

President’s Message

Lisa Winkler, Wisconsin State Law Library



"In my work a good library is essential. It enables me to learn the background and previous discussions of the various issues I am called upon to decide. It provides the stability and continuity for the rule of law."
 ~Sandra Day O’Connor

Providing the stability and continuity for the rule of law is no small feat. It takes intelligence, tenacity, awareness, responsiveness, thoroughness, decisiveness, and a heaping scoop of willingness to serve. We sift through rivers of information and separate items of value, organizing them and ensuring access for a future, unknown time and purpose. Despite our hefty marching orders, it is important not to take ourselves too seriously and celebrate all we have accomplished.

“Librarians are the coolest people out there doing the hardest job out there on the frontlines. And every time I get to encounter or work with librarians, I’m always impressed by their sheer awesomeness.” ~Neil Gaiman

I would like to thank everyone who served on the Board or one of our committees this past year. Our dedicated volunteer leaders made several noteworthy advancements. We are now storing all meeting minutes in the protected member’s directory on the website and we are testing search capability options. We improved security by changing the membership directory’s password and making a plan to do so annually. We continue to explore the potential of an oral history project for LLAW, and the Archives Committee will be seeking your input next month. Keep an eye out for a survey coming soon!

Thanks to the efforts of several members, we are steadily contributing articles to the State Bar of Wisconsin’s Inside Track series, increasing the awareness of LLAW in our legal community. Our fourth and final meeting is coming up, concluding another year of fun and educational programs. Candidates for next year’s leadership roles have been announced and a ballot will be coming out in early April.

(continued on page 3)

<u>INSIDE THIS ISSUE</u>	
<i>President's Message</i>	<i>Page 1</i>
<i>LLAW Officers & Committees</i>	<i>Page 2</i>
<i>Member News & New Member</i>	<i>Page 3</i>
<i>Set Your Phaser to Awesome</i>	<i>Page 4</i>
<i>Grant Announcements</i>	<i>Page 6</i>
<i>Meetings and Reports</i>	<i>Page 6</i>
<i>Events Calendar</i>	<i>Page 7</i>

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The LLAW Newsletter, official publication of the Law Librarians Association of Wisconsin, Inc., is published quarterly in Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter and distributed to all LLAW members. Dues renewal falls in June of each year. For membership information contact Katie Kvien, Chair of the Membership Committee, at kkvien@reinhartlaw.com. Address all inquiries or items of interest to the LLAW Newsletter Editor, Michelle Wollmann by e-mail at mwollmann@reinhartlaw.com.

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President's Message *(continued from page 1)*

As we wrap up this year and look ahead to the next, I encourage you to help keep LLAW such an active organization. Time commitment varies, and every volunteer helps us achieve big goals. We will be planning a joint conference with MAALL in the next year in addition to all our ongoing initiatives already mentioned.

Contact a committee that sounds interesting today and ask how you can help this coming year.

It has been a pleasure and an honor to serve as president, and I hope to see more of you around LLAW!

Member News

Congratulations to Bonnie Shucha, UW- Law Library, who received her J.D from UW Law School in December and was admitted to the Wisconsin Bar on February 11th. She was also selected to serve on the 2016 AALL Annual Meeting Program Committee.

Diane Duffey, Habush Habush & Rottier, wrote an article on finding medical information online featured in the Wisconsin Bar's *Inside Track* February 4th issue. [Finding Online Medical Information: Start With Free Resources](#)

Emily Gellings, Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren, wrote the article, [Stay Informed About Congressional Developments with Congress.gov](#), featured in the Wisconsin Bar's *Inside Track* March 4th issue.

Victoria Coulter, UW - Law Library, was a panelist on the AALL TS-SIS March 20th podcast "The Future of TS in Law Libraries."

** New Members**

Sarah Davies – Michael Best & Friedrich

Andrew Lang – Student, UW Law School

Set Your Phasers to Awesome: A Report From Comic Con Wizard World

Laura E. Olsen, Quarles & Brady

What do librarians and sci-fi aficionados have in common? Read on, and hopefully I'll connect the dots by the close of this article. I write this on February 7, 2015, having returned home from two days at Comic Con Wizard World's first-ever event in Madison, attended by tens of thousands of my fellow and beloved geeks and nerds. My attraction? Other than a chance to meet and hear William Shatner, I was drawn to attend based on interests kindled during a childhood spent watching *Star Trek*, *Star Wars*, *The Incredible Hulk* and reading science fiction by the likes of Ray Bradbury. I am hesitant to stereotype, yet I suspect many of my librarian friends and colleagues also appreciate science fiction, pop culture, and related literature and entertainment.

[Wizard World, Inc.](#) is a publically-traded company listed on the NASDAQ as WIZD. Wizard World offers Comic Cons and pop culture conventions across North America to celebrate graphic novels, comic books, movies, television shows, gaming, technology, toys, and social media. The event is offered throughout North America, with over 25 events scheduled for 2015.

At the Madison event, about a quarter of the event-goers were dressed as their favorite video game, movie, television, or book characters. As I made my way through the convention, I encountered the likes of Anakin Skywalker, the Ghostbusters, many Captain Kirks, zombies, Agent J from *Men in Black*, Toothless from *How to Train Your Dragon*, plus numerous contemporary characters from anime, video games, and television whom I could not identify. People of all ages were at the conference. The male to female ratio was about two to one. The Batmobile and the DeLorean from [Back to the Future](#) were among the items for viewing in the gigantic conference arena.

Celebrities in attendance included Captain James Tiberius Kirk, The Hulk, Norm from *Cheers*, Winson Zeddemore, and Lando Calrissian: known on their tax returns as William Shatner, Lou Ferrigno, George Wendt, Ernie Hudson, and Billy Dee Williams. I sheepishly confess to paying my hard-earned money to meet and visit with William Shatner, Lou Ferrigno, and Ernie Hudson, alongside my children. I appreciated the opportunity to thank them for adding some wonder and entertainment to my childhood, teen, and even adult years. I'm a few hundred dollars poorer for these meet and greets, but it was worth the investment. Ernie Hudson told me a Ghostbusters sequel is in the works, which the [IMDb](#) has slated for release in 2016.

At the conference, I met Scott Harpt, the Wisconsin author of [Jackpot Bloom](#), a Kickstarter graphic novel aimed at late elementary school students. [Kickstarter](#) is a U.S.-based global crowdfunding platform, which helps give life to creative projects. In the book, the protagonist uses his tennis skills to save the world. I purchased an autographed copy for the elementary school library in which I volunteer, as the librarian, Leslie Wilson, is currently expanding the popular graphic novel section. I discussed the explosion of graphic novels with the author. I was once a naysayer about graphic novels, until I understood their attraction and power in engaging young readers.

The event showcases celebrities, authors, creators, and artists from the science fiction, animation, comic book, motion picture, and television industries offering discussions, signing autographs, and posing for photographs. Collectible items of all sorts are available for purchase, ranging from novels to comic books to swords to action figures. A mint copy of *Star Trek: The Modala Imperative* comic book now adorns my bookshelf at home. How can an item with a 1991 copyright date be a collector's item?

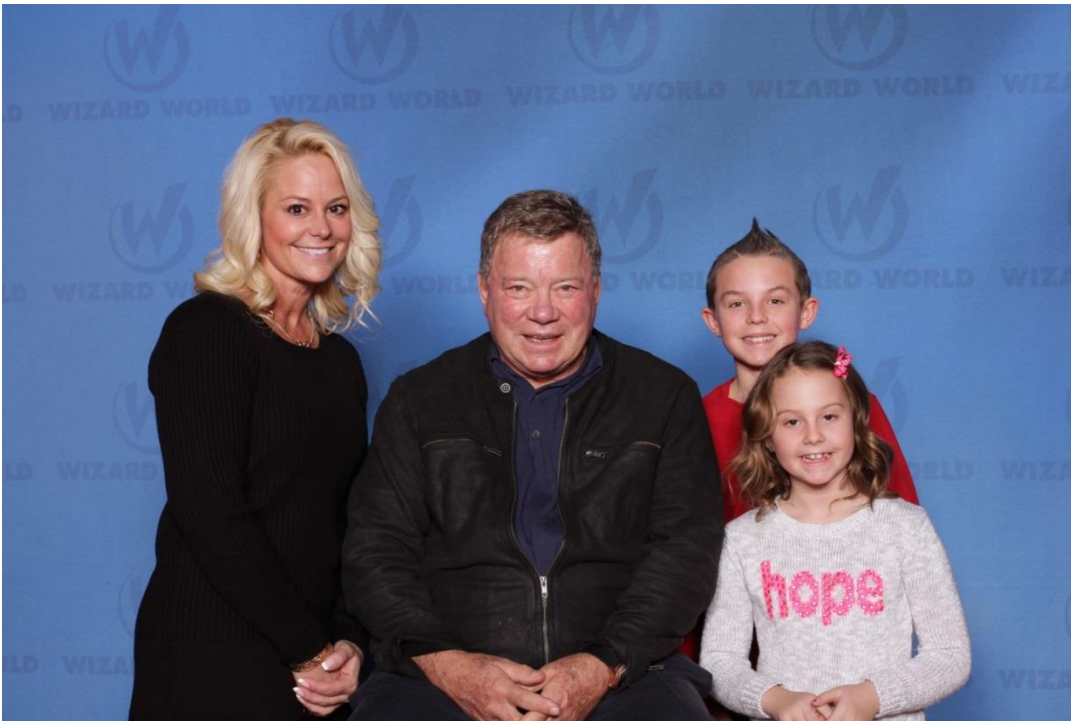
What does this have all to do with librarians and libraries? Perhaps nothing on the surface. Nonetheless, I have many librarian friends and colleagues interested in science fiction, pop culture, and I know many of us developed and fed these interests at public and school libraries. Delving in deeper, I learned during Bill Shatner's talk that people who attend conference such as Comic Con are interested in the mythology and lore of science fiction. They are curious people: eager

to learn, seek out information, not unlike those on *Star Trek* who were exploring strange new works and seeking out new life and new civilizations. In all seriousness, Comic Con is attended by knowledge-seeking people.

The vibe at the conference was outstanding: no pushing or shoving, despite the huge crowds. I met and interacted with kind people, excited and enthusiastic to share their interests and knowledge with others. Very much like all the librarians I know. Shatner's panel talk "Boldly Going with William Shatner" was the draw for many at the convention. For thirty short yet worthwhile minutes he discussed his documentaries, UFOs, quantum physics, his passion for motorcycling, re-tooling oneself at any age (the topic of his Kickstarter book [Catch me Up](#)), and staying vibrant through reinventing oneself. Quite the storyteller, Shatner answered a simple question about his upcoming charity motorcycle ride from Chicago to Los Angeles with a humorous and detailed story about his own cycling escapades. Always looking for a new creative outlet, Shatner is helping develop a new breed of customized motorcycles through his new partnership, [Rivet Motors](#). Through Shatner's brief yet loaded panel discussion it's clear that he is one with a thirst for knowledge, constant drive for self-improvement, all while maintaining a sense of humor and joie de vivre. When asked about his favorite movie prop, he mused, answering something to the effect of a "female co-star," followed by wardrobe items.

To our family collection, we add a signed Lou Ferrigno poster, a signed photo with Ernie Hudson, and a treasured family photo featuring William Shatner. More importantly, I had a day to spend celebrating and learning about science fiction and the role it plays in not only entertaining, but also nurturing curiosity and a desire to learn and grow. Kirk out.

Written for my friend, Bill Shatner-loving and former Quarles & Brady librarian, Lisa Kauffman Millsap





**THE POWER OF
CONNECTION AALL 2015**
108th Annual Meeting & Conference
July 18-21 | Philadelphia, PA

Interested in keeping your skills up-to-date with an upcoming continuing education class? How about a chance to network with colleagues from across the country or learning the latest best practices at the AALL annual meeting in Philadelphia this July? LLAW offers grants in support of these and other ongoing educational activities. For more information, including easy application instructions, visit <http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/llaw/membership/grants.html>.

Deadline for AALL annual meeting grant applications is Friday, April 17, 2015.

Questions? Please feel free to contact Grants Chair, [Megan A. O'Brien](#)

LLAW Meeting Minutes and Reports

Meeting minutes are available in PDF by clicking the links below.

- [2014-2015 Third Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting, February 3, 2015, Quarles & Brady Offices, Madison and Milwaukee, WI](#)
- [2014-2015 Third Quarterly Business Meeting, February 11, 2015, Quarles & Brady Offices, Madison and Milwaukee, WI](#)

Events Calendar

2015

Future AALL Annual Meetings

July 18-21, 2015 Philadelphia, PA

July 16-19, 2016 Chicago, IL

Future SLA Meetings

June 14-16, 2015 Boston, MA

**The deadline for submitting
articles for the next**

LLAW BRIEFS

is

June 1, 2015

**Submit articles to
mwoollmann@reinhardtllaw.com**

