



Library Development & Legislation (LD&L) Committee

Friday, November 18, 2022

10:00 AM

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

MINUTES

Members present: Pete Loeffel, Betsy Bleck, Kris Adams Wendt, Mark Arend, Nick Dimassis, Bruce Gay, Heather Johnson, Sherry Machones, Kathy Pletcher, Jim Ramsey, Nyama Reed, Vicki Teal Lovely, Margaret Murphy, Bradley Shipp, Kristopher Turner, Laura Sauser (WLA Executive Director), Steve Conway (Conway Consulting)

Members absent: Nick Dimassis

Guests: Ben Miller (DPI), Shannon Schultz (DPI)

Loeffel called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM.

Approval of minutes from the September 23, 2022 meeting. The minutes of the September 23, 2022 meeting were approved unanimously on a **motion from Bleck seconded by Pletcher**.

Legislative update. Following brief discussion of mid-term election results, Conway provided an overview of legislative leadership and Joint Finance Committee membership changes likely to be confirmed during the next month. Conway met with SRLAAW members to provide a preview of library related issues likely to be on the table during the 2023-2024 legislative session, as well as to solicit examples illustrating how current state aid to public library systems has been well spent and the need to build on those success stories in the next biennium. He requested that stories related to state aid be sent to Sauser as a clearing house. Conway would like to coordinate a meeting with the DPI Policy, Budget and Research Team. Turner and Bleck were added to the LD&L budget team of Loeffel, Dimassis, Wendt, Lovely, Ramsey, Arend, Conway and Sauser to ensure greater flexibility for background support work and when scheduling meetings with individual legislators. Other members may be called upon as needed.

2023-2024 Budget Documents. Draft WLA budget request documents were reviewed and discussed. Sauser, Pletcher, Lovely and Wendt will meet to refresh the wording, check the numbers and standardize the format for the set that includes an overview document and one-page summaries for public library system aid, library resource contracts, BadgerLink/Newsline for the Blind, and Recollection Wisconsin. Bradley will assist Lovely with the Recollection WI document and request that public library systems highlight local digital collections when meeting with legislators.

2023 Legislative Policy Statement. The 2023 WLA Legislative Policy Statement was unanimously approved on a **motion from Machones seconded by Reed** and recommended to the WLA Board for final adoption on December 16.

2023 Legislative Day – February 7. The LD&L panel presentation by Pletcher, Conway and Wendt at WLA Fall Conference on November 2 (“Yes, You Can: Library Legislative Day Tips and Tricks”) was well attended. Gay reported that LLD registration will open on December 5. The LLD planning group will be meeting regularly throughout December and January.

Libraries Transform Posters. Murphy is working on an updated post-election list of legislators and awaiting post-inaugural information as to office assignments and staff names. Conway and Sauser will make the rounds of the capitol to distribute the posters waiting in his office for the new session to start. Being able to share digital copies for social media and other uses is very popular.

County & Municipal Funding Workgroup. Nothing to report. A brief discussion of the importance of relationship building with municipal board/council members as well as other elected local officials and trustees ensued.

Federal Relations Coordinator update. Machones reported she and Wisconsin ALA Chapter Councilor Kristina Gómez will be receiving updates at an ALA advocacy meeting on November 30. Close watch is being kept on budget discussions during the waning days of the 117th Congress, as well as on potential changes to committee and subcommittee assignments for members in both the Senate and House.

WLA update. Sauser shared the resolution in support of library workers and intellectual freedom approved by the WLA Board and at the annual WLA business meeting during Fall Conference, as well as the WLA Statement on the Freedom to Read and Intellectual Freedom. The WLA Board is creating a task force to define and address association goals, effective networking and cohesive messaging regarding intellectual freedom and support for WLA members. Volunteers from LD&L are being sought to assist that effort by contributing a balanced perspective essential to maintaining productive relationships with state and local officials while sharing information on library policies and procedures.

DPI/DLT update. Miller summarized the DPI report to LD&L which is linked [here](#). The selection process for a new Division for Libraries and Technology Assistant State Superintendent is progressing. State Treasurer Sarah Godlewski, who also chairs the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands, announced on November 17 that a record-breaking \$52 million will be distributed by the Common School Fund to Wisconsin school libraries during the upcoming school year.

2023 LD&L meeting schedule. Tentative 2023 meeting dates were discussed, with consensus reached on virtual meetings during January and holding March and May, July, September and November meetings in person with a virtual option. Loeffel will send out a poll to determine preference for third Friday vs. fourth Friday of the month. **[Recorder notes these dates were subsequently selected: January 27, March 24, May 26, July 28, September 22, November 17.]**

Announcements and other business.

Loeffel declared the meeting adjourned at 11:52 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Kris Adams Wendt, Recorder