

WALA

Wichita Area Library Association



A message from our President: Jessica Pierpoint Back to the Fullest

Hello WALA Readers!

As the crisp air comes in full force, so does our planning for all this year's fun filled networking events!

We entered summer with having two gatherings and then kicked off our Meet and Greet Membership Drive at The Sandbox in Derby for some good food and great conversations.

As we look ahead into the holiday time, we decided to try and get local legislators together for an after-lunchtime Desserts and Coffee gathering event (be on the lookout for the save the date in this newsletter). We will also be doing our traditional Holiday Book Swap and Holiday Party- more to come in the next month but it is sure to be festive! In the spring, we hope to have a unique library tour to take and a fresh new theme for our symposium.

As always, our board strives to serve its WALA community by keeping the networking going and the topics relevant to the current library times. If you ever know of anyone looking to become more involved in local librarianship community or find yourself needing to renew your membership, it's never too late to join WALA today!



Find us on Facebook!

Don't keep WALA the best-kept secret in Kansas library land! Like us on Facebook and invite your friends to do the same.

We are always happy to post events or job openings at WALA libraries - just send a link to

Jessica Pierpoint:

jessica.pierpoint@wichita.edu

Upcoming WALA Events

- Meet the Board, p. 3
- Summer with WALA, p. 8
- Coffee & Chat with State Legislators, p. 9

WALA 2023 Leadership

Officers

<p>President 2022-2023 Jessica Pierpoint WSU Library 316-978-5074 jessica.pierpoint@wichita.edu</p>	<p>Vice President/ President Elect Melissa Emo Emporia State University Library & Archives 620-341-5049 memo@emporia.edu</p>	<p>Past President 2021-2022 April Hernandez Goddard Public Library 316-794-8771 director@goddardlibrary.com</p>	<p>Webmaster 2015- Samuel Willis WSU Libraries 316-978-5104 samuel.willis@wichita.edu</p>
<p>Treasurer 2022-2024 Anne Ethen Wichita Public Library 316-303-8181 aethen@wichita.gov</p>	<p>Secretary 2022-2024 Kathie Buckman Emporia State University 620-757-9088 kbuckman@emporia.edu</p>	<p>Newsletter Editors 2022- Kathie Buckman Loree Hisken Heather Powell Julie Mills</p>	<p>Ex Officio 2016- Nicole Penley SCKLS 1-800-234-0529 ext. 133 nicole@sckls.info</p>

Board of Directors

<p>2022-2024 Samuel Willis WSU Libraries 316-978-5104 samuel.willis@wichita.edu</p>	<p>2022-2024 Julie Mills 253-509-2391 julieannalynnmills@gmail.com</p>	<p>2022-2024 Jeannie Booth Friends University 316-295-5603 jeannie_booth@friends.edu</p>	<p>2023-2025 Samantha Henning Wichita State University Libraries 316-978-5789 samantha.henning@wichita.edu</p>
<p>2022-2023 Cina Shirley Douglass Public Library 316-746-2600 douglb@sbcglobal.net</p>	<p>2023-2025 Heather Powell Mulvane Public Library (316) 777-1211 librarian.hlpowell@gmail.com</p>	<p>2023-2025 Eric Gustafson Derby Public Library (316) 788-0760 eric@derbylibrary.com</p>	

WALA

Wichita Area Library Association

MEET OUR BOARD MEMBERS



Jessica Pierpoint

**Wichita State University-Ablah Library
2022-2023 WALA President**

I joined WALA to get more involved in the local library community. Spring is my favorite season, because it is starting to get warmer, and flowers are starting to sprout. The seasons also change to spring around my birthday month, so to me I think celebrations! Watching my favorite movie or TV show rerun helps me when I'm having a bad or stressful day. I like to collect movies and TV show sets, a lot of friends call me a Blockbuster because we have so many.



Melissa Emo

**Emporia State University Libraries & Archives
WALA Vice President/President Elect 2023-2024**

I joined WALA to get more involved in library organizations. After attending a few meetings and getting to know everyone, I was excited to be more involved by being on the board.

I enjoy our yearly events and regular meetings that feel more like fun get-togethers. Fall is my favorite season. I love cool days and warm drinks. With Fall comes the best holidays. I am happiest in a warm sweater with a hot coffee and reading a thrilling book. My superpower would be teleportation so I can travel anywhere instantly. I am not a fan of long travel days. When I am having a bad day, I take the time to have a soothing cup of coffee or tea and then relax with my cat on the couch so I can read or watch a movie. I like to collect books for my own little library. I enjoy my ever growing to-be-read (TBR) pile. I also like to bring books back from my travels.

MEET OUR BOARD MEMBERS



Anne Ethen

**Evergreen Community Center & Library and Angelou Northeast Branch Library, Wichita Public Library. Branch Manager
WALA Treasurer**

I like to collect Library and book-related t-shirts and socks. My coworker liked my "books are groovy" t-shirt so much that she asked if it would be okay if she got one for herself. We happened to wear them on the same day and posed for a photo. I am the tall one in the photo.



Jeannie Booth

**Edmund Stanley Library at Friends University. Serials & Cataloging Librarian
2022-2024 WALA Board of Directors**

I joined the WALA board because I wanted to be more involved in our library world in Wichita, and I thought that would be a good first step. My favorite season is autumn because there's a brief moment when the weather

is pleasant before starting to get cold, but it's also not super sunny either, and this is my favorite time to be outside.

If I had a superpower would probably be something to the effect of healing others, physically or emotionally, as needed, in an instant. If I've had a rough day, I like to listen to high energy music and take short reading breaks throughout the day with a hot tea nearby to brighten my day. Fun fact: I collect dice, the stranger the better.



April Hernandez

**Southeast Kansas Library System.
Immediate Past President 2022-2023**

I joined WALA and got involved with the board to support the profession in the Wichita area and it is a great networking opportunity.

Spring is my favorite season because I love watching everything come back to life. If I had a superpower, it would be flying, so that I could go anywhere I wanted or needed quickly. If I am having a bad or stressful day, I go roam the book stacks, straighten the shelves, and just enjoy the library to make the day better. I like to collect books, of course.

MEET OUR BOARD MEMBERS



Samantha Henning

Ablah Library at Wichita State University. Library Scholarly Information Specialist

2023-2025 WALA Board of Directors

I became involved in WALA because I was encouraged to join when I started my career at WSU back in 2019. It has been a great opportunity to network with fellow librarians and keep connections. Definitely fall is my favorite season because my favorite holidays, my wedding anniversary, and my birthday are all during the fall. It's a wonderful time of slowing down and spending time with friends and family. Plus the weather is great! I love a cool, rainy November day with the trees full of red and orange leaves.

If I had a superpower it would be I wish the power to time travel. I think learning about the past is so interesting and it would be so cool to experience different time periods, either past or future. If I am having a bad or stressful day, I love going for a walk to clear my mind. But also taking a book outside and reading while lounging in my hammock is a great way to de-stress. I like to collect anything ephemeral! Whether that's moments in time through my many Polaroid photos I've taken, or the flower cuttings I've pressed to preserve to commemorate a special moment, or even small scraps of paper with a loved one's handwriting, it's the little memories that I like to collect.



Cina Shirley

Douglas Public Library. Director

2023-2025 WALA Board of Directors

My favorite season is Fall. I like it because the leaves start changing colors and the weather is cooler! If I'm having a bad or stressful day- I will drink a Diet Pepsi (but I shouldn't!), or when I get home I will play fetch with my two dogs. I like to collect blue and white stoneware.

MEET OUR BOARD MEMBERS

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Samuel Willis

Wichita State University Libraries, Technology Development Librarian

WALA Webmaster 2015-Current & 2022-2024 Board of Directors

In my first year of librarianship, I was invited to attend a WALA event and there I met the (then) WALA webmaster who was

looking someone to take it over. I was excited for the opportunity to join WALA. Autumn is my favorite season because, as the weather and falling leaves are just so beautiful! It is very peaceful, and reminds me to slow down. Teleportation would be my superpower because then I could visit all kinds of amazing places, and get to see family and friends who live far away. If I am having a bad or stressful day, what I like to do is to listen to classical or religious music. Sometimes it can help me concentrate, too. I like to collect plastic bread clips - I use them to commemorate special occasions.



Julie Mills

Goddard Public Library, Director

2022-2024 WALA Board of Directors

I joined WALA to be around other library professionals and meet new library people.

Spring is my favorite season, because winter is over and my birthday is in April. If I had a superpower, I would love to fly! I want to hang out with the birds and dragonflies. If I am having a bad or stressful day, what do I do to make myself happy? Eat pizza and binge Netflix. I collect cake recipes! And I bake them too :)



Nicole Penley

South Central Kansas Library System

WALA Ex Officio 2016-

What's your favorite season and why? My favorite season is Autumn because it is finally cool enough to spend time outdoors and enjoy the colors of all the leaves turning.

My family says that I have a superpower of finding lost things. It has come in handy so I'll stick with that one.

If I am having a bad or stressful day, usually an audiobook and knitting will help me refocus during stressful days. At the end of the day, reading silly books with my kiddos makes my heart happy. And I've never met a bad day that my mom's chocolate chip cookies won't make better.

MEET OUR BOARD MEMBERS

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Kathie Buckman

Emporia State University, Director, SLIM

WALA Secretary 2022-2024

I attended my first WALA event with Dr. Andrew Smith and just LOVED the people I met. So, I joined WALA so I could make lots of new friends. FALL is my very favorite season....followed by WINTER. I love snow. If I had a superpower, it would be to read faster.....I have SO MANY books on my TBR list.....

If I'm having a stressful day, I go for a nice, long bike ride. And then I follow that up with ice cream. I'm an ice cream junkie. I collect books. My house is embarrassingly full of books.



Heather Powell

Mulvane Public Library, Teen & Adult Program Coordinator

2022-2024 WALA Board of Directors & Newsletter Editor

2023-

I joined WALA because it's a great networking opportunity and to learn more about the area library association & meet other librarians. My favorite season is a tie between Spring and Autumn. Spring we have beautiful thunderstorms and all the plants are starting to bloom. Autumn has it's own beauty and cooler temps, plus my favorite holiday, Halloween! If I had a superpower, I think I would choose either telekinetic or telepathy because moving things with your mind sounds pretty cool. If I'm having a stressful day, I like to take a pause and go outside. Take a nice deep breathe to ground out, also a cup of delicious tea helps. I like to collect rocks and enamel pins



Eric Gustafson

Derby Public Library, Director

2022-2024 WALA Board of Directors

I joined WALA to network and work with Wichita area librarians. I've also had a lot of fun as a WALA member! I like fall. The feeling in the air is very nostalgic for me and I enjoy the cooler temperatures.

If I had a super power it would have to be super speed so I could get more done in a day. If I'm having a bad or stressful day, I try to get outside and walk or ride my bike. I'm not much of a collector, but I do enjoy collecting classic kids mystery stories. I have several hundred Hardy Boys, Nancy Drew, Ken Holt and The Three Investigators.

Summer Fun with waza

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September Meet & Greet at the Sandbox in Derby, KS

August Singo Summer Gathering at Chicken n Pickle in Wichita, KS



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

WICHITA AREA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

LEGISLATIVE COFFEE, DESSERTS, AND CONVERSATION



DETAILS

Please join WALA for our Legislative Coffee, Desserts, and Conversation event where you can meet your local representatives and senators while hearing from our Kansas Library Association President.

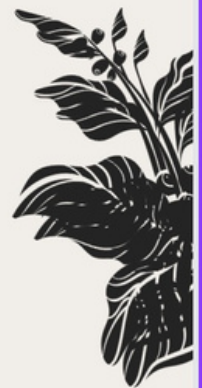
Date: Thursday, Nov. 16, 2023

Time: 2:00pm to 4:00pm

Place: Derby Public Library
1600 Walnut Grove Rd Derby, KS 67037

Keynote: Sean Bird, KLA President and Senior Associate Dean at Washburn University

Menu: Variety of local desserts, coffee, tea, and refreshers. *We will have some Gluten/Peanut/Tree Nut free items.





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Providing grants, continuing education and support services to 145 member libraries.

South Central Kansas Library System

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*WALA
Book Exchange &
Holiday Party*

**DETAILS
COMING
SOON**



Do you know a library staff member who would enjoy the social interaction and networking opportunities that WALA offers? Do

you have a coworker who could contribute to our local organization? Do you have an employee who has great ideas and loves to be involved with the community? If so, encourage them to become a member of the Wichita Area Library Association!

For \$15.00 a year, membership for WALA is a steal! All they need to do is fill out a membership application and mail it and a check for \$15.00 (made payable to WALA) to

Anne Ethen, WALA Treasurer
Wichita Public Library
Evergreen Branch
2601 N. Arkansas
Wichita, KS 67204

Membership forms can be found on our website:
<https://walaks.org/membership/>

The Wichita Area Library Association (WALA) is an organization of library professionals established in 1982 in Wichita, Kansas.

WALA is dedicated to supporting libraries and library employees in the Wichita area and works to improve library services and access for library users in the Wichita community.

Submit materials for WALA News to:
Heather Powell, librarian.hlpowell@gmail.com