



To: Kaukauna Public Library Board of Trustees  
From: Library Director Ashley Thiem-Menning  
Date: 9/21/2022  
Re: OWLS Updates

We attended an in-person OWLS Director's meeting in Waupaca on 9/22. We received an update on the OWLS/NFLS joint strategic planning process being conducted by WiLS. Angela and I participated in a focus group with WiLS last week to discuss some of the priorities we have for the system going forward. The next step will be a survey, which staff and trustees will be asked to participate in. Our library conveyed thoughts regarding the new ILS, the need for increased marketing on an individual library, system wide, and state level, as well as complimenting OWLS for sending staff to libraries to see how the ILS is functioning. This is an important process that we would like to see continue so that OWLS staff serving the system have a better understanding of what day to day services look like.

The system is also planning their in-house conference Hoot Con again this year with LSTA funds. They are hoping to create a one-day conference for both directors and support staff in 2023. This year, they hosted a two-day conference in New London and had successful attendance.

With CE funds, OWLS is also providing registration to a UW-Madison SLIS Trans Inclusive Librarianship course, which I am enrolled in. The course begins in November and runs six weeks. Course description: Libraries must actively affirm and support the safety and rights of transgender people. We do this through the creation and maintenance of safe and welcoming spaces, collections, and programs. In today's world the rights and protections of members of the transgender community are threatened by anti-trans legislation, and trans community members continue to face high rates of violence. How can libraries of all types provide a trans-inclusive respite for both trans community members, and members of their own staff? OWLS does have additional space in the class, so any Trustees interested are welcome to attend.