



WISCONSIN
LIBRARY
ASSOCIATION

Library Development & Legislation (LD&L) Committee

Friday, March 18, 2022

10:00 AM

Virtual via Go-To-Meeting

MINUTES

Members present: *(all attending remotely)* Betsy Bleck, Kris Adams Wendt, Bruce Gay, Heather Johnson, Vicki Teal Lovely, Sherry Machones, Margaret Murphy, Steve Ohs, Jim Ramsey, Nyama Reed, Laura Sauser (WLA Executive Director), Steve Conway (Conway Consulting)

Members absent: Mark Arend, Nick Dimassis, Pete Loeffel, Kathy Pletcher, Kristopher Turner.

Guests: Tessa Michaelson Schmidt (DPI), Ben Miller (DPI)

Vice Chair Bleck called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. The agenda order was approved by consensus.

Approval of minutes from the January 28, 2022 meeting. The minutes of the January 28, 2022 meeting were approved unanimously on a **motion from Ohs seconded by Gay.**

WLA update. Sauser provided updates on upcoming conferences and urged additional communication between conference coordinators and LD&L to promote proactive advocacy and attendance at Library Legislative Day. She announced that Reed will appear on the AARP Facebook live page at noon on April 7. The Intellectual Freedom Special interest Group (IF SIG) Monthly Meeting is scheduled for March 28 at 11:00 a.m. Those attending will explore ways to support Intellectual Freedom at the 2022 WLA Annual Conference (Nov 1-4, 2022 in Lake Geneva). With a theme of "Rising to the Challenge," the annual conference gives an opportunity to support library staff from around the state with in-depth workshops on a variety of topics. A new ALA intellectual freedom campaign is likely to be announced by the end of March.

Legislative update. Conway reviewed what's known about [2021 SENATE BILL 1102](#) co-authored on March 10 by legislators representing parts of Manitowoc County. Conway gathered background information with Sauser, Loeffel, Bleck, Wendt, Reed and Dimassis as an initial response team. Although both the Senate and the Assembly have completed their floor periods for the 2021-2022 session, solicitations seeking potential co-sponsors for over 70 legislative proposals were released last week as incumbent legislators contemplated their campaign platforms. WLA has several concerns with SB1102 and welcomes the opportunity to initiate conversations between legislators and WLA members prior to the start of the 2023 -2024 session. It is possible that informational hearings could be held before the end of this year. Sauser and DPI have touched base with WEMTA. Regarding the 2023-2025 budget process, Conway asked for interest in joining the WLA LD&L Budget Team, building on what was accomplished by returning members Loeffel, Dimassis, Lovely, Ramsey, Arend and Wendt and the WLA Executive Director in the last cycle. Ohs and Reed expressed a willingness to assist the team as needed. The budget will be a major topic for discussion at the May LD&L meeting. Schmidt shared DPI/DLT will be working on a target deadline of mid-summer for its budget and look forward to working with WLA on priority items. Sauser and Conway will reach out to SRLAAW on budget matters.

Library Legislative Day 2022/2023. Gay reported the Library Legislative Day Team held a debriefing on February 18 to capture suggestions for improvements to next year's event on February 7, 2023 and work out a timeline for advertising and registration deadlines. Further discussion ensued about an LD&L program about meeting and building relationships with legislators at WLA Fall Conference. Gay will assume the Fall Conference LD&L program responsibility.

Libraries Transform Poster Project. Murphy has emailed the offices of legislators who do not have Libraries Transform posters and reported 58% are in progress with others not yet responding. Conway is facilitating poster presentations for

Rep. Callahan at the T.B. Scott Free Library in Merrill and for Rep. Rozar at the Everett Roehl Marshfield Public Library. Conway suggested that Murphy add a step where the legislator approves a proof copy before a poster is printed.

Conference programs. Discussion returned to ways in which LD&L can coordinate communication, programming and messaging with other WLA units such as the IF SIG. Gay will attend the IF SIG meeting on March 28. It is important to balance passionate advocacy with positive relationship building.

Federal Relations Coordinator update. Machones delivered the report linked [here](#). On March 11, the president signed a reconciled budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022, which began on October 1, 2021. The Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), the only source of federal funding dedicated for America's libraries, received flat funding at \$197.4 million. The Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL) program, the only source of federal funding dedicated to school libraries, received a modest \$1 million increase, raising the program to \$29 million. Targets for the 2023 budget are \$232 million for LSTA and \$50 million for IAL. ALA is encouraging eligible library workers to apply for a Public Service Loan Forgiveness waiver before October 31.

DPI/DLT update. The DPI report to LD&L is linked [here](#). DPI staff are anticipating the first draft of Dr. Kriz's funding formula analysis will not be shared with the LD&L Funding Analysis Subcommittee on March 21 as originally planned. In the interests of giving the LD&L team ample opportunity for nuanced input when the report is delivered, it was suggested the LD&L conversation with Dr. Kriz originally scheduled for March 28 be postponed two weeks. The report will then be shared with system directors next.

Funding Analysis Subcommittee update. (See above) Members are anticipating their next opportunity to be useful.

Announcements and other business. Johnson shared that a River Falls Public Library patron reported receiving a puzzling email solicitation purporting to originate from an organization requesting funds to support women candidates from one of the major political parties, while suggesting that the River Falls library specifically needed public support to counteract unspecified challenges to library materials. Consensus was the attempt was likely a phishing scam. There have been no other reports of similar emails from other areas of the state to the best of anyone's knowledge. The information was taken under advisement for monitoring.

Remaining 2022 meeting dates. May 20, July 22, September 23, November 18

Motion by Reed, seconded by Ramsey to adjourn the meeting at 11:27 AM. All aye. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted, Kris Adams Wendt, Recorder