outreach bin materials, plinko boards, chairs, tables, and much more to the libraries for their outreach events. Spring and summer is the busiest time of the year and for the month of April, May, June and July we have 27 requests with 79 items sent to the libraries. Requests for outreach materials come in daily so this number will rise as the summer progresses.

Summer Library Program: I continue to assist Angela Meyers with printing the Summer Library Program coupons and preparing them for delivery. The second large batch of SLP coupons went out the week of May 8th.