



Thursday, January 20, 2017



## "Need to Know" Legislative Newsletter for Library Leaders

...from Wisconsin Library Association

**Library Legislative Day is Tuesday February 21, 2017  
REGISTER NOW! (Bring along your library success stories....)**



**Library Legislative Day** will be held Tuesday, February 21, 2017, at the Madison Concourse Hotel. [Register online](#) or use the [PDF registration form](#). [GO HERE](#) for more information about hotel reservations and program agenda. Cut-off date for block rooms at the Concourse is midnight, January 23. Registration deadline is January 30.

**COST IF YOU GO:** \$20 registration fee plus personal expenses

**COST IF YOU DON'T GO:** Lonely legislators remain unaware that state funding for library services is an outstanding value that positively impacts the lives of their constituents. Hey, everybody, 2017 is a state budget producing year! We need your voice! Briefing materials will be provided.

February 21 was chosen to best coordinate available downtown Madison meeting space with the legislative session calendar and budget process. However....

**February 21 is also Spring Election Primary Day!  
ABSENTEE VOTING IS STRONGLY ENCOURAGED FOR  
LIBRARY LEGISLATIVE DAY ATTENDEES!**

Remember that February 21 is also Spring Election Primary Day and the only statewide race is for an office that is very important to libraries: Superintendent of Public Instruction (DPI). LD&L will be gathering relevant statements from the three SSOPI candidates to share with the membership as soon as possible. [Ballotpedia SSOPI race summary here.](#)

If you're attending Library Legislative Day and cannot return to your polling place before 8 PM on Election Day, you can either do **in-person (early) voting** during the two weeks prior to the election, ending at 5 PM on Friday, February 17 OR **request an absentee ballot** from your municipal clerk by 5 PM on Thursday, February 16. For more information, go to <http://elections.wi.gov/elections-voting/voters/absentee>

**WLA 2017-2019 State Budget Teamwork**



During December and January, a team of WLA representatives held multiple meetings at the capitol with members of the powerful Joint Finance Committee (JFC) and other legislative leaders.

Pictured are JFC member and 35<sup>th</sup> Assembly District Representative Mary Felzkowski (center) with WLA Executive Director Plumer Lovelace and Bridges Library System Director Connie Meyer.

The Wisconsin Library Association is advocating for these library items in the 2017-2019 Wisconsin Biennial Budget:

- Requesting an additional \$1.5 million beginning in 2018 for public library system aids (emphasis on system support for local library services in the areas of broadband access, workforce development and lifelong learning);
- Maintaining funding for core library services including BadgerLink, Newsline for the Blind and the four statewide resource contracts (Cooperative Children's Book Center, Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library, and inter-library loan access to Milwaukee Public Library and UW-Madison collections).
- Requesting a statutory language change to allow expenditure from the WISEdash and WISEdata programs for public library related collections and data maintenance as well as for public schools

**TELL YOUR LIBRARY STORY!** What public library system does your county belong to? How do public library system services strengthen your local library? How does your local public library support community members seeking to improve their employment skills, change careers and apply for jobs? Or provide citizens of all ages who have no reliable home Internet access with vital broadband for homework assignments, government

services, and online courses? Or offer lifelong learning opportunities from early literacy programs that help young brains get ready for school to programs for the elderly that help preserve cognitive function and build important social networks?

## Library Value Transforms Lives: How You Can Help!



Now is the time to communicate with the Governor's office and legislators in a position to influence the budget process regarding increased funding for public library system aids, maintaining other core state funded library services and recognizing the importance of academic and K-12 libraries. [See Tell Your Library Story above.](#)

You can help by writing to your two legislators, especially if your Senator or Representative is a member of leadership or Joint Finance Committee. Positive snail mail is remembered! [See Legislative Reference Resources below.](#)

### **Send the Governor, Lt. Governor and your two legislators a card from your library!**

Valentine's Day is the week before Library Legislative Day. Mail a valentine or other hand signed notecard with your library logo. Add a friendly note to emphasize the value that libraries contribute to their communities. Be creative!

**Governor Scott Walker**, PO Box 7683, Madison WI 53702

**Lt. Governor Rebecca Kleefisch**, PO Box 2043, Madison WI 53707

**Addresses for State Senators:** P. O. BOX 7882, Madison, WI 53707-7882

**Addresses for Assembly Representatives:**

LAST NAMES A-L: P.O. Box 8952, Madison, WI 53708-8952

LAST NAMES M-Z: P.O. Box 8953, Madison, WI 53708-8953

## Legislative Reference Resources

[State Senate](#) and [Assembly](#) web pages have been updated to include new members.

[WLA's 2017-2018 Legislative Guide](#) has also been updated. It is sorted for public library system boundaries and includes libraries in each legislative district.

- Click links for companion guides listing [Wisconsin Legislative Leaders](#) (including members of Joint Finance Committee) and [New Members of the Assembly and Senate](#). FRESHMAN legislators need library love! **If your Senator or Representative is on the new members list, invite them to your library!**
- To verify your correct Senate and Assembly districts, enter your personal address or
- the address of your library in the search box at [Who are my legislators?](#)

## Legislators @ The Library!

**Send us your "Libraries Transform!" News!** Do you have stories or photos of legislative listening sessions held at your library or other visits to share? Contact Kris at [kawendt@wvls.org](mailto:kawendt@wvls.org)

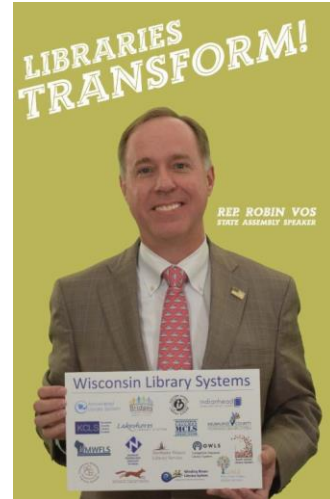
### Libraries Transform! Poster Project

**WLA needs your help coordinating in-district photos at library locations for legislators whose posters have not yet been added to the list and presenting the finished posters to legislators with attendant local publicity.** Each legislator holds a composite library card showing system logos.

A Wisconsin Library Association Foundation grant will enable the creation of one presentation poster copy for every legislator, to be awarded at their home library. Additional copies of completed posters may be purchased for display at local libraries (a friendly welcome when legislators return for a listening session or office hours) for \$20 by contacting the WLA Office.

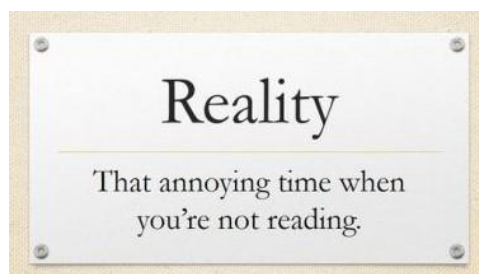
Copies of posters are also available for Governor Walker, Lt. Governor Kleefisch and State Superintendent of Public Instruction Evers.

**Please work with your system office to arrange for photo and presentation opportunities!** It's the perfect way to enhance relationships and generate positive local publicity. Nick Dimassis ([ndimassis@beloitlibrary.org](mailto:ndimassis@beloitlibrary.org)) is coordinating this important campaign.



Sample poster showing  
Rep. Robin Vos  
(R-Rochester)

### Concluding Thought



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## About the WLA...

The Wisconsin Library Association engages, inspires and advocates for library workers and supporters to improve and promote library services for the people of Wisconsin.

Visit our [website](#) to learn more about us and how you can get involved.

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Member >>**

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## Join Us



Check out WLA Upcoming events and conferences [here!](#)



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