



Library Development & Legislation (LD&L)

Committee

Friday, May 26, 2023

10:00 AM

Brookfield Public Library

MINUTES

Members present: Pete Loeffel, Betsy Bleck, Kris Adams Wendt*, Mark Arend, Desiree Bongers, Vicki Teal Lovely*, Sherry Machones, Jim Ramsey*, Bradley Shipp*, Kristopher Turner*, Laura Sauser (WLA Executive Director), Steve Conway (Conway Consulting)*

Members absent: Nick Dimassis, Bruce Gay, Heather Johnson, Margaret Murphy, Kathy Pletcher

Guests: Shannon Schultz (DPI)*

*denotes virtual participation

Loeffel called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. The agenda was approved with the understanding that the biennial budget and legislative reports would be deferred pending Conway joining the meeting.

Approval of minutes from the March 24, 2023 meeting. The minutes of the March 24, 2023 meeting were approved unanimously on a **motion from Arend seconded by Machones.**

JFC Public Hearings Recap. Loeffel thanked the LD&L members who served as site captains and/or gave testimony at the Joint Finance Committee public hearings held in April at locations in Waukesha, Eau Claire, Wisconsin Dells and Minocqua. An aggregate 75 library supporters turned out for the four hearings to literally stand up for libraries. Conway joined the meeting at this point and shared positive feedback regarding WLA participation at the hearings received from JFC library champions Sen. Mary Felzkowski and Rep. Tony Kurtz and their staff. Hearing photos and testimony videos are posted at [State Biennial Budget Process 2023-2025](#).

2023-2025 State Biennial Budget. Conway reported that Felzkowski and Kurtz have drafted a budget amendment for the full amount requested in WLA budget documents promoting modest increases for public library system aid, BadgerLink, Newsline for the Blind, and the four state resource contracts. The motion currently indicates GPR (General Purpose Revenue) as the funding source for all state library aid instead of segregated (SEG) funding from the Universal Service Fund for the first time since the 2009-2011 budget. It is not anticipated this change will raise any concerns; either way is acceptable. So far, Representatives Callahan, Edming, Green, Moses, Pronschinske, Swearingen and VanderMeer have written letters of support. It is anticipated that discussion of the DPI budget requests will be left to the end of the JFC review process expected to continue into June once the question of shared revenue to municipalities is determined.

Legislative Update. Conway reported on two messaging bills circulated for co-sponsorship by Sen. Jacque and Rep. Allen. They are: [SB304](#) - *An Act to amend 43.70 (3) of the statutes; Relating to: prohibiting the use of common school fund income distributions for the purchase of obscene material; and* [SB305](#) - *An Act to repeal [944.21\(8\)\(b\) 1](#) and [944.21 \(8\) \(b\) 2](#) of the statutes; Relating to: protection from prosecution for employees of libraries and educational institutions possessing obscene materials.* The proposed changes affect a public elementary or secondary school or a private school. Public libraries would not be affected. [944.21\(8\)\(a\)](#) explains the legislative intent in existing statute: *“that it is in the interest of the state to protect the financial resources of libraries and educational institutions from being expended in litigation and to permit these resources to be used to the greatest*

extent possible for fulfilling the essential purpose of libraries and educational institutions.” WLA will register in opposition to both bills and monitor for any legislative committee action. Sauser and Loeffel will discuss reaching out to the Wisconsin Educational Media Technology Association. Conway is also monitoring [SB10](#), introduced in January, for any sign of movement.

Automatic renewals of public library materials and cross border reimbursement. It was suggested that it might be prudent to revisit the topic of automatic renewal of library materials with the potential for unintentionally jeopardizing administration of cross border borrowing payments under Acts 150, 420 and 157. Best practices regarding automatic renewals were last discussed at the LD&L and SRLAAW tables in the spring of 2019, at which time no public library system was enabling that ILS functionality. General discussion ensued, with consensus that there has since been sufficient turnover among public library and regional public library system staff to warrant a reexamination and reminder of likely consequences from any unilateral action. Schultz stated that DPI/DLT has not changed its position on the need to maintain consistent statistical integrity for library circulation calculations. Loeffel will contact SRLAAW/LD&L liaison Gay about bringing renewed discussion to the next SRLAAW meeting. Bradley suggested the issue might be added to the SRLAAW Best Practices for County Funding document. Arend proposed also reaching out to public library system ILS managers.

County & Municipal Funding Workgroup. Arend is in the process of updating the 2017 [County Payments for Library Services](#) information handout originally created for WLA LD&L presentations at WLA Annual Conference and to the Wisconsin Counties Association. Schultz stated that 2022 Annual Report numbers should be available by mid-June and offered to assist.

Libraries Transform Posters. Murphy was not in attendance but submitted [this progress report](#). It was noted that Conway advised against adding the WLA logo to the bottom of new posters to avoid conflict with ethics rules about gifts to legislators.

Federal Relations Coordinator update. Machones summarized the information [linked here](#). She reported that the [Lifecycle of a Book](#) handout developed for 2023 Library Legislative Day is being shared nationwide to enthusiastic reviews.

WLA update. Sauser shared information about the WLA Foundation scholarship program, gave an update regarding presenters at the October 24-27 WLA Fall Conference, and announced the awards & honors nominations process will begin in early July. The Intellectual Freedom Task Force, on which Bleck represents LD&L, recommended to the WLA Board that a standing IF Committee be considered.

DPI/DLT update. Schultz summarized the DPI report to LD&L which is [linked here](#). It was noted that DLT Assistant Superintendent Dr. Darrell Williams visited more than 20 public and school libraries across Wisconsin during April to say thank you and acknowledge the contributions of library workers, volunteers, board members, and library friends.

Announcements and other business. None.

Remaining 2023 LD&L meeting dates: July 28 (Stoughton Public Library w/virtual option), September 22 (Wauwatosa Public Library w/virtual option), November 17 (virtual only).

Loeffel declared the meeting adjourned at 10:56 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Kris Adams Wendt, Recorder