Welcome to 2015! If WEMTA’s upcoming events are any indication, 2015 will be an exciting year filled with innovation in education. We are excited that our February newsletter will be shared with potential members throughout Wisconsin.

This newsletter is just a sampling of WEMTA news. For more information, see any of WEMTA’s various communication outlets including Facebook, Twitter, and Google+. All can be found at www.wemta.org.

Rich Halverson from Games + Learning + Society and The Network joined the board during our February meeting to share some new technologies to connect educators. These technologies are in beta form, but we are hoping to bring this new social network to our members at the spring conference.

Speaking of the spring conference, Make IT, Shake IT, and Move IT @WEMTA15, will be on Sunday, March 22 through Tuesday, March 24. See the conference website for more information and to register.

Our Professional Development Committee has organized our first Innovative Learning Spaces Bus Tour. Sign up early, as there is limited space!

WEMTA affiliate liaisons for International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE), American Association of School Libraries (AASL), and Learning for Life (L4L) are updating us on ISTE and ALA national conferences. WEMTA also is proud to announce 2 ISTE Making IT Happen award winners.

Permanent Endowment Trust (PET) announces its awards and grants below as well. Don’t forget all of the resources available through the Intellectual Freedom (IF) Committee. Both PET and IF have activities planned for members at the WEMTA conference. Don’t miss out!

Our association is the sum of its members. Many of our members have stepped up to take on leadership roles. A sincere congratulations goes out to these willing members. Watch for the email regarding WEMTA elections and please take the time to read their bios and vote.
There is much more below. Enjoy this month’s newsletter and we hope to see you at the conference in March.

Sincerely,
Donna Smith
WEMTA President

Why WEMTA?

So Many Reasons WEMTA Should be YOUR Professional Organization

The Wisconsin Educational Media and Technology Association (WEMTA) is Wisconsin’s professional organization for school librarians, technology integrators / mentors, technology coordinators / administrators, and all educators interested in how students learn through inquiry and technology.

WEMTA supports educators to:

● **Keep current** and on the cutting edge, get ideas of best practice, and network with other professionals through
  o The Google Community (WEMTA PLC)
  o **Twitter** (@WEMTAOnline)
  o **Facebook** (WEMTA)
  o **The annual conference** (March 22-24, 2015 at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells)
  o The Digital Dispatch, WEMTA’s quarterly online newsletter

● **Participate** in
  o WEMTA-sponsored professional development activities like workshops and webinars and this year’s **BUS TOUR**!
  o WEMTA programs for K-12 students like **Battle of the Books** and the **Golden Archer Award**

● **Share** one’s own knowledge through WEMTA’s conference and WEMTA PLC

● **Support** advocacy and **promote** intellectual freedom

● **Receive**
  o resources like the **Big Deal Newsletter**
  o discounts like the **JourneyEd Adobe program**
  o discounts on fees for other organizations like the **Wisconsin Library Association** and **ISTE**
  o student scholarships or outreach grants for programs in your school

Read through the rest of this newsletter for details on these activities or learn about them through our social media channels. If you join now, **you will continue to receive this newsletter and get discounts on the professional development activities and conference.**
Share the value of membership with others in your school and invite them to join, too. You can become an Educational Member at $60 per year.

To join online:
2. Click on Register in the upper right corner. (If you have previously been a member, click on Login in the upper right-hand corner and enter your email and password and skip step 3.)
3. Fill in the New User information. Click on Save Profile Information / Become a Registered User.
4. After you have registered, click on Login on the next screen. Enter your email and password.
5. Then click on Become a WEMTA Member.
6. Check the box to make a WEMTA Membership payment. Choose your membership type, indicate your payment method, and click submit.

If you prefer, you can download an application form.

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Innovative Learning Spaces Bus Tour

Looking into a Makerspace or other collaborative learning space for your school district? WEMTA's first Innovative Learning Spaces Bus Tour will leave from the Waunakee High School north parking lot on Saturday, March 14, 9 am - 1 pm.

Thanks to our sponsor, DUET Resource Group, cost will be minimal and snacks will be provided! Tour is FREE for WEMTA members and $10 for non-WEMTA members. Payment of cash or check will be accepted the day of the tour. Complete the Google form at http://goo.gl/tzTXxz to register, then watch your email for confirmation of your spot! Please bring confirmation with you to the tour. Seating limited to 50, so register early! Questions? Contact Holly Nelson at nelsonh@milton.k12.wi.us or Stacy Fisher at sfisher@waunakee.k12.wi.us. Hope to see you there!

Itinerary:
- 9 am - Leave Waunakee High School north parking lot (Door 12)
- 9:15 - 10:15 am - Madison Public library/the Bubbler
- 10:30 - 11:30 am - Sector 67
ISTE

ISTE 2015 heads to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania this summer! Make sure to register using the WEMTA housing block to join other Wisconsin educators at the big event! Stay tuned for information on the Safari Montage sponsored WEMTA social to be held at a location near the conference center. The social is a fantastic event to network with other educators from our state and to learn more about our organization.

ISTE Making IT Happen Award Winners!

We are pleased to announce the recipients of the 2015 “Making IT Happen” Award given in partnership with ISTE. Our 2015 award recipients are Pernille Ripp, of the Oregon School District and Jennifer Zurawski of the Unified School District of De Pere. Both Jennifer and Pernille “Make IT Happen” not only in their own school districts, but throughout the educational community as a whole.

Make plans to attend the 2015 WEMTA conference in the Wisconsin Dells to help us honor both Jennifer and Pernille.

Pernille Ripp | @pernilleripp
Jennifer Zurawski | @tweets2jen

AASL

Go Deeper with AASL at WEMTA15
Check out two opportunities to dig into AASL and Learning4Life resources at the 2015 WEMTA Conference! Register for the conference and see the full schedule at: http://www.wemta.org/conference

**AASL Standards 101** will introduce you to AASL’s Standards for the 21st-Century Learner. These essential guidelines paint a clear picture of what we can help today’s students to become. They also create a vision for your school library program. Every participant will have the chance to converse and collaborate around a lesson that could incorporate the standards. Some lucky participants will walk away with a free copy of the companion to the standards called Standards for the 21st-Century Learner in Action! To get the most out of the hour-long session, preview the standards beforehand at http://www.ala.org/aasl/standards-guidelines/learning-standards. This is NOT just for AASL members!

**Advocacy in Action** will show you how small steps can make a big impact on your library advocacy efforts. We’ll begin by examining teacher-librarian roles and responsibilities. Next we’ll study an advocacy action plan and focus on how you can use it to meet your own advocacy needs. Finally, we’ll highlight tech tools for sharing success stories with stakeholders.

**Gear Up for School Library Month!**
April is School Library Month and it’s not too soon to start planning. It’s the 30th anniversary celebration so there are many great events in the works. You can celebrate by having students enter AASL’s digital storytelling contest. The contest theme is Your School Library: Where Learning Never Ends. For more information on the contest and all that AASL has in store for April, go to: http://www.ala.org/aasl/slm

**ALA in San Francisco**
Registration for ALA’s annual conference in sunny San Francisco is now open. The conference will take place June 25th-30th and will feature many great speakers and sessions. Get all the information you need at: http://alaac15.ala.org/

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**PET (Permanent Endowment Trust)**

**PET Awards Scholarships and Grants**

Thanks to the generous support of many WEMTA members, four of our colleagues will receive scholarships and grants at the 2015 WEMTA conference. Recipients of the Lowell Wilson Scholarship are Jone Davis, Amanda Meloy, and Marsha Walejko. Sarah Wendorf will receive funding for the Waunakee Intermediate School STEAM Library.

The Lowell Wilson Scholarship provides $1500 in funding towards completion of 902 licensure requirements as well as a one year WEMTA membership for each recipient. Jone Davis is the District Library Director, Northland Pines School District, Eagle River and a student in UW Oshkosh/UWSSLEC program. Amanda Meloy is Library Media and Technology Specialist, Toki Middle School, Madison and a student in the UW-Whitewater program. Marsha Walejko is currently a Seventh Grade Language Arts Teacher, Wautoma Area School District who has been admitted to the UWSSLEC program for her 2015 appointment as High School Library Media Specialist in the Wautoma Area School District. The Waunakee School Intermediate STEAM library will provide students with hands on learning experiences in technology and allow the expansion of the current program to more fifth and sixth grade
classes. PET funds will be used for the purchase of additional software and equipment as well as for a staff study group based on the book *Invent to Learn*.

Applications for 2015-2016 scholarships and grants will be due December 15, 2015. Application forms are available on the WEMTA web site at [http://www.wemta.org/awards/scholarships_grants.cfm](http://www.wemta.org/awards/scholarships_grants.cfm). Contributions to support scholarships, grants, and other PET funded projects are encouraged and may be sent to WEMTA at PO Box 44578, Madison, WI 53744-4578.

**MAKE IT, SHAKE IT, and MOVE IT with PET at the 2015 WEMTA CONFERENCE**

Share your vision for the future of PET, WEMTA’s Permanent Endowment Trust, on PET’s graffiti wall at the 2015 WEMTA Conference. Let us know what you would like PET to fund, projects PET should pursue, and your ideas on how we can work together to increase the funds available to move IT forward in Wisconsin K-12 schools.

P.S. PET will provide a wide variety of colorful markers so you can leave your spray paint at home!

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**Golden Archer Award**

Golden Archer Award votes are due March 1st! Be sure to get your votes in! Links for voting and next year’s nomination can be found on the WEMTA website on the [Golden Archer Award page](http://www.wemta.org/awards/scholarships_grants.cfm). Thank you for participating in our state book award!

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**Battle of the Books**

There are 209 elementary teams, 150 middle school teams, and 90 high school teams registered for this year’s Statewide Battle of the Books competitions. We highly recommend all teams participate in the practice battles, as this is the only way we know it works for you and it will reduce stress for your students to know how the final competition is conducted. **February 9-20** are the dates for the practice battles. **February 23-27** are the dates for the 2014-15 Battle of the Books battles.

Have a voice in what titles will be included in future competitions! Now is a good time to login to Moodle and recommend titles for next year’s battles.
Bound to Stay Bound is teaming up with WEMTA’s Statewide Battle of the Books program by creating two special items to promote the coming year’s battle. Removable “battle stickers” to put on your books, and Battle of the Books posters for each division (3) featuring all 20 battle titles are in the plans. Learn more at conference or from your BTSB rep!

IF Committee Serving YOU!

The Intellectual Freedom Committee is happy to serve and support you! Here are three ways we’re doing so this Spring.

Coordinating Spring Conference events:

“Dangerous Ideas: Talking about Intellectual Freedom Issues”: This session will include an informal discussion where we learn from one another about selection procedures, self-censorship, and how to prepare for the possibility of a challenge.

b. “Get Out of Jail Free!: Mash it Up! Remix It! Do the Dance with Dubstep!” This session explores copyright issues as they pertain to the videos and presentations that students create using copyright free, fair use, and public domain music and video.

c. A dinner gathering on Sunday night, 3/15/15 @5pm. We’ll be eating at The Cheese Factory. We’d love for you to join us! Contact Carin Bringelson at if@wemta.org to confirm that you can make it, and she’ll include you in the reservations.

2. Sharing resources to raise awareness as you celebrate School Library Month in April and Choose Privacy Week in May. Keep your eyes on the Google+ Professional Learning Community (PLC).

3. Promoting and jointly administering the WLA/WEMTA Intellectual Freedom Award. Learn more at: http://www.wemta.org/committees/if_award_application.cfm

If you have any questions about Intellectual Freedom, feel free to contact any of the IF Committee members: Carin Bringelson (Chair), Marcia Aas, Jim Perkins, Brionne Roberts-Bray, or Susy Siel. Or email if@wemta.org.

Help Choose the Media We Buy for You

Wisconsin Media Lab relies on WEMTA’s input for the selection of new educational media resources. We acquire the resources that educators want to use in their libraries and classrooms. That means your school saves money because you don’t have to pay for the content, we do! Please check out our Teacher Preview website and tell us which resources you would use in your school.
The following resources are up for review this year:

- BrainPOP
- Flocabulary: Social Studies
- Flocabulary: Research and Study Skills
- Great Hearts of Courage Series
- Little Math Whiz Series
- Ciencias en español (K-2)
- Ciencias en español (3-5)
- An Entrepreneur's Guide on Launching & Growing a Business
- Shakespeare: The Animated Tales
- Texting and Driving: The Deadliest Distraction
- Reasons for Hope, Reasons to Live
- Particle Fever
- Simply Speaking

Cast your vote for free classroom resources by March 1, 2015 at WIMediaLab.org/previews.

Governor Walker's Proposed 2015-17 State Budget

Governor Walker released his proposed 2015-17 state budget February 3, which maintains funding for BadgerLink and Public Library Aid and makes changes to the TEACH program, by broadening existing statutory language, so more schools can request access to multiple data lines and video links. In addition, the proposed budget includes several initiatives related to broadband expansion. For a general overview of what the Governor's proposed budget includes, you can view his executive budget summary or the Budget in Brief. We have provided a few snapshots of the general Department of Public Instruction budget below.

Now that the budget has been introduced, the powerful Joint Finance Committee (JFC) will begin reviewing the document. JFC will hold hearings with state agency leaders, conduct several public hearings throughout the state and then make modifications to the proposed budget. After JFC finishes its work in May, the bill goes to the Senate and Assembly for approval.

Meanwhile, the State Legislature will continue to work. Representative Michael Schraa (R-Oshkosh) and Senator Rick Gudex (R-Fond du Lac) have introduced Assembly Joint Resolution 5 and Senate Joint Resolution 4, respectively, which eliminate the office of State Treasurer. Under their proposal, the Lieutenant Governor takes the place of the State Treasurer on the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands, which administers the Common School Fund. WEMTA’s Legislative Committee will closely monitor this legislation.
Read the WEMTA Legislative Blog in its entirety here.

Watch for upcoming conference opportunities:

WEMTA PARTNERS

www.digitalwish.org

Benefits for WEMTA Members:
Free Programs
Lesson Plan Library - One of Digital Wish’s most visited web areas, teachers have posted over 6,000 searchable lesson plans. Some plans have been viewed over 20,000 times! Email the lesson plans to yourself. Free.
The Apps Center - Each app includes a description, screenshots, and teacher rating. Links send you to the marketplace for downloading these free and pay for apps. Free.

Grants and Fundraising
Wish Lists - Teachers register and create wish lists of classroom technology then invite community members to donate. Funds appear in your electronic wallet. Free
T-Shirts for Technology Fundraiser – Run a T-shirt campaign and use the profits to get new classroom technology.

Check out the hottest programs from the nonprofit Digital Wish to support school technology. http://www.digitalwish.com/dw/digitalwish/news?id=236
Adobe CS6 being discontinued in February

Adobe made an announcement to discontinue the CS6 offerings as of February 27th. As of February 27th, CS6 licenses would no longer be available as perpetual license (one time cost) offering. Going forward WEMTA members would only be able to purchase the licenses under the subscription based Creative Cloud offering.

Programs such as Acrobat, Photoshop Elements, Captivate, Lightroom etch would still be available for members to purchase at WEMTA discounts.

We would recommend ringing some bells on your side to gather the final requirements of CS6 titles that you may need and purchase them before February 23rd to get the order processed before the discontinuation.

Contact WEMTA’s dedicated Account Manager Amrita Sethi at 800.876.3507 Xt 7100 or asethi@journeyed.com