



Library Development & Legislation (LD&L) Committee

Friday, September 25, 2020

10:00 AM

Virtual via Go-To-Meeting

MINUTES

Members present: (*all attending remotely*) Connie Meyer, Kathy Klager, Kris Adams Wendt, Mark Arend, Betsy Bleck, Nick Dimassis, Jennifer Einwalter, Bruce Gay, Pete Loeffel, Vicki Teal Lovely, Sherry Machones, Larry Oathout, Steve Ohs, Jim Ramsey, Plumer Lovelace (WLA Executive Director), Steve Conway (Conway Consulting)

Members absent: Heather Johnson, Kathy Pletcher, Nyama Reed

Guests: Kurt Kiefer (DPI), Martha Berninger (DPI), Shannon Schultz (DPI)

Co-chair Meyer called the meeting to order at 10:04 AM. The roll was called, and a quorum declared present. Meyer introduced new member Betsy Bleck, Director of the Oconomowoc Public Library.

The agenda order was approved by consensus after moving the library stories video project and Legislative Day 2021 to follow approval of the minutes, in order to accommodate members who could not attend the entire meeting.

Approval of minutes from the July 24, 2020 meeting. The minutes of the July 24, 2020 meeting were approved unanimously on a **motion from Arend seconded by Oathout.**

Library stories video project. Dimassis and Lovely are working on this project, with Lovely taking the lead. She is working with her son who has videography experience, and with the backing of SCLS equipment and travel expenses, to recruit videos from a geographically and size diverse group of libraries throughout the state. Short videos produced will be more uniform in format and presentation than the prototypes from last year's Library Legislative Day, with an emphasis on how libraries have responded to the pandemic, making contributions to their communities as part of the solution, and as major players in state revitalization. Homeschooling support was mentioned as a good service to illustrate. Goal is to shoot videos through October with a January target date for availability during legislative budget meetings.

Library Legislative Day 2021. Loeffel led the discussion after calling on Lovelace, Ramsey and Dimassis for an overview of the challenges posed by a completely virtual or hybrid event. Lovelace has reached out to executive directors of similar professional organizations in other states, many of which had to hold virtual legislative events this year. He was impressed by his conversation with Greg Pronevitz, director of outreach for the Massachusetts School Library Association, which did a three-day hybrid event featuring a live virtual morning program followed by rotating scheduling of virtual visits by region. Discussion ensued. Technology capacity and broadband access are key to success if transition to statewide virtual participation is made. Ramsey suggested he would need a technology partner for scheduling. However, opportunities for virtual participation scheduled during a "Library Legislative Week" could spur more widespread attendance for members who find travel to Madison daunting in

February, particularly from the northern part of the state where travel and lodging expenses can also be a barrier. Loeffel asked members to think more about it and bring recommendations to the November meeting.

Legislative update and 2021-2023 budget request. The first part of the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) budget including library system aid items was released on September 15 and sent to the Department of Administration. A small increase in the library contracts request reflects cost to continue program and staffing expenses. BadgerLink and Newsline for the Blind are not included in the submitted request because there was no increase over base appropriations. Funding will be transferred from WISELearn to a new line item for Recollection Wisconsin. See [2021-2022 Department of Public Instruction Biennial Budget Request | September 15, 2020 Part 1 Agency Operations and Public Libraries](#), pdf pages 33-35, 37 (Public Library System aid), pdf pp. 39-41 (Library Contracts), pdf p. 22 (WISELearn transfer), pdf pp 42-44 (Recollection WI). LD&L budget presentation documents will be updated by Meyer and Klager. A virtual option will be provided for meetings arranged by Conway between the LD&L Budget Team and key legislative leaders.

County & Municipal Funding Workgroup report. Klager has received the most recent data on cross county borrowing payments from DPI/DLT and is updating the comparison documents used to illustrate loss/gain in various county scenarios. Potential impact of reduced 2020 circulation on cross county bills submitted in 2021 for payment in 2022 was discussed. There is no “one size fits all” solution. Consistent messaging needs to be developed for librarians across the state, focusing away from cost-per-circulation and toward the concept that reimbursement is based on the *percentage* of a library’s circulation to non-library communities in the adjacent counties, regardless of whether total circulation has decreased due to the pandemic. Put simply, the law requires that if X percent of services (as measured by circulation) are delivered to non-librarian residents, the county owes 0.7X% of the costs to provide those services. Einwalter shared information about the Washington County Library Services study of in- and out-of-county usage compiled by county library directors that was recently presented to county board members. Their messaging was that sharing library services through cross-county cooperation distributes funding and saves Washington County taxpayers money while providing all Washington County residents access to vital services. Meyer recently fielded questions about library funding in the Hudson area where a statewide remedy was being discussed to address a problem best solved locally to avoid unintended consequences.

Federal Relations Coordinator. Machones delivered the report linked [here](#).

DPI/DLT update. See DPI report to LD&L 05-15-2020 report linked [here](#).

WLA update. Lovelace summarized decisions made by the WLA Board, officers and staff to maintain a healthy organization since March. Staff has transitioned to a virtual office scenario and the former office space will be sublet, as part of the efforts to reduce the WLA footprint and expenses after spring and fall conference events were cancelled due to COVID-19. Various grants and pandemic relief opportunities have been explored despite WLA’s 501c6 status precluding some from consideration, as well as a Federal disaster recovery loan. He stated “LD&L sets the bar in terms of activity” and other units have bounced back in recent months. Contingency plans are being developed for 2021 events, with a tech group to be recruited to work alongside the normal planning committees. Meyer thanked Lovelace, Machones and the WLA Board for keeping WLA afloat during difficult times.

LD&L Committee 2021. Meyer and Klager announced their retirement from their co-chair roles, as well as the LD&L Committee at the end of 2020, but will be available as a resource. As continuing WLA President, Machones has appointed Loeffel as incoming 2021 LD&L Chair. Meyer asked current members for suggestions to fill the seats she and Klager will vacate next year. Any changes or corrections to the 2020 roster distributed with the meeting packet should be brought to Wendt's attention.

Conference programs. Oathout is willing to coordinate LD&L programming for 2021 spring and fall conferences (formats yet to be determined), and will look for opportunities for WLA LD&L to present at gatherings of other organizations such as the Wisconsin Counties Association or League of Wisconsin Municipalities.

Announcements and other business. Wendt gave an update on the Wisconsin Humanities "Resilient Communities Initiative." ("Council" has been recently dropped from that organization's name.) Dena Wortzel was very appreciative of the WLA Board endorsement for the project which has been shared with the Governor's Chief of Staff and policy team. Wendt will publish a legislative newsletter in early October.

Remaining meeting dates for 2020. November 13

Adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 12:18 noon on a **motion by Klager, seconded by Wendt.**

Respectfully submitted,
Kris Adams Wendt, Recorder