

Washington Library Association Board Meeting Agenda

Date: August 13, 2025

Time: 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Location: Zoom

Facilitator: Rickey Barnett

Minutes: Shamim Rupani

12:00 – 12:05 PM

- Call to Order & Roll Call – Rickey Barnett
 - Call for additional changes to the Agenda
 - Online meeting reminders
 - Approval of Minutes from May 2025 Board Meeting (Vote) – Rickey 12:05pm
-

12:05 – 12:15 PM

- Executive Director Report – Ainsley Nobara
-

12:15 – 12:30 PM

- Legislative Report – Carolyn Logue
-

12:30 – 12:45 PM

New Business:

- Executive Board Expansion (Vote) – Rickey Barnett & Eryn Duffee
 - Secretary Board Position
 - Membership Director (At Large)
 - Administrative Transition – Rickey
-

12:45 – 2:00 PM

- Treasure's Report – Rob Mead 12:45 – 1:00
- ALA Report – Gavin Downing 1:00 – 1:15
- Division & Committee Reports 1:15 – 1:35
- State Library Report – Sara Jones 1:35 – 1:55

2:00 PM

Meeting adjourns



WLA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, May 7, 2025 • 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm • WLA online meeting room

Read in Advance of Meeting: February 2025 Board Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Rob Mead, Elizabeth Roberts, Rickey Barnett, Eryn Duffee, Lesley Bourne, Hannah Streetman, Ainsley Nobara, Carol Ellison, Gavin Downing, Rhea Allen, Traci Timmons, Erin Atwater, Lydia Bello, Craig Seasholes, Jessica Widmer, Sarah Logan, Jolyn Danielson, Tien Triggs, Shawn Schollmeyer, Sara Jones, Carolyn Logue, Mahlon Landis

Facilitator: Rickey Barnett

Minutes: Shamim Rupani

Rickey Barnett calls the meeting to order at 3:02pm

- Call for Additions/Changes to Agenda
 - No changes needed
- Online meeting reminders
 - Raise your hand, keep muted please, use video if you can when you speak, be respectful and maintain decorum, listen actively, limit multi-tasking
- Approve minutes from February 2025 meeting (vote)
 - Eryn Duffee motions
 - Lydia Bello seconds
 - Aye's: Gavin, Carol, Lydia, Elizabeth, Rickey, Eryn, Rob

Executive Director Report- Ainsley Nobara

- Joined WLA just shy of 3 months ago
- Has had a chance to meet with the core committees, and has attended at least one meeting with the other committees
- Experienced the conference for the first time! Fruitful and feedback was great
- Held monthly check-ins with Sara Jones, allowing for more coordinated and strategic approaches for advocacy
- Dashboard report
 - Conference brought back a bump in overall memberships
 - Seeing a continuing upward trend since the pandemic
 - Will continue to monitor the individual membership numbers, as this has fallen
- Feb-April
 - Active in program development and advocacy
 - Submitted IMLS grant for the presidential summit in March
 - Actively support SB5551, One click politics, used ALA's campaigns
- March
 - Met with congress folks to talk about our priorities
- April
 - IMLS campaign
 - Dear Appropriator letters

- May
 - Issued a call to action to contact Gov. Ferguson to sign 2SHB 1207
 - Will attend the digital equity sessions
- Fundraising
 - Office recently launched the silent auction
 - WA Gives- GiveBIG campaign
 - Expanded WLA shop with new “protect WA libraries” messages
 - Drafting a one time bridge funding request for \$150,000
 - Started new conversations with potential partners, T-Mobile and WA State Dept. of Commerce
 - “Plus one” membership campaign
 - Tiered sponsorship program
- Challenges
 - Continue to help advocate for the WSL
 - IMLS funding
- Looking Ahead
 - Financing the Presidential summit
 - Continuing strong partnerships with the WSL
 - Can we send out divisional member numbers to divisional leaders?
 - How many library workers do we have in WA?

Treasurer's Report- Rob Mead

- 2025 Conference
 - Net loss: \$38,302
 - New profit in 2024: \$12,262
 - Gross profit was higher this year, but the space cost was much higher in Tacoma
- Highest cost outside of the conference
 - PS management fee: \$136,000
 - Lobbyist: \$36,000
- \$40,000 between 2024 and 2025 represents the deficit in income
- Bringing in less than what we are spending
- Presidential summit should hopefully help
- Spring of 2027- accounts will be depleted
- Questions?
 - Elizabeth- Individual employee numbers?
 - Due to the new fee structure or the number of people becoming members going down?
 - Sarah
 - Fundraising in the next 3-6 months will help answer this question
 - Where can we cut costs, where can we increase revenue?
 - Elizabeth- Is the loss from Tacoma more than the Bellevue conference?
 - We had more attendees in Tacoma, improving each year
 - 2017 Tacoma- 600 attendees
 - Fall conference
 - 2025 Tacoma- 460 attendees
 - We had a contract with them- why is the budget estimate not matching this amount on the contract?
 - Eryn- School librarians- spring break dates, didn't see value in coming
 - Carol- Would like to find out the costs of equipment, where did things go wrong?
 - Tacoma's A/V costs were really expensive
 - Shawn- accessibility costs?
 - \$3,000 for closed captioning
 - Rickey- Conference break down into granular costs?
 - Can the board see the invoices?
 - Carol- If we are going to ensure future conference profitability, I think it starts

with knowing the detailed/itemized charges if we can

Legislative Report- Carolyn Logue

- Adjourned April 27th; \$15 billion budget deficit
- Session was taken up by the tax packages and the budget
- School library front
 - Working on the OSPI position
 - All fell through when decisions were made
 - Increased MSOC and special ed, that was it
 - Can pull the MSOC reports when they come in to double check
 - Used to have library materials specifically lined out for school libraries
 - Now there has to be a report back, will get more ammo out of this
- State library
 - IMLS cuts, WA budget cuts
 - HB1207- still waiting to see if he will be signed
 - WLA did a big push to ask him to sign this
 - Budget narrowly drafted, if anything gets vetoed this will kick us back into special session
 - Very limited, budget only
- Did not do the property tax increase, but did give more levy authority to school districts
- Digital equity piece did not pass, digital licensing and books
- Going forward
 - Grassroots, meet with legislators, trying to make sure we have everyone working towards the same goal
 - More advocacy from school and public library folks
 - Let Carolyn know if a legislator is willing to champion libraries
- Sarah- TLs did a lot of work and spent a lot of time this session creating relationships
 - Were these relationships being leveraged?
 - More people need to bring legislators into their libraries
 - Face to face contact, relationships with legislators
 - Does WLA need to do something like the WEA and WSPTA to have a meeting to establish legislative priorities?
 - Get together before September- the earlier the better; Mid-to-late-summer
 - Make this a yearly thing
 - Arm people and then go off to own legislators/senators
 - Ainsley can send out the priorities to board; Use priorities so we know the issues we need to focus on and we all have the same messaging
 - We can improve with how we communicate with our membership about how to meet with legislators
- Core group is meeting with legislators, but it needs to be broader and more engagement
 - Elizabeth Roberts- I could see WLA or the advocacy committee helping create local meet ups with legislators.
- Traci- Alki article, how-to for the journal, what can you do, challenges ahead
 - Someone from the legislative committee can help put this together
 - Eryn- Can bring back the advocacy survey and look at these responses
- Rob- Is it worth spending time with public library directors to coordinate with them?

State Library Report- Sara Jones

- Good news!
 - Grants to state termination was rescinded
 - \$3.9 million given back
 - Congressional push was making a difference
- 24 Award

- Concerned that this will be pulled; looking at what this will look like
- Unfortunately, the state budget did not go in the WSL's direction
 - Was asking for \$6 million for stabilization but received nothing
- 2SHB 1207- needs to be signed, and it is a revenue source that needs to be collected and aggregated and put into a pot
- Layoffs will begin to happen at the state library
- There will be reduction in services- Archives, WTBBBL
- We'll just have to move forward, we need a really good campaign for libraries
- Preliminary injunction- Found in favor that IMLS should be put back together again
- Questions?
 - Ainsley- what can we do now?
 - Any novel approach would be great; library vanity plates? A Library version of the "Discover Pass?"
 - Warrants brainstorming on how we can help support the state library
 - Carolyn- Where is the news report on this budget cut? Maybe we need some op eds
 - SL will be getting to this right away; WLA has some written and can help with this
 - Craig- SoS Steve Hobbs and DnD at the conference- great example of bringing these folks into the fold

ALA Report- Gavin Downing

- IMLS news
 - ALA and state attorney generals filed suits
 - ALA temp. Restraining order
 - AG- positive outcome
 - IMLS director asking state libraries some pointed questions
- ALA election for new president-
- Launched a new advocacy campaign- show up for your libraries
 - Broken down into concrete steps on what you can do
- Law for librarians program- about a year old now
 - Hoping to get some free trainings together on library law that they could record; paused for right now

Events- Hannah Streetman

- 2025 Legislative Day
 - About 70 attendees registered in advance; saw some drop off because of the weather
 - Joined by some representatives and senators
 - Lacking overall in school library attendance
 - Would love to have a meeting with the ScLD division to brainstorm how we can increase the accessibility for school librarians for events
- 2025 WLA Conference
 - Financials
 - Missing some of our outstanding revenue- there is \$10,000 not represented in the net loss
 - Some of the F&B cost we need to bill back to some external partners; will reduce expense by a couple thousand
 - Our evaluation data is really positive
 - People loved book bash
- 2025 ALD Joint Conference
 - Pulled together a committee; moving forward with this
 - Will be held on the Lower Columbia College
 - Tentatively Friday, October 24
- Working on the 2027 WLA conference
 - West side, prioritizing lower costs
 - We have a few options and will go on some tours soon
 - Keeping spring break dates in mind

- Questions?
 - Sarah- have we ever looked at a tribal location? Tribal casinos?
 - 2015 was in Tulalip, but we were bursting at the seams
 - Alani- super expensive, hotel was \$400 a night
 - Every other casino is too small for us meeting space-wise
 - Curious about the phrase “strategic board”
 - Don’t remember voting on conference dates or locations
 - How does the time of year impact cost, or does it?
 - Spring and fall only viable options
 - Board voted to move back to the spring; pricing isn’t significantly different between these two seasons
 - Elizabeth- Board seeing conference proposals? Or having a say in the conference locations? Can the board look at these before we decide?
 - WLA recommends the finalist to the board, but we will share info for the other 2 finalists
 - Can we answer the question on when the board voted on Yakima?

New Business

- Discussion of board meeting schedule
 - Board can meet whenever they want, but amending public meetings need to have a membership vote
- Introduction of new board resolution
 - Voting
 - Rickey states that the following resolution isn't about individuals, it's about realigning practices with our bylaws and ensuring the board fulfills its legal and fiduciary responsibilities. He then reads, calls for motions to vote on (Carol motions to approve; Eryn seconds), and moves to vote on board resolution
 - Lesley calls point of order- discussion needs to happen, could the WLA office have some time to review and understand this resolution
 - Sarah- this does not affect the board vote
 - Shawn- still has a few remaining questions that she would prefer to have answered before the vote; monthly meetings and making sure we are not getting ahead of our bylaws, having a chance to review the bylaws before we make this decision, can we begin a review process first and then vote?
 - Reaffirming what is in the bylaws already
 - Sarah- the only thing not in bylaws are the monthly meetings
 - If we don’t vote on this today, do we have to wait until the next board meeting?
 - Online, asynchronous voting is possible
 - Eryn- This was created in concert with everyone on the board having access to the bylaws
 - All of this is pulled from the bylaws and the board procedures and processes
 - Gavin- Monthly regular reports?
 - In the contract with PS
 - Sarah moves to schedule an asynchronous vote online in one week from today
 - Shawn seconds
 - Aye’s- Shawn, Gavin, Sarah, Carol, Rickey, Elizabeth, Eryn, Lydia
- WLA Conference and the school library division
 - Mahlon
 - Thank you for all of the emails and listening to the voices of the School library division
 - Appreciates the positivity and support
 - Heard so much at the conference from the membership
 - Heard from members that vendors were conveying they were unhappy about the low number of school librarians
 - Here as a collaborative partner
 - Rickey- appreciates the honest feedback

- Sarah- Heard feedback from BTSB rep, Phil- was not pleased to find so few teacher librarians at the conference
- Don't want to forget the feedback we got from the AASL representative
 - Hannah- we've contacted Courtney already
- Elizabeth
 - Curious about how the conference committee gets feedback from these evaluation surveys; does the committee have the power to make these changes that are being requested?
 - Hannah- we have a debrief meeting with the committee and they have access to the evaluation form; not keeping anything from the committee
 - Breaks are 30 minutes long
 - Divisional sessions
 - Hannah - If there is specific feedback folks would like to highlight, please let her know
 - Tracks- not clear who sessions are for; can solve this by better advertising, tagging sessions for certain divisions doesn't create silos
 - Sarah- I've said this before, but the "tracks" isn't about changing what we offer necessarily, but it is a marketing tool. People need us to connect the dots for them.
 - Eryn- helps show relevancy for sessions
 - Carol- Public Library Division member feedback starting to come through where members are upset not to see divisional tracks for conference sessions; stressing the need to see divisional tracks in the future to help them decide which sessions to attend
- Sarah
 - Does the new conference committee see the data from the prior year's conference?

Rickey adjourns meeting at 5:08pm



WLA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, August 13, 2025 • 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm • WLA online meeting room

Read in Advance of Meeting: February 2025 Board Meeting Minutes

Voting members in attendance: Rickey Barnett, Eryn Duffee, Shawn Schollmeyer, Sarah Logan, Elizabeth Roberts, Rob Mead, Carol Ellison, Gavin Downing

Nonvoting members in attendance: Ainsley Nobara, Ellen Perleberg

Other WLA members and staff in attendance: Erin Atwater, Annie Bingham, Lucy Pekovich, Alicia Rogers, Lisa Steudel, Tien Triggs, Carolyn Logue, Sara Jones

Facilitator: Rickey Barnett

Minutes: Shamim Rupani

Call to order

Rickey Barnett calls the meeting to order at 12:02pm

Approval of minutes - 12:05pm

A motion to approve the minutes of the May 2025 meeting was made by Eryn Duffee. Rob Mead seconds. The motion passed with the following aye's: Sarah, Elizabeth, Eryn, Carol, Rob, Rickey, Gavin, Shawn

Executive Director Report

Presented by Ainsley Nobara at 12:08pm

- Nominations- Aug 22
- Events
 - ALD conference- October 17, Longview
 - Annual conference- in person kick off meeting is at the end of this month, will tour the convention center
- Dashboard report
 - Overall membership is increasing
- Member Services Committee- working on the welcome email to members
- Grants and Partnerships Committee- working on rubric for funders/sponsors
- WLA Intern- helping with data, library card usage in WA, leg. Committees
- WLA staffing update



Legislative Report

Presented by Carolyn Logue at 12:20pm

- 2026 session- Second year of the two year budget cycle
- Public and School legislative priorities
- New version of AGO letter

New Business

Executive Board Expansion (Vote) presented by Rickey Barnett & Eryn Duffee at 12:35pm

Eryn motioned to add these two positions to the board at 12:37

- Secretary Board Position- 2 year rotation
- Membership Director (At Large)- 2 or 3 year position

Gavin motions to table until the executive session at 12:56. Shawn Seconds. The motion passed with the following aye's: Gavin, Carol, Rickey, Sarah, Rob, Eryn, Elizabeth, Shawn

Officer's Reports

Treasure's Report presented by Rob Mead at 1:02pm

- Concerned about Yakima and making money at the conference

ALA Report presented by Gavin Downing 1:10pm

- Attended ALA annual & council
- New strategic plan coming from ALA
- ALA APA (Allied Professional Association) is getting dissolved and being absorbed into ALA

Division, Committee & Section Reports 1:15pm

- Shawn Schollmeyer
 - Marketing Committee
 - Small group led by Hanna, did a survey on how they felt in their role
 - Appreciates the WLA office in helping with socials
- Annie Bingham
 - PNLA rep/PNLA conference committee
- Tien Triggs
 - Met with SpLD VC- did some planning for the rest of the year
 - Big meet up and outreach planned at UW orientation with new MLIS students
 - Advocacy committee- meeting this Friday



- Working on priorities, newsletter, and what is happening with advocacy in other libraries, can give people an opportunity to send in their stories, encourage people to take more initiative to let community know what is going on
- Sarah Logan
 - OLLI
 - Met for 2 days at the Cap Hill library
 - 25 participants
 - Created task forces to tackle different issues
 - Merit Award committee
 - Through the process of meeting with the award winners, it became apparent that they need rubrics for each award
 - Group has decided to stick with it and meet this fall to get some rubrics in place
 - Would like to align the application with the rubric once they are finished
- Erin Atwater
 - Starting a newsletter this year, asking for outside submissions
- Alicia Rogers
 - Put together all of the materials for the website
 - Reached out to the author of the 2025 winner and she offered to do a zoom meeting with students
- Lisa Steudel
 - Finishing the Towner resources for the website
 - Have added 2 new members
- Eryn Duffee
 - Met with them, conference will be in 2026 in Spokane
 - Great opportunity to build connections with librarians of color
- Ellen Perleberg
 - Focusing on outreach with online programs- Emporia State and SJSU

State Library Report

Presented by Sara Jones at 1:32pm

- Looking towards recovery
- Central library has had to close, opened one day a week, TH 1-5pm
- WTBBL- closed to the public, pursuing private funding
- Hope to have a more concise message of the impact of the budget cuts

Closing Questions or Comments discussed at 1:40pm

- Tien Triggs- link to SpLD discord: <https://discord.gg/sQN74Qjn>



- The Special Library Division has an open invitation to all WLA members to hang out with us on our Discord server.
- Carol Ellison- Discord server for the PLD: <https://discord.com/invite/xPKXFndeSk>

Adjournment

Rickey Barnett motioned to adjourn at 1:55pm

Draft

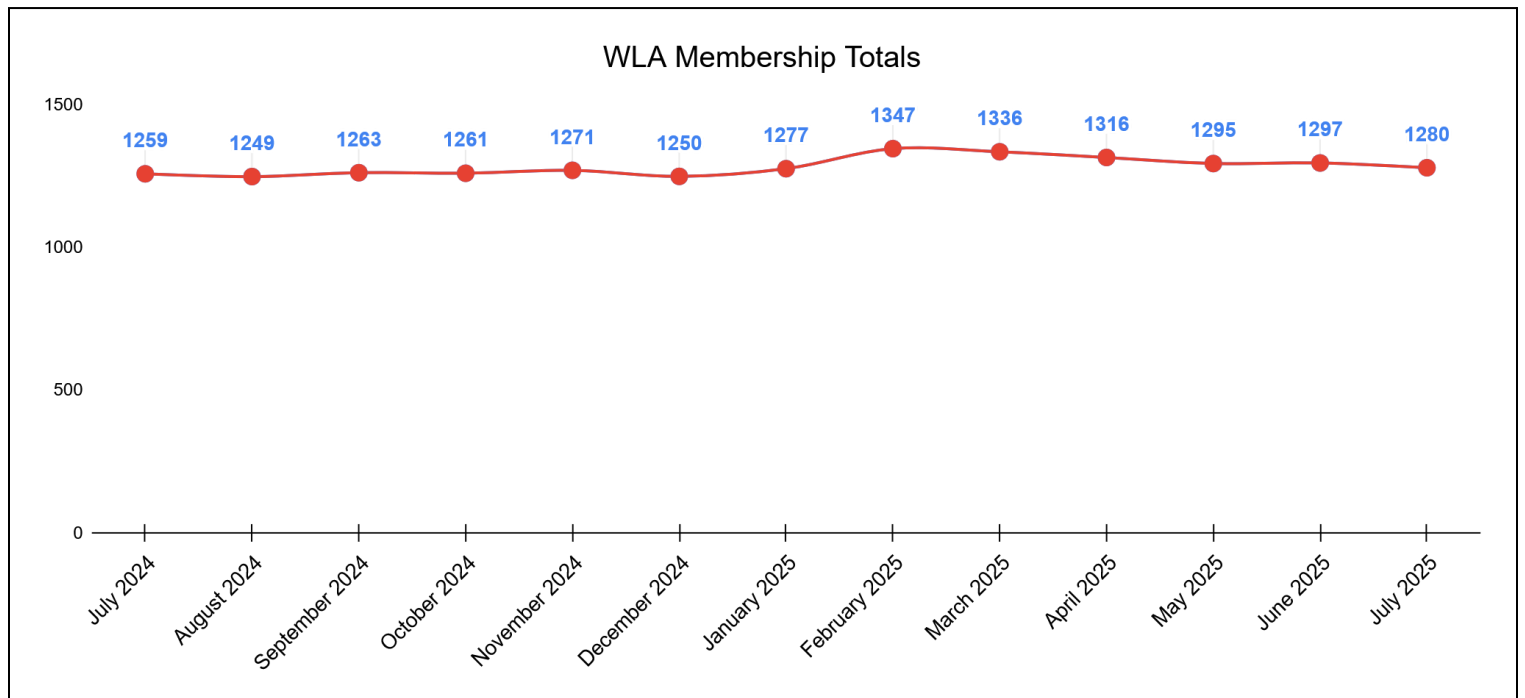
Washington Library Association

Statement of Financial Position

As of August 11, 2025

	TOTAL
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
1003 Chase Checking - 7989	19,970.34
1004 Savings - Chase	277.52
Petty Cash	60.00
Total Bank Accounts	\$20,307.86
Other Current Assets	
1006 Fidelity	98,550.69
1910 Undeposited Funds	270.00
Prepaid Expense	638.26
Total Other Current Assets	\$99,458.95
Total Current Assets	\$119,766.81
TOTAL ASSETS	\$119,766.81
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Credit Cards	
1005 Chase Credit Card 3886	1,896.88
Total Credit Cards	\$1,896.88
Other Current Liabilities	
2500 Def Rev	
2501 Individual Membership Dues	10,916.66
Business & Sales	1,795.85
Def. ALA-WLA Joint Student	92.00
Deferred Retired	113.75
Student Membership	580.02
Unemployed Dues	114.59
Total 2501 Individual Membership Dues	13,612.87
2502 Organizational Dues -Private	141.67
2503 Organization Dues - Public	6,951.58
Friend, Trustee, Foundation or Non-Profit	221.67
Total 2500 Def Rev	20,927.79
Total Other Current Liabilities	\$20,927.79
Total Current Liabilities	\$22,824.67
Total Liabilities	\$22,824.67
Equity	
3100 Unrestricted Funds	163,686.53
3300 Retained Earnings	-28,612.17
Net Revenue	-38,132.22
Total Equity	\$96,942.14
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$119,766.81

Membership Changes	July 2024	July 2025	Change
Individual			
Individual Employees	629	590	-6.20%
Students	167	200	19.76%
Non-Profits/Foundations/Friends	30	44	46.67%
Business	4	7	75.00%
Retired/Unemployed	56	57	1.79%
Emeritus	75	73	-2.67%
Sub Total	961	971	1.04%
Organizations			
Libraries	41	37	-9.76%
Library Affiliates	220	216	-1.82%
Business	14	19	35.71%
Business Affiliates	14	21	50.00%
Non-Profits/Foundations	4	6	50.00%
Nonprofit & Foundation Affiliates	5	6	20.00%
Sub Total	298	305	2.35%





August 2025 WLA Leadership Reports

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Rickey Barnett
WLA Board President

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

Continued work on the Presidential Summit planning.

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:

Presidential Summit and financial planning

Lydia Bello
WLA Board Director -- Academic Library Division Rep.

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

Along with Lizzie Brown, past Academic Library Division Board Representative, finished a survey of ALD/ACRL-WA membership and shared results in an article published in Alki.
<https://alki.pubpub.org/pub/zpcq6zh7/release/1>

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:

Planning on supporting the division in various new initiatives as I can; working with the Board to plan a sustainable future for the Association.

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

In my Board position I support the the ALD/ACRL-WA Steering Committee as needed in figuring out accessible and inclusive professional development for members - currently focused on virtual and low-cost opportunities.

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

As a Board member, I try to demystify what the Association does, encourage individuals to participate in the future of the organization, and offering drop in events that are low-cost and low-barrier to attend.

Anything else you would like to share?

Shout out to the Steering Committee Leadership, which is small but active, putting out drop in events and a newsletter over the past quarter! Also many thanks to those involved in this spring's survey and article (see above).

Carol Ellison

WLA Board Director -- Public Library Division Rep.

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

PLD held its quarterly membership meeting, released two issues of its new newsletter, and the divisional leadership team met monthly.

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:

PLD is working on its first topic-specific newsletter issue featuring public library podcasts. We already have one submission! The PLD leadership team is also working on recruitment efforts to fill open divisional elected positions since we currently have no nominations. We're reaching out individually to folks who we think would be interest and a good fit; we also each wrote a small piece for the most recent newsletter where we talk about our individual experiences in these roles and how serving in these roles have benefitted us professionally.

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

We made the intentionally decision to include the link to the PLD newsletter and all division announcements in WLA Wednesday in addition to the PLD listserv; the intent is to remove barriers to information/participation.

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

A bit of a repeat from above: PLD leadership team is actively recruiting members to nominate themselves for elected roles in PLD/WLA. The team is also sharing links to the PLD newsletter and any divisional announcements in WLA Wednesday in the hopes of reaching a wider audience than just current PLD members who receive PLD-specific emails.

Elizabeth Roberts

WLA Board Director -- School Library Division Rep.

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

ScLD: We are working on our new cohort of OLLI. We learned a lot last year with our first group, and with 2 new grants to help fund a better stronger program, we are really excited to see how this event grows new leaders including new participation in WLA. We can see the expansion of this program to other divisions if it goes well.

Board: I've been looking through our financial statements and contracts to help understand where we are as an organization and make sure we as a board are helping our organization stay strong.

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:

ScLD: Continued work on OLLI as it is a year long program. We will begin our work on legislative issues so we are well prepared for upcoming legislative session.

Board: Realign our expenses with income for ongoing longevity of our organization.

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

ScLD: Our advocacy work both through OLLI and Legislative work is always aimed at giving access

to a certified teacher-librarian to all students, regardless of where they go to school in our state.

Shawn Schollmeyer

WLA Board Director -- Special Library Division Rep.

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

I've been able to engage with the MarCom committee to learn more about their activities and potential for promoting WLA events and social media.

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:

There are a number of areas of opportunity to increase effective communications between the committees, sections and divisions across the organization so the needs and outcomes of these groups can be better conveyed to the board.

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

Recruitment is always an issue and conversations with the Special Libraries Division chair have focused around better representation from WLA at the UW iSchool and other area library school programs. We would like to be involved in their career day and job fairs to keep students engaged with resources and opportunities that WLA can provide for professional development.

Anything else you would like to share?

WLA is at a critical growth point where effective communication and professional collaboration is greatly needed. Strong and respectful leadership is needed at all levels to grow membership and strong programs that are inclusive on all levels.

Ellen Perleberg

Student Representative

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

Connected with Washington-based students in online programs at Emporia State and LSU

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:

Arrange a WLA info session for new UW MLIS students

REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

J Elizabeth Mills

ELAC Representative

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

At the July 22nd ELAC meeting, the DCYF Early Care and Education Access Project Manager Diana Stokes presented an overview of the alignment between the Fair Start for Kids Act report and the Early Care and Education Access and Living Wage Implementation Plan. Additionally, DCYF Workforce Supports Manager Gretchen Stahr Breunig and Child Care Policy Manager Brett Skinner provided an update on the Staff Qualifications workgroup. During this last part, I recommended getting in touch with library staff who are offering STARS training as possible members of this workgroup to bring their perspectives and experience.

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 continue to be in touch with the Workgroup managers regarding how library staff can be hands-on members of the workgroup. I also intend to listen and learn as I am very new in this role and want to find the best way to contribute meaningfully and effectively.

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

I will look to represent the interests and experiences of library staff from various perspectives, including rural libraries, in the conversations that take place in the ELAC meetings.

Anything else you would like to share?

Thank you so much for selecting me for this position, and please share any questions and suggestions you may have.

DIVISION REPORTS

Greg Bem

Academic Library Division Chair

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

We released a newsletter.

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:

Nothing to report. Our first field trip event will take place in Winter.

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

Nothing specifically centering this, though it comes up in everything we do of course.

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

This is not actively happening.

Anything else you would like to share?

It's summer quarter. Thanks!

Erin Atwater

Public Library Division Chair

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

Renewed focus on PLD Discord page

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:

corporate meetings with other divisions and sections

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

We are exploring incorporating a a remote division game night

Mahlon Landis
School Library Division Chair

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

Our leadership incubator project, OLLI, had its in-person summit on August 4 and 5. We welcomed 26 teacher-librarians from across the state to engage in networking, advocacy training, and listen to a panel Q&A with library and education experts. So far, participant feedback is overwhelmingly positive. We look forward to continuing this program throughout the rest of the year and hope it will increase member participation in WLA, strengthen advocacy efforts in our state, and deepen relationships between teacher-librarians, partner organizations, and stakeholders.

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:

In October, a handful of ScLD leadership committee members will present at the 2025 National AASL conference in St. Louis about our leadership program, OLLI. We will also be sending two ScLD members to an AASL-hosted State Policy Training at the conference.

In addition to preparing for AASL's conference, we have several other activities and goals on the horizon. We will work to define and refine our legislative wishes and goals for the next year, including improving existing relationships with legislators. We will also create content for our virtual OLLI trainings and overseeing participants' group projects ("task forces"), in addition to finding guest speakers for our virtual OLLI sessions. We are also reaching out to members to run in the ongoing WLA elections.

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

A recent step we took to prioritize equity, diversity, inclusion and accessibility was using microphones at our OLLI in-person summit. We also prioritized our grant monies to provide travel and hotel stipends for attendees traveling from underrepresented counties of our state (Eastern WA, for example) within our membership roster. Last year, we had one participant from an underrepresented part of Washington in a similarly sized cohort. This year, after our expansion and fundraising efforts, we had three participants from underrepresented counties.

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

Currently, we are using OLLI, social media, and our listserv to engage membership. We have been brainstorming new methods to recruit members, including going to various conferences, creating a Discord, and establishing general membership meetings. These have not been finalized, but it's my hope at least one will be in action by December.

Anything else you would like to share?

No. Thank you for your continued work and support, WLA Board members! :) Please reach out if you have any comments, questions, or concerns.

SECTION REPORTS

Anja Johnson
WALT Section Chair

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

Our WALT meeting attendance has risen steadily over the year, which has been exciting to see.

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:

Brianna Hoffman, the training coordinator for the Washington State Library is joining us for our next meeting. She plans to share general training resources available through WSL and specific resources and ideas for all-staff training days. Staff training days are a regular, important topic at WALT meetings. We're looking forward to learning about additional resources.

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

During our meetings, I try to be inclusive by creating a welcoming environment and asking intentional questions so that everyone is included in the conversation. After the meetings, Sara sends out meeting notes with the resources discussed in the meeting. My hope is that this allows people to fully engage in the meetings (instead of scrambling to make notes of resources) and to include those who weren't able to attend.

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

For new members, we share marketing graphics in the WLA newsletter. We have also found word of mouth through existing members to be very effective. For non-active members, we use the WALT listserv for one-week and day-of reminders. We also send out meeting notes and resources so people on the listserv can benefit from them and get a feel for the focus of the meetings. It seems to be working well!

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mikayla Kittilstved
Alki Committee Chair

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

Alki recently published Building Bridges: The Conference Issue (available at <https://alki.pubpub.org/41-2>). This issue of Alki commemorates the 2025 WLA Conference, with the theme, "Building Bridges & Connecting Communities." Articles provide a more in-depth look at research and ideas from the conference, reflections of conference attendees, updates from the WLA Lobbyist and ALA Councilor, and award acknowledgments. A sense of camaraderie and shared values permeates the entire issue--as it did the conference--reinforcing that library workers and library enthusiasts are doing the work of building bridges and connecting communities.

Alicia Rogers
Awards Committee Chair

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

Our WCCPBA Committee Members completed resources for Teacher-Librarians to use during the next school year to promote the 2026 nominees. These included a promotion video, activity pages for Librarians, student booklets, presentation questions and vocabulary, and related book recommendations. These are all linked on our website.

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:

When we contacted the author & illustrator of our WCCPBA 2025 winner to request their addresses so we could send their awards, the author Tara Lazar offered to do a Zoom to thank students for voting. We will schedule this with her after school begins. We are also planning to present at the Washington State Library School Librarian In-Service Day in October. Our committee has begun looking for new books for our 2027 list.

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

We provide our resources for all students in the state so that all students have access to the diverse topics in our nominees. We continue to look for new books for our 2027 list that represent these priorities.

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

The WCCPBA Committee will work with WLA and the other Award Committees to seek new members in the Spring. All of our committee members have an active role in our work.

Hanna White
Marketing & Communications Committee Chair

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

We recently had a discussion about what responsibilities in the past have belonged to the office vs. the Marketing & Communications committee and what changes, if any, we would like to see in the future.

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 have contacted the WLA office to see if there is interest in restarting a Google Form or other method of collecting photos and stories from members directly so that we can share more on-the-ground content from libraries.

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

I updated several of the posts that had been made live during WLA annual to include alt text, which understandably hadn't been added at time of posting.

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

As part of our July meeting, we discussed the possibility of working with WLA divisions to send an

emissary to the regular marketing & communication meetings in order to better our awareness and marketing of WLA division activities

Liz Ebersole & Kat Wyly

Professional Development Committee Chairs

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

We have analyzed the data from the 2024-2025 mentoring program feedback forms. We identified a few areas to make changes to and are already applying our findings to revamp the application forms for mentors and mentees. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive with over 80% of mentors and 75% of mentees having a positive experience/excited to keep in touch with their mentor/mentee. We also received feedback on needing more guidance on how to naturally end the mentoring relationship, even when it is going well, and will add that to our mentoring resources.

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:

In terms of scholarships, the committee is researching the previous scholarship landscape and considering what is relevant, what is possible, and the goals of the scholarship program for its eventual return. We also are taking a fresh look at the mentoring program and updating the application forms. We will remove some less relevant questions from past iterations of the program while also adding clarifying questions so participants can clarify their goals for participation. This is to further mitigate the feedback from a few mentees who were disappointed when their mentor didn't have the exact experience they are looking to gain. We also will continue to dive deeper into the intersection of mentoring and peer coaching, a focus of our workshops and group learning this year.

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

With the cancellation of scholarships this year, the committee is considering what types of professional development could be useful to WLA members. This, of course, is no replacement for financial assistance but without scholarship responsibilities, our committee should have a little additional bandwidth to explore options for connection between members.