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The Wisconsin Library association now joins.

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Wednesday, May 20, 2009

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Hi everyone,

West Bend's Common Council refused to rescind their previous vote, denying four of the current professional folks reappointment. The Council was expressing displeasure that the board, despite the fact that it acted on advice of counsel, took too long dispatching the Maziarka's complaint.

And so it goes. The WLA is now in the house.

[From The WLA Blog](#)

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Open letter to West Bend

The WLA recently sent an open letter to West Bend's Mayor, Common Council, library board, library staff, and citizens regarding the complaints about the library's collection:

The Wisconsin Library Association strongly supports the staff and trustees of the West Bend Community Memorial Library as they carefully consider challenges to the library's collection policy, while continuing to provide a library collection that represents the diverse views of the users of the library.

Free access to ideas and freedom of expression are bedrock principles of this country enshrined in the United States Constitution. Public libraries are institutions dedicated to the freedom of expression and inquiry necessary for a democracy to survive. The public library is the provider of access for all citizens to the full range of ideas, including controversial or unpopular ideas.

It is contrary to the democratic principles of this country for any group to impose its views on others through efforts to limit access to views they oppose. It is also contrary to democratic principles for attempts to be made to place control of a library in the hands of those with a narrow political agenda.

The Wisconsin Library Association commends the courageous West Bend librarians, public officials, and citizens who are standing up for free access to ideas and freedom of expression.

I suspect they'll be banning Tom Paine next.