

MEMORANDUM:

To: Winnefox Library System Trustees
From: Mark Arend, Assistant Director
Subject: Report of System Activities
Date: November 19, 2007

The following is a list of current activities. Feel free to give me a call or send an email if you have any questions or would like further information.

2008 Library Funding: As of this writing all counties have adopted their 2008 budgets. Libraries did fairly well in most counties, helped by the exemption of county library payments from levy limits. We don't have local library funding figures yet but indications are that more libraries are seeing steady or reduced 2007 budgets. The following chart compares 2007 with 2008 county library funding.

| | Fond du Lac | Green Lake | Marquette | Waushara | Winnebago |
|---|-------------|------------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| 2007 Library Reimbursement | 819,530 | 176,079 | 113,490 | 283,107 | 1,748,950 |
| 2007 Major Facility Funding | | | | | 268,964 |
| 2007 WCTS | | 59,481 | 34,817 | 76,747 | |
| <hr/> | | | | | |
| Total 2007 Library Funding | 819,530 | 235,560 | 148,307 | 359,854 | 2,017,914 |
| | | | | | |
| 2008 Library Reimbursement | 893,461 | 155,095 | 114,628 | 292,361 | 1,784,786 |
| 2008 Major Facility Funding | | | | | 265,095 |
| 2008 WCTS | | 59,218 | 38,130 | 76,753 | |
| 2008 Special Project | | | | | 5,500 |
| 2008 Act 420 payments | 71,887 | 25,687 | 41,081 | 10,423 | 29,742 |
| <hr/> | | | | | |
| Total 2008 Library Funding | 965,348 | 240,000 | 193,839 | 379,537 | 2,085,123 |
| | | | | | |
| Change in in-county library reimbursement (including WCTS & major facility funding) from 2007 | 9% | -12% | 1% | 3% | 2% |
| | | | | | |
| Change in total library funding (including Act 420 payments) from 2007 | 18% | 2% | 31% | 5% | 3% |

Legislative Update: Two bills have seen action since our last meeting: AB-420 has been passed by the Assembly and has been referred to the Senate. SB-214 has passed both houses of the Legislature and been signed by the Governor. Appended to this report is a full review of library-related legislation with the status of each bill.

Library Legislation Day: Included in your board packet is a registration form for Library Legislation Day in Madison scheduled for Tuesday 22 January 2008. LLD is an excellent opportunity to talk with legislators directly and encourage their support for programs that improve library services within the state. Registration is easy; the Wisconsin Library Association arranges for appointments with legislators. We encourage anyone who can to attend. You can find more information at:
<http://www.wla.lib.wi.us/legis/day/index.htm>.

Wisconsin Library Association Elections: Congratulations to member library directors & staff and Winnefox staff who were elected to leadership positions in the Wisconsin Library Association this fall.

- Tasha Saecker, Menasha PL: WLA Secretary
- Janice Dibble, Oshkosh PL: Vice Chair/Chair-elect, Wisconsin Genealogy and Local History Round Table (WIGLHR)
- Edith Phillips, Winneconne PL: Secretary, Wisconsin Small Libraries Round Table (WISLR)

Staff News: Ryan McGuire has been hired as a printer.

Library-Related Legislative Proposals

AB-290 would prohibit the legislature from imposing mandates unless the state reimburses the local government for the cost of complying with the requirement.

Status: in Assembly committee

URL: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/2007/data/AB290hst.html>

AB-350 would create a legislative Joint Committee on State Mandates to review and evaluate all proposed state mandates and directs the Legislative Fiscal Bureau to identify all existing mandates for the committee, other than ones having a minimal fiscal effect, and directs the committee to submit legislation repealing those mandates. It also prohibits state agencies from taking actions that impose mandates.

Status: in Assembly committee

URL: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/2007/data/AB350hst.html>

These bills are of concern because counties are required to reimburse libraries for services to residents in areas that don't directly maintain a library. Library system membership requirements would probably not be affected by this legislation because the position of the Division for Libraries, Technology, and Community Learning is that library system membership itself is not a state requirement.

AB-141 would prohibit use of radio frequency identification (RFID) tags in documents.

Status: in Assembly committee

URL: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/2007/data/AB141hst.html>

This bill is of concern because some libraries are beginning to use RFID tags to check out and inventory materials. Using this technology has the potential to save libraries staff time and money when checking items in and out and in inventorying their collections.

AB-420 (not to be confused with Act 420 which was passed by the Legislature last year) would add an additional method for calculating a municipality's exemption from the county library tax. Under current law, a municipality can exempt from the county library levy if it levies a tax for library services at a rate that is equal to or greater than the county library tax rate. Under this bill, a municipality could also exempt from the county library tax if it appropriates library funding that is at least equal to the average of the last 3 years (the Maintenance of Effort formula). Before adopting this method for calculating exemption the municipality would have to seek approval from the county board.

Status: Passed by Assembly in October and in Senate Committee.

URL: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/2007/data/AB420hst.html>

AB-433 is a companion bill to SB-214. See SB-214 for details on this proposal.

Status: has been tabled by the Assembly

URL: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/2007/data/AB433hst.html>

SB-1 would allow library boards to transfer gift funds to a related public library or community foundation for use in enhancing library services and programs.

Status: Passed by Senate in May. In Assembly Committee

URL: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/2007/data/SB1hst.html>

SB-214 would make changes in the library confidentiality law. It allows release of a library's security camera records released to law enforcement officials who are investigating criminal conduct alleged to have occurred in the library.

Status: This was signed by the Governor on 16 November.

URL: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/2007/data/SB214hst.html>

AJR-27 is a proposed Constitutional amendment which would

a: require the state to reimburse municipalities for the reasonable cost of state mandates.

b: prohibits use of segregated fund revenue to replace or supplement funding for programs that were supported by the general fund before 1 January 2001.

c: provides that no state revenue designated after 1 January 2001 for use through a segregated fund can be used for any other purpose.

d: limits the state's use of borrowed funds

Status: In Assembly committee

URL: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/2007/data/AJR-27hst.pdf>

AJR-34 is a proposed Constitutional amendment which would limit the use of segregated funds.

Status: In Assembly committee

URL: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/2007/data/AJR-34hst.pdf>

These proposals, especially AJR-27 are of concern because beginning in 2004 some library system funding has come from the Universal Service Fund, one of the segregated funds. About a third of our 2008 & 2009 funding will be from the USF. If this passes library systems would loose this funding unless the loss was made up from general purpose revenues.