



## BOARD MEETING AGENDA

August 02, 2023 • 10:00 am - 12:00 pm • WLA online meeting room

**Read in Advance of Meeting:** May 2023 Board Meeting Minutes, Finance Committee Policy Proposal

**Facilitator:** Sarah Logan & Brianna Hoffman

**Notetaker:** Rhea Allen

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| TOPIC                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | LEAD               | TIME    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|---------|
| Call to order <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Call for Additions/Changes to Agenda</li><li>• Online meeting reminders</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Sarah Logan        | 10:00am |
| Approve minutes from February 2023 meeting (vote)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Sarah              | 10:05am |
| Executive Director Report<br>10:10am                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Brianna Hoffman    |         |
| ALA Report                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Steven Bailey      | 10:20am |
| Legislative Update                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Carolyn Logue      | 10:35am |
| Treasurer's Report                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Muriel Wheatley    | 10:45am |
| Upcoming Events <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2023 ALD/ACRL-WA Fall Event</li><li>• 2023 Neurodivergence in Libraries Summit</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Brianna<br>Brianna | 10:55am |
| Share-Outs(?) (Community Building?) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What did you/your committee/division/section accomplish(?) this quarter that you are particularly proud of?</li><li>• What do you/your committee/division/section hope to accomplish(?) in the next quarter?</li><li>• How can WLA Leadership (Board, Divisions, Sections, fellow committees) support you in accomplishing your goals?</li></ul> | Johanna            | 11:15am |
| New Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Finance Committee Speaker Stipend Proposal for 2024 Budget</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                    | 11:45am |
| Closing questions or comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                    | 11:55am |
| Meeting adjourns                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                    | 12:00pm |



**2023 WLA Board, voting members:**

Johanna Jacobsen Kiciman, President 2023

Sarah Logan, VP/President Elect 2023

Ahniwa Ferrari, Past President 2023

Elizabeth Brown, Director/ALD Rep 2023-2024

Barbara Walters, Director/PLD Rep 2022-2023

Karmonda Pearson, Director/ScLD 2023

Judy Pitchford, Director/SpLD Rep 2023-2024

Muriel Wheatley, Treasurer 2023-2024

Steven Bailey, ALA Councilor 2022-24

**2023 WLA Board, non-voting:**

Brianna Hoffman, WLA Executive Director

Tien Triggs, Student Rep 2023

**Advisory leaders:**

Ahniwa Ferrari, PNLA Rep 2023

Vacant, ELAC Representative 2021-2023

Vacant, CLAWS-LLC Representative 2023

Kate Laughlin, WLA Strategic Advisor

## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

May 17, 2023 • 3:00 pm-5:00 pm • WLA online meeting room

**Present Board:** Johanna Johansen Kiciman, Sarah Logan, Ahniwa Ferrari, Steven Bailey, Barbara Walters, Muriel Wheatley, Judy Pitchford, Tien Triggs, Elizabeth Brown, Karmonda Pearson

**Present Section, Division, and Committee Leadership:** Gavin Downing, Gretchen Nelson, Julie Thompson, Lydia Bello, Ryan Grant, Sara Jones,

**Present Staff:** Brianna Hoffman, Rhea Allen, Lesley Bourne

**Notetaker:** Rhea Allen

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### **Johanna called the meeting to order at 3:04 pm**

Brianna noted a typo in the Agenda stating Mary Rulewicz as CLAWS-LLC rep, which is incorrect. Mary Rulewicz will hopefully be appointed to ELAC rep. but has not accepted yet.

**Steven Bailey moves to approve the minutes from the February meeting, Gavin Downing seconded the motion**

**Yay's: Ahniwa Ferrari, Johanna Jacobsen-Kiciman, Muriel Wheatley, Elizabeth Brown, Steven Bailey, Sarah Logan, and Judy Pitchford**

### **Executive Director Report:**

- Conference Recap
- Conference Committee open for WLA2024 in Spokane
- Membership report
  - Joint student membership is down, but that is being reported as an association-wide issue. Bring forward any ideas for new student members/student member retention
- Card Catalog Auction opened
  - Online auction is being tested for possibility of expanding for more fundraising opportunities
- Keep in mind possible nominees for elections
- Updated bylaws will be out for remote electronic vote soon

### **ALA Report:**

- ALA restructuring updates: Bylaws suspended at LibLearnX, went to membership for a vote along with ALA president and councilors at large ballot, 93.8% voted in favor to adopt the ALA bylaws revision. Will have 2nd vote by the council at ALA annual. Reduced numbers of councilors at large and rearranged the executive board.
- Elections just closed - Cindy Hohl is the Vice President/President-Elect
- ALA Executive Director Tracie Hall is on Times100

## **Legislative Report:**

- WLA's School library bill died in house appropriations: concerns about "erosion of local control" and concerns about threats to paraprofessional positions
- The more robust House capital budget passed over the leaner Senate budget, with no vetoes
- Legislature has adjourned
- Special one-day session was held post-session to pass a bill amending the "Blake" decision, making drug possession a gross misdemeanor and can include sentencing up to 6 months for the first two offenses. This also comes with more treatment options and resources. This could have relevance to public libraries that are having issues with public drug use.

## **Treasurer's Report**

- 2023 conference final bill is still being settled, but it seems we will make a \$20k or greater profit
- At the end of 2022, WLA was prepared to need to move some money out of investments to get through the year, but currently that may no longer be necessary
- Finance Committee is moving to quarterly meetings
- Finance Committee will be working to add some extra funding to the budget for speaker honorarium's so that WLA can provide greater compensation for the labor
- Finance Policies and Procedures are under review and that will be brought for Board approval when complete

## **Upcoming Events**

- Lydia Bello shared an update about the upcoming ALD/ACRL WA & ACRL-OR conference
  - This will be the first in-person conference for this event since 2019
  - RFP will close Monday, May 22
- Johanna shared an update about the Neurodivergence in Libraries Summit on Sept 9
  - Any recommendations for authors that focus on neurodivergence, Johanna is open to suggestions as the first choice hasn't responded
  - Currently the lineup of programs include an overview of neurodiversity and related definitions, two librarians who run autism libraries, a librarian currently doing research in this area, UW's Husky's for Neurodivergence is doing a walkthrough of the experience of a library from neurodivergent perspectives, and hopefully more!

## Share-Outs & Shout-Outs

- Sara Jones, State Librarian and WFFLTA Chair - WSL will launch Third Thursday's tomorrow, and these are short training webinars for volunteers, friends, and advocates. They will be available as recordings afterward.
- Gavin Downing, IFS Vice-Chair - An anti-doxxing bill was passed in conjunction with the Anti-Defamation League, and Gavin supported these efforts. Gavin is running for school board in Federal Way where he lives, running specifically on the campaign to reinstate librarians in that district, where they have been removed largely. Gavin will share updates about how we can support that campaign. There was a concerned parent earlier this year who made us aware that a Steven's County Middle School made all of the Sasquatch nominees available with the exception of one, Ana on the Edge, which features a Non-Binary character. The parent went through a process to challenge them withholding it from the collection, and they have reinstated it.
- Sarah Logan shared a shout-out to Eryn Duffee, Advocacy Committee Co-Chair, on being named one of Library Journal's Movers & Shakers
- Johanna shout-out's Advocacy Committee work to create and advocacy center and advocacy request form to standardize communication regarding advocacy efforts
- Johanna shared an update regarding Section leadership and how we may deactivate some sections eventually
- Julie Thompson, SpLD chair, shared that they are also facing difficulties in filling missing SpLD positions and asked for any support in garnering interest in those positions
  - Lizzie Brown shared that even within the Academic world with paid PD hours and requirements to maintain those extracurriculars, it's still difficult. Possibly scaling back on duties could make positions more appealing
  - Sarah Logan noted that "we also had a 'what can ScLD do for you' zoom a year or so ago and it was a good way to connect with our division members."
  - Judy noted that this has always been an issue, that SpLD membership is so slim and many special librarians choose to be a member of SLA rather than WLA. Maybe PD or more "Special Library Crawls" to drive engagement
  - Brianna wonders if there are ways to turn the competition (between Special Libraries Association and WLA) into collaboration

## New Business

- Sara Jones, Madden's Melange Proposal

- Conference update - Madden's Melange raised \$1300



- Sara Jone's proposes taking the Madden's Melange booth to Nevada Library Association conference in November (if they agree to provide a free booth) in exchange for splitting the fundraiser profits 50/50
  - Johanna asked about the sustainability of going year after year, and Sara notes that she isn't sure, it will be dependent on proximity, volunteer, etc.
- Brianna is all for supporting cultivating relationships with other chapters

**Johanna called for the meeting to adjourn at 4:27 pm**

## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Aug 2, 2023 • 10:00 am-12:00 pm • WLA online meeting room

**Present Board:** Sarah Logan, Steven Bailey, Muriel Wheatley, Tien Triggs, Lizzie Brown

**Present Section, Division, and Committee Leadership:** Gavin Downing, Brandi Gates, Julie Thompson, Greg Bem, Jannah Minnix

**Present Staff:** Brianna Hoffman, Rhea Allen

**Notetaker:** Rhea Allen

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**Sarah called the meeting to order at 10:08 am**

### Executive Director Report

Membership:

- Membership is down slightly, but this is a trend across professional associations as a whole
- Organizational membership is the most significant chunk of that
  - We will reach out to the larger organizational members that have allowed their memberships to lapse
  - Member services is working on ways to communicate member benefits; they will also reconsider the Org. Member benefits to see if there are any improvements that can be made to encourage
- Hopefully the fall semester will encourage an uptick in ALA joint and WLA individual student memberships

### ALA Chapter Councilor Report

- Meeting of chapter leadership this afternoon called by ALA ED to discuss the current backlash from state libraries, calling for withdrawal from ALA
- Emily Drabinski is the current Pres. term starting at June at the conference
  - Tweeted upon election that she's "surprised and delighted that the ALA has "elected a marxist lesbian from Brooklyn as president"
- Montana voted to leave ALA, Idaho said they were following (but it turns out they had already withdrawn from ALA years ago);
  - <https://www.nbcnews.com/nbc-out/out-news/montana-state-library-withdraws-national-library-group-presidents-marx-rcna94130>
  - News from last night: ND senator Kramer has written to IMLS demanding an investigation into ALA because we are discriminating against "Brave Books"
    - <https://www.cramer.senate.gov/news/press-releases/sen-cramer-colleagues-demand-investigation-into-alas-religious-discrimination-against-brave-books>
- Dan Kleiman is starting the "World Library Association" as an "alternative" to ALA and is encouraging state associations to leave ALA from them
- At ALA Annual:

- Updated standards of library services for the incarcerated
  - WSL was cited as an example of services for the incarcerated
- Refreshed freedom to read statement
- Resolution condemning discrimination against library workers and protecting the LGBTQ+ community
- 2024 IFLA meeting in Dubai, but backlash was received due to the social climate in Dubai regarding homosexuality
- Investigation of future ala conference dates to make sure they don't land on Pride weekend
  - For a recap of these items, see article in newest edition of *Alki*:  
<https://alki.pubpub.org/pub/1njz6jf2/release/1>

## Legislative Update

- Prep work for the legislative session
  - School Library Work
    - Targeting OSPI to try and clear up the issues they had with last year's school library bill
  - In the works:
    - Discussion about a possible book ban bill and what this will look like
      - There are issues with the IL. and PA. bills that have already come out regarding issues with these bills being tied to funding, but without state funding in WA. this isn't the same issue for us
      - Carolyn needs us to work on an outline of what we would want this bill to include
        - Discussion about implementing something to protect librarians from liability
    - John Chraska of EveryLibrary is interested in collaborating with

## Treasurer's Report

- \$15,000 needed to be transferred from savings to checking to finalise the Wenatchee bill and cover some recurring costs
- Oregon and WA. have agreed to buy statewide access
- Conference netted about \$28K profit

## ACRL-WA/OR Fall Academic Conference

- Registration opens in a month
- October 27 in Longview, WA and online
- Oregon is handling the marketing to their members



## Neurodivergence Summit

- Schedule is almost finalized
- We will begin personalized state outreach to advertise the summit access

## ScLD Town Hall

- Free online event for school librarians to meet and organize advocacy efforts

## Share-Outs and Shout-Outs

**Gavin, IFS:** John Chrashka of EveryLibrary was able to speak at a recent IFS meeting about book bans - meeting is recorded for anyone interested

**Sarah Logan:** School librarian happy hour to meet up in Vancouver, had about 8 people turn out, was nice to create connections when school librarians are usually quite isolated from one another

**Brandi, CAYAS:** CAYAS had two online events ahead of summer reading, a Teen Services share and a Storytime Share

**Brianna:** Secretary Hobbs awarded Ava Kirtley and Arin Iverson, Walla Walla high students who founded the banned books club, along with their media specialist. Kimberly Casetto let Brianna know that WLA has done more to support her in efforts against banned books than ALA has

## Financial Proposal

- To better adhere to our EDI statements and “put our money where our mouth is” we are hoping to begin offering some form of financial reimbursement for the speakers who are contributing their work and time to present at conference
  - Question that came up: some individuals are not allowed to receive honorariums or stipends for this work, an alternative could be to provide registration discounts for speakers
- Funding will be allocated from the Board Retreat budget line: In the past, we held in-person board retreats, the last one being in 2019. For access reasons, we do not see ourselves going back to fully in-person board retreats, so we will likely continue with virtual meetings, maybe the occasional in-person aspect
- How did we land at \$150/speaker?
  - Compared to other organizations (like webjunction) and is simply a good place to start that we can afford
- We are hoping to include a speaker rate for conference registration starting in 2024

## **Closing Comments/Notes**

- WLA elections coming up soon, will schedule open house drop-ins with current leaders so Brianna will be reaching out to recruit for those meetings
- We did not have a full quorum in today's meeting, so we will either vote to approve two sets of meeting minutes in the next board meeting, or we will share as a digital vote
- Johanna formed a task force to look at the book award committees
- Revisiting Sections due to inactivity
  - Sections are meant to shift form based on what the needs of our organization are, so the inactivity and stagnancy represent a lack of need or interest in those sections
- Refreshing the committee descriptions because they're outdated

Sarah called to adjourn the meeting at 11:08 am



# Dashboard Report



| Membership Changes                | Jul-22     | Jul-23     | Change         |
|-----------------------------------|------------|------------|----------------|
| <b>Individual</b>                 |            |            |                |
| Individual Employees              | 639        | 617        | -3.44%         |
| Students                          | 163        | 144        | -11.66%        |
| Non-Profits/Foundations/Friends   | 12         | 31         | 158.33%        |
| Business                          | 6          | 9          | 50.00%         |
| Retired/Unemployed                | 54         | 56         | 3.70%          |
| Emeritus                          | 80         | 81         | 1.25%          |
| <b>Sub Total</b>                  | <b>954</b> | <b>938</b> | <b>-1.68%</b>  |
| <b>Organizations</b>              |            |            |                |
| Libraries                         | 43         | 36         | -16.28%        |
| Library Affiliates                | 227        | 198        | -12.78%        |
| Business                          | 11         | 8          | -27.27%        |
| Business Affiliates               | 11         | 8          | -27.27%        |
| Non-Profits/Foundations           | 1          | 6          | 500.00%        |
| Nonprofit & Foundation Affiliates | 1          | 7          | 600.00%        |
| <b>Sub Total</b>                  | <b>294</b> | <b>263</b> | <b>-10.54%</b> |



## Aug. 2023 WLA Leadership Reports

### BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

#### Muriel Wheatley

WLA Board Director -- Treasurer

**One activity/goal in the last quarter in your area to share:**

Johanna brought an excellent proposal to the Finance Committee for allocating more money for speaker stipends in the WLA Annual budget. The Finance Committee is currently finalizing edits and will be bringing this proposal to the August board meeting.

**Work/activities/goals coming up in your area in the next quarter that you are excited about / What you hope to accomplish by next board meeting:**

I'm looking forward to starting work on the WLA 2024 budget! I learned a lot about the process last year and am looking forward to working with the Brianna and the Finance Committee on having a draft in time for our November board meeting.

**In your position/area, highlight steps you have taken or will take that contribute to EDI or accessibility:** The Finance Committee's proposal to increase speaker stipends supports WLA's EDI goals by reducing the financial barriers to participating in our conferences.

#### Elizabeth Brown

WLA Board Director – Academic Library Division Rep

**One activity/goal in the last quarter in your area to share:**

Since our last board meeting in May, the ALD/ACRL Steering Committee met and discussed challenges of recruiting members for leadership positions within WLA; academic libraries have seen a lot of hiring freezes in the past two years and when people are not replaced, those left in the library have less time available for additional service roles.

**Work/activities/goals coming up in your area in the next quarter that you are excited about / What you hope to accomplish by next board meeting:**

The ALD/ACRL Conference planning committee is hard at work putting together the conference for this fall in Vancouver WA. I hope to attend the conference in the fall and continue input on the WLA Scholarships committee.

**In your position/area, highlight steps you have taken or will take that contribute to EDI or accessibility:** Serving on the scholarships committee, a group that helps equalize access to professional development through funding.



**Steven Bailey**  
ALA Councilor

**One activity/goal in the last quarter in your area to share:**

Attended ALA Annual Conference in Chicago. Completed article for Alki. Will attend an "urgent" meeting with ALA and Chapter leadership to discuss a movement advocating for organizations to leave ALA, some in favor of the so-called "World Library Association".

**Work/activities/goals coming up in your area in the next quarter that you are excited about / What you hope to accomplish by next board meeting:**

Continuing to align WLA and ALA against book-banning and censorship efforts through advocacy, legislation, and coalition-building.

Multiple ALA Council Sessions during the Library Learning Experience (LLX), January 27-30, 2023 New Orleans, LA

**In your position/area, highlight steps you have taken or will take that contribute to EDI or accessibility:**

ALA's discussion of a structural reorganization is grounded in discussions of increased equity, access, inclusion, and representation for all ALA members. Engaging in this work means prioritizing equity issues throughout the profession.

**Tien Triggs**  
Student Representative

**One activity/goal in the last quarter in your area to share:** I have created a framework of ideas for reviving LISS and encouraging more activity. My hope is that reaching out to WLA LISS members would encourage them to take a more active part in building a community for LIS students. My goal is to get enough participation now to encourage students to run for WLA positions and to lay a foundation that the community can continue to build on. WLA can and should be a valuable resource for LIS students!

**Work/activities/goals coming up in your area in the next quarter that you are excited about / What you hope to accomplish by next board meeting:** I will be starting my last semester of school, so I am hoping that my work on reaching out to fellow students will be bearing fruit soon (for LISS and for community building). The goal is to get enough students excited about being in the LIS field that they will be looking for opportunities to contribute to WLA work. I am aiming to have one meeting with students to talk about WLA before the next meeting and get some survey results for what they hope to gain from their membership (and maybe get some of them to run for a WLA position!).

**In your position/area, highlight steps you have taken or will take that contribute to EDI or accessibility:** I took an Archives class earlier this summer and learned about reparative description, which is how catalogers and archivists can add context to address harmful language and content in library and archives records while preserving the historicity of the materials. For my final project, I analyzed content and language for two very different collections--one on immigrants and one on a "colony of epileptics"--and updated the finding aids to include content warnings and context. This project helped me to understand that we are all able to take active roles in EDI with our collections (if we work in libraries or archives), both in description and curation. As part of applying these concepts, my colleague Julie Thompson (Special Libraries Chair) and I have discussed better representation of diverse and absent voices in our library displays, and we hope to create a guiding document for displays that will reflect EDI principles. (She's great--I love collaborating with her!)

**How does the Division/Section/Committee recruit new members and engage non-active members?**

**(Officers may skip this question.):** I would love to be part of an informal multi-Divisional/Sectional group to brainstorm and implement some ideas that have been bouncing around in my brain for recruiting new members and engaging non-active members. If anyone would be interested, and if I have permission, I'd love to get a group of 5 or 6 people (or more) together to get some of these ideas going.

**Anything else you would like to share?** I have really enjoyed being a Student Representative and have learned so much! I appreciate all who have encouraged me and advised me, and I'll try to make the last quarter of my term



a really good one. I won't be a student (I hope!) after December, so I'll be looking for other ways to contribute to WLA even if it's just as a member stumping for others to do more or join. :)

## DIVISION REPORTS

**Georgia Reitmire**  
Public Library Division Chair

**One activity/goal in the last quarter in your area to share:** We had one meet-up on May 23rd to discuss Summer Reading ideas.

**Work/activities/goals coming up in your area in the next quarter that you are excited about / What you hope to accomplish by next board meeting:** We are planning a meet-up August 11th at 7:00 PM to promote WLA membership.

**How does the Division/Section/Committee recruit new members and engage non-active members? (Officers may skip this question.):** The meeting on August 11th will hopefully bring in some new members.

**Sam Harris**  
School Library Division Vice-Chair / Chair Elect

**One activity/goal in the last quarter in your area to share:**

The ScLD division reflected on the 2023 legislative season and significant efforts to get SB5102 passed. There were successes and lessons learned. Going forward we are working on next steps to adopt an eco-system mode of advocacy working first with Teacher Librarians to build advocacy capacity locally and regionally. The leadership team is planning a virtual Advocacy Town Hall on August 16th to share updates, build interest in future state-wide advocacy efforts, and provide strategies for local advocacy and partnership building.

**Work/activities/goals coming up in your area in the next quarter that you are excited about / What you hope to accomplish by next board meeting:** Division leaders hope to present workshops at upcoming conferences (WASDA), make connections and increase partnerships (PTSAs, OSPI), and create opportunities for Teacher Librarians to connect and partner with each other regionally (Virtual Town Hall, Advocacy Workshops, informal regional gatherings hosted by ScLD members).

**In your position or area, please highlight any steps you have taken or are planning to take that contribute to WLA's prioritization of equity, diversity, and/or inclusion, or accessibility:** The advocacy efforts locally and regionally as well as the goal to pass legislation are rooted in the need for more equitable access for all Washington students to strong school library programs staffed by certificates Teacher Librarians.

**How does the Division/Section/Committee recruit new members and engage non-active members? (Officers may skip this question.):** Social media, local and regional outreach, and we are working on a plan for more structured and consistent welcomes and invitations to new members.

**Additional Information:** It's been an interesting year as chair of the School Library Division; I appreciate the support of the rest of the leadership team, and I very much look forward to helping Elizabeth Roberts succeed next year!



**Julie Thompson**  
Special Library Division Chair

**One activity/goal in the last quarter in your area to share:**

Our division held a meeting and generated a couple ideas for future programs. I connected with the WLA weekly newsletter team about sharing leadership vacancies in our division. One of our members encouraged folks to write from a special library perspective about upcoming Alki topics as a way to increase visibility of our division and what folks do.

**Work/activities/goals coming up in your area in the next quarter that you are excited about / What you hope to accomplish by next board meeting:**

I would like to lock in at least one program for our division members and send out another newsletter.

**In your position/area, highlight steps you have taken or will take that contribute to EDI or accessibility:**

Captions for our webinars and recordings.

**Lydia Bello**  
Academic Library Division Chair

**What is one activity / goal that has happened in the last quarter in your area that you would like to share?**

ALD/ACRL-WA continues to engage with members via non-conference channels including the drop in sessions and our bi-annual newsletter.

**What work / activities / goals are coming up in your area in the next quarter that you are excited about? What do you hope to accomplish by the next board meeting?**

The most significant activity in the near future is holding the ACRL-WA & OR Joint Conference on Friday, October 27, 2023. By the next board meeting we hope to have hosted a successful in person conference and online option.

**In your position or area, please highlight any steps you have taken or are planning to take that contribute to WLA's prioritization of equity, diversity, and/or inclusion, or accessibility:** We plan to ensure that our conference is welcoming and accessible as possible, and develop a variety of ways to engage with membership. We also plan to ensure that any land acknowledgement that happens at the conference has a financial component.

**How does the Division/Section/Committee recruit new members and engage non-active members? (Officers may skip this question.):** The ALD/ACRL-WA Conference Committee is planning a conference that has both in person and asynchronous online options, at different price points. The Division is also planning on hosting the annual membership meeting on zoom. The Division hosts semi-regular low-stakes opportunities for members to connect through the Drop-in Sessions. We also make sure that Division events are highlighted in WLA Wednesday.

**SECTION REPORTS**



## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Audrey Barbakoff**  
Advocacy Committee Chair

**One activity/goal in the last quarter in your area to share:** The Advocacy Committee launched a new Advocacy Support Request Form at <https://www.wla.org/wla-advocacy-center>. Members can fill out this form to request a letter of support from WLA on topics such as Access to Information, Intellectual Freedom, Economic Development, or Education. Requests will be reviewed by the Advocacy Committee and then passed to the WLA Board for a final decision.

**Work/activities/goals coming up in your area in the next quarter that you are excited about / What you hope to accomplish by next board meeting:** This year, we are focused on communications - making it easier for members to learn about and access advocacy resources. We are continuing to develop the WLA Advocacy Center (<https://www.wla.org/wla-advocacy-center>) to be a centralized home for this information.

**In your position/area, highlight steps you have taken or will take that contribute to EDI or accessibility:** Many of the topics Advocacy is addressing currently relate to censorship attempts and school library staffing. Book and program ban attempts often attempt to silence already marginalized voices, disproportionately impacting BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ works, authors, and readers. Lack of school library staffing is most likely to disadvantage lower-income, BIPOC, and rural districts.

**How does the Division/Section/Committee recruit new members and engage non-active members? (Officers may skip this question.):** We are currently considering several possible events to help engage existing and potential members.

**Paula Wittmann**  
Awards Committee Chairs

**One activity/goal in the last quarter in your area to share:** Paula - We celebrated our winning book, Fluffy McWhiskers Cuteness Explosion in June. We have almost all the support materials posted on the website for next years award.

**Work/activities/goals coming up in your area in the next quarter that you are excited about / What you hope to accomplish by next board meeting:** Members are looking and nominating possible books for next years list.

**In your position/area, highlight steps you have taken or will take that contribute to EDI or accessibility:** Paula - Looking for and promoting books that support the goals and making sure quality teaching materials are free and available for every librarian and/or teacher that wants to access and utilize them.





**Gretchen Nelson**  
Awards Committee Chair

**Work/activities/goals coming up in your area in the next quarter that you are excited about / What you hope to accomplish by next board meeting:** As summer winds down our work reading potential books for next year's Sasquatch Award will ramp up.

**In your position/area, highlight steps you have taken or will take that contribute to EDI or accessibility:** We are continually working to ensure that our list of potential nominees is well rounded and inclusive of all people.

**How does the Division/Section/Committee recruit new members and engage non-active members? (Officers may skip this question.):** We mainly recruit through the WLA weekly newsletter and word of mouth. Our committee has found that a discord channel helps us all stay engaged a bit more effectively than sticking to email alone, though we still do use email for some communication.

**Ryan Grant**  
Legislative Committee Chair

**One activity/goal in the last quarter in your area to share:**  
We picked ourselves up, dusted ourselves off, and are planning what we're going to do in the next legislative session.

**Work/activities/goals coming up in your area in the next quarter that you are excited about / What you hope to accomplish by next board meeting:**  
Our lobbyist, Carolyn Logue, has been doing some research on the "Ban Book Bans" bills that have been coming up around the country, and it sounds like we have some folks in the legislature who'd be willing to sponsor.

**In your position/area, highlight steps you have taken or will take that contribute to EDI or accessibility:** Anything that we can do to further our legislative goals around expanding school librarian positions and pushing back against book bans helps all of our DEI goals.

**Anne Shantz**  
Member Services Committee Chair

**What is one activity / goal that has happened in the last quarter in your area that you would like to share?** We looked over the Conference survey results and made recommendations to send to the newly formed Conference Committee. We reviewed membership categories and dues and have suggested small changes to the website for clarity.

**What work / activities / goals are coming up in your area in the next quarter that you are excited about? What do you hope to accomplish by the next board meeting?** We are looking at what would be involved in creating peer-to-peer support groups for staff experiencing distress from Intellectual Freedom challenges.

**In your position or area, please highlight any steps you have taken or are planning to take that contribute to WLA's prioritization of equity, diversity, and/or inclusion, or accessibility:** In our recommendations to the conference committee, several were regarding accessibility concerns raised at the 2023 conference. We're hoping to create a safe space for library staff experiencing distress from Intellectual Freedom challenges to support each other. It's still in the early stages and needs more investigation.

**How does the Division/Section/Committee recruit new members and engage non-active members? (Officers may skip this question.):** We are hoping to create a support group which may bring new members to WLA.

