

Western Council of State Libraries Virtual Meeting Minutes
Friday, April 22, 2022, 2 – 4 PM Central

President Michael Scott (IA) called the meeting to order at 2 p.m. CST and welcomed the Western Council members who were able to attend. Introductions were made.

Professional Development Exchanges: Treasurer Robin Westphal (MO) reviewed the process for utilizing the Professional Development Exchanges (PDEs), a great benefit for all WestCo members. These were originally created because many state librarians couldn't attend Legislative Day with state or federal funds. Due to Covid-related travel restrictions, the Executive Board has relaxed the requirements about PDE's expiration dates and will continue to do so into the near future. Robin pulled up the website and forms that are used to get prior approval to use the exchanges and the form to get reimbursed in increments of \$500. She encouraged member to review the policy at <https://westernco.org/Professional-Development-Exchanges> and submit forms at <https://westernco.org/page-18044>.

Robin noted that PDE's can be used to bring in a speaker for your staff development too.

Policies Update: President Elect Jamie Markus (WY), took the lead in updating the Western Council policies as they hadn't been updated for at least ten years. Membership, Archives and Records, Fiscal, Conflict of Interest, and more. The PD Exchange Policy was updated to read that multiple exchanges can be used on one trip. Used to be limited to two PDEs, but now it's unlimited for maximum flexibility. The Travel Expenses policy now reads that the Board *may* pay for travel to meetings. Members are encouraged to take a look at the newly reviewed policies at <https://westernco.org/Policies>.

Board Elections update: Michael said that as of July 1 the President Elect position will be open. We may be doing some recruiting! See the list of current officers at <https://westernco.org/join-us>. This meeting constitutes the formal call for the officer. A ballot will be sent out soon.

2023 WestCo Meeting: Robin noted that in 2020, we were heading to Hawaii for the annual meeting and had speakers and facilities lined up. Had to cancel, tried to reschedule in 2021 and 2022, but with travel restrictions and the lead time required for planning a good meeting, in-person gatherings were put on hold. In 2023 we are going to have an in-person meeting, likely in May or June 2023. We also hope to get together as a WestCo group for a few hours as part of COSLA in D.C. or Montana in October 2022. We may send another survey to members to ensure that most can still attend and need to start planning in the fall.

Digital Inclusion / EDI Efforts: Secretary Stephanie Bailey-White (ID) started the discussion of Digital Inclusion efforts by talking about their efforts to lead the state's Digital Equity plan in their state. Waiting for more information about planning requirements and is willing to share their planning process and resources. Stacey (HI) put in plug for Skill Finder based in Australia and provided a link to Hawaii's Digital Literacy assessment. Others talked about their relationship with their state broadband office. Jamie shared about their EDI efforts.

ARPA Funding: Some states have spent all or most of their ARPA funds and others are looking at extensions. Stacey asked what the process is for asking for extensions. It's still unclear what that is, but

Teri from IMLS said during the last COSLA meeting that conversations can start taking place now. Looking at a nine-month extension for many states.

Opportunity to Share: State Librarians shared positive things that are going on in their agencies.

Adjournment: Michael adjourned the meeting at 3:58 p.m. CST.