

## **AWSL Minutes – Fall Business Meeting 2010**

**DRAFT**

**WLA Conference, Wisconsin Dells**

**November 3, 2010**

Meeting called to order by Chair Anne Moser

### **1. Introductions**

Present: Anne Moser, Carrie Doyle, Emily Wixson, Amy O’Shea, Mary Kotschi, Lisa Stand, Janice Laubenstein

### **2. Approval of 2009 Fall Annual meeting Minutes**

Carrie moved that the fall 2009 meeting minutes be approved and Emily seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.

### **3. Changes to the Agenda/Announcements**

None suggested

### **4. Announcements**

Anne announces that Aiden Caes has graduated so AWSL needs a new webmaster. Aiden will update the website with the fall newsletter before leaving and suggests we find someone else at SLIS. Anne will contact SLIS about finding a replacement. We are all pleased with her work for the last year and a half and will miss her. Thank you Aiden!

### **5. Officer reports**

#### **a. Chair – Anne Moser**

Anne reported that things are going well although she is a bit disappointed that AWSL hasn’t gotten any new members. It appears that SLA is in a similar situation and with retirements happening, also needs a younger membership. Anne stated that she feels AWSL is a good fit for her being at the UW -Madison and would like to maintain AWSL as a Division of WLA.

Anne thanked Emily for her work with the WLA Board and the various conversations about the importance of AWSL as a Division of WLA.

Anne will fill the seats for the Board because Nikki Busch is on medical leave.

Anne reported on the get together at the Union this past summer. The SLIS special libraries class met AWSL members for refreshments and networking;

overall it was a great success. Carrie reminds the group that Kyle attended as well and suggests that AWSL and SLA join forces to generate new members. Anne stated that she is working on being a contact for both SLIS and SOIS as a means to recruit for AWSL and SLA. A bit of discussion on coordinating and networking with SLA ensued with the general consensus being that communication is hard because everyone is busy. Anne might try to mentor more next year as a way to get new members. A lot of AWSL members are institutional members. Lisa said this may have to be looked at as WLA is about people, developing leaders, and working with individual professionals. Lisa also reports that WLA membership is down by about 100 members and that revenue is down about \$11,000.

**b. Vice Chair/ Chair Elect – Carrie Doyle**

Carrie reported on her work on the WLA conference programs. She contacted and scheduled Linda Heisler for a “Knowledge Journaling” presentation. Knowledge journaling is a way to capture an individual’s institutional memory and what they essentially do in a day, before they leave their position due to retirement or any other reason.

Carrie also set up a tour of Circus World Library and Archives with Dave SaLoutos the performance director. She originally spoke with the assistant director who is now gone. When Carrie called back to confirm Circus World was a bit confused but they were able to rearrange and keep the WLA group scheduled. The Support Staff Section of WLA is co-sponsoring this tour with AWSL.

Carrie told the group that she is thinking of making an AWSL brochure to handout to students as SOIS. WLA has guidelines to follow for brochures.

Carrie announced that she is ready for the adventure of being AWSL chair and Anne said she is ready to pass off the chair binder and schedule.

**c. Past Chair – Nikki Busch – not present, nothing to report**

**d. WLA Board Representative – Emily Wixson**

Emily thanked Anne for her enthusiasm and for stepping in when Nikki Busch couldn’t.

Emily suggested that AWSL recruit WeLEAD classes and other young librarians on campuses who are only thinking as academic librarians, not special librarians, but can be special librarians too.

Emily stated that she appreciated Alberto Herrera’s welcome to all types of librarians and libraries to WLA.

Emily has looked at a lot of library associations and noted that WLA is one of only a handful with a special library section.

Emily reported on the WLA restructuring which has proved to be an interesting process. Emily reminded the group that it is hard to make changes to an organization steeped in tradition, collaboration and consensus. There are currently still roundtables and other groups that want a seat at the table and a voice in the decision making process. Currently the board makes financial and policy decision, addresses intellectual freedom challenges and arranges formal partnerships. Lisa Strand will tell us more about this.

Mary reminded the group that having a seat at the table makes smaller groups feel like they are part of the family and like they have a say at the conferences and other events.

Lisa added that she thinks it makes sense to have various types of libraries represented at the table but not necessarily every small interest group.

Emily continued discussing the two year restructuring process. First it was a community of practice approach, but then it moved towards something else. The meeting in August proved to be too contentious so a step back in the process was taken. WLA restructuring will be voted on, on Thursday November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

In lieu of restructuring, strategic planning happened in August. The process was started and still has to be completed. Essentially small groups will take the six themes that came up and work with them. Strategic planning is proceeding and will continue to proceed for at least a year. More updates will be available via email, blog, etc.

Emily reported on AWSL membership which is at 97 members, making us a small group. It would be nice to know how many are individuals versus institutions as well as which members are active in the profession versus those members that are retired.

Emily briefly discussed the finances of WLA. Most of the organization's revenue comes from membership, which is down, so revenue is down by about \$11,000.00. WLA is fiscally conservative but the board will have to think about next year's budget.

Emily will conclude her three years as WLA Board Representative in December. She has enjoyed getting to know librarians in other areas and unfortunately won't be able to attend the last WLA meeting of the year.

## **6. Committee Reports**

### **a. Newsletter – Bob Shaw - not present, nothing to report**

Bob has told Anne that he will continue to work on AWSL newsletter which we are all pleased to hear.

**b. Website - Aiden Caes**

Aiden is done with school and therefore done with volunteering for AWSL. We now need a new web person. Anne will connect with SLIS to find one. Lisa said that WLA web committee can help too.

**7. Items for discussion**

**a. Being a small division within WLA – Director’s view with special guest, Lisa Strand**

Lisa explained that the school library division fell out with WLA in the 1980s and became their own organization, WEMTA. This could be an option for AWSL if we felt we weren’t being represented well by WLA. Initially WEMTA membership went up, but it is back down again, with only 93 members. There is a dual membership option for WEMTA members to also be part of WLA and there is a WEMTA representative on the WLA board. WEMTA hosts a spring conference which works well for teachers who are entrenched in school system schedules and find it hard to attend a fall conference.

**b. Fundraising**

Lisa reported on how AWSL could go about fundraising at the group’s request. AWSL awarded a conference scholarship to a library school student last year and really enjoyed doing it. We would like to have the funds to do it again. If the amendments to the budget pass on Thursday November 4, 2010 then the operating budget for AWSL is \$139.00. If AWSL wants funds to do a scholarship it should go in the operating budget. With the new organization system WAAL and WAPL will subsidize the rest of the organization and it’s smaller sections. Revenue generating activities might help spread our mission and attract new members. A pre-conference afternoon, possibly at WAAL, might be a better fit for AWSL. Working with WHSLA or the law library group are also options. Generating AWSL membership is also an issue of geography, as with SLA. Lisa thinks an SLA/ AWSL combo would be a good solution. 2012 conference themes and how special librarians fit in was also brought up. Lisa suggests keeping this as an ongoing conversation.

**c. Conference planning and brainstorm for 2011**

Carrie said it was hard to come up with programs but thinks it should go easier next year for Molly because she is on the conference planning board. Carrie suggested that if anyone has ideas they should speak up.

Anne said that as vice-chair she got no information on how to organize a program, or fulfill the responsibilities of the position. She thinks there needs to be more done to prep incoming officers.

Lisa reminded the group that the annual leadership conference uses the afternoon for program planning with print and online materials available. She would like more input on how to improve this process as others are giving the same feedback. Maybe a webinar would be helpful.

Mary told the group that when she participated in program planning, the folks involved got together at the conference site, did a walk through, and brainstormed with co-sponsors for program ideas. She thought this was very helpful.

It was suggested that Anne and Carrie make a checklist of what the chair-elect needs to do. It was also suggested that AWSL meet again before March for some program planning.

**e. Explanation of WLA restructuring**

Emily discussed this earlier in the meeting.

**8. Other business**

Janice announced that her library, as part of the Fox Valley Library Council, is having a “New technology in the Library” session. The event will be held at the J.J. Keller Library in Neenah, WI on December 3, 2010. Hosted by Tasha Saecker there will be a free lunch included.

Anne suggested an AWSL happy hour at WLA and set about organizing it.

**9. Adjourn**

Mary motions to adjourn the meeting and Amy seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

Minutes submitted by  
Amy O’Shea  
Association of Special Librarians (AWSL) 2010 secretary