



Annual Report from the WLA President

"Look at where we are... Look at where we started..." I'm sorry, gang, I just can't resist a good *Hamilton* reference.

2016 is coming to a close and it certainly has been a year of change for the Washington Library Association. In the last six months, the WLA Board and Finance Committee have worked closely with Executive Director, Kate Laughlin, and the Primary Source team to audit the organization inside and out. This includes simplifying our financial processes, forging a new direction for committees and continuing education offerings, and integrating the new Division and Section structure that WLA members overwhelmingly approved early this year.

Congratulations to both the School Library Division (formerly WLMA) and the WALE Section on holding their last solo conferences in October before we unite for future all-inclusive WLA Conferences. Thank you to the conference committees for putting on successful events, one of them in the face of a major storm! Even though this may have been the "last hurrah," I want to assure members that continuing education programs and events for our School Libraries are not going away, and neither is the WALE Section. Part of our auditing process has been assessing our continuing education needs and coming up with a plan that will best meet our diverse membership while being fiscally responsible with dues. We look forward to having all of our Divisions and Sections play a part in WLA's conferences and in our future as one unified organization.

Here are a few other highlights of WLA's accomplishments since July and initiatives underway for 2017 and beyond:

- Updated the format and content of the WLA Weekly Wednesday email
- Implemented new ways to save WLA money through lower credit card rates, changing financial institutions, and reevaluating insurance policies
- Facilitated an external financial audit of the association to ensure systems and controls are in place to produce accurate financial statements and budgets, and to comply as a non-profit org
- Massive content updates and changes on website with many more to come
- Processed dozens of new memberships, including both individual and institutional members
- Hired a new graphic designer for *Alki*
- Providing training for interactive website tools for Division/Section chairs and other interested leaders
- Working with WLA Board on conference plan for 2018+

Mark your calendars! As 2017 approaches, we are very excited for these upcoming events:

[Washington Library Legislative Day – March 16, 2017, Olympia](#)

Librarians, trustees and library supporters will gather in Olympia to visit with legislators and share their stories about how libraries support the educational attainment levels of Washingtonians and contribute to the health of local economies. Every voice is important and we hope you will join us!

Learn Local! Regional Days of Learning – THREE dates and locations to serve you!

These one-day conferences will give WLA members more accessible, affordable options for professional development and networking with your regional colleagues. With multiple concurrent programs to choose from, you can attend one or all three events. Learn Local! will take place at:

- Seattle Public Library on Friday, April 7
- Yakima Valley College on Friday, April 28
- Spokane Public Library on Saturday, April 29

WLA Annual Conference – November 1-4, Tacoma

This conference promises to be large and in charge with educational offerings for library staff and advocates of all kinds! This event will be a great opportunity to gather, learn, network, and grow together.

The request for program proposals is open NOW for the Learn Local! Conferences AND the WLA Annual Conference. Please consider submitting a proposal to share your knowledge with colleagues, or reach out to engaging presenters and instructors in your network. We are all stronger together when we are learning together!

“Look at where we are, look at where we started, and look at where we are going!” We have experienced a great deal of change this year as we’ve taken positive and necessary steps to provide a more dynamic, inclusive, and stable organization for all of our members. I look forward to seeing you at our WLA events in 2017. Until then, I wish you all a happy new year!



Brianna Hoffman
WLA President, 2016-2017
