



WISCONSIN  
LIBRARY  
ASSOCIATION

## Library Development & Legislation (LD&L) Committee

Friday, November 13, 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, Nyama Reed, Plumer Lovelace (WLA Executive Director), Steve Conway (Conway Consulting)

**Members absent:** Heather Johnson, Kathy Pletcher

**Guests:** Ben Miller (DPI), Martha Berninger (DPI), Shannon Schultz (DPI), John Thompson (IFLS)

Co-chair Meyer called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. The roll was called, and a quorum declared present. The agenda order was approved by consensus.

**Approval of minutes from the September 25, 2020 meeting.** The minutes of the September 25, 2020 meeting were approved unanimously on a **motion from Ohs seconded by Oathout.**

**Legislative update including 2021-2023 budget request.** Conway gave an overview of legislative leadership changes and what is known so far about Joint Finance Committee (JFC) membership in the new session. Conway, Lovelace and Dimassis met with Rep. Loudenbeck on October 21 to seek advice on the messaging for WLA endorsed DPI library aid items in the 2021-2023 budget proposal. Takeaways: our ask was reasonable, the leave-behind literature pieces were effective, messaging/marketing needs to counter perception that libraries are closed due to pandemic with examples of how librarians have safely adapted to continue supporting their communities. Our champions need our talking points. Conway will schedule JFC member meetings in January. Virtual participation by those interested in joining the budget team will not be possible in all cases, but preferences will be honored. Loeffel, Dimassis, Wendt, Arend, Ramsey and Lovely are interested in joining the team.

**2021 LD&L Committee.** Loeffel will become LD&L Chair in January. Absent a co-chair, he will be naming a vice-chair to fill in as necessary and transitioning someone new into the Legislative Day chair's spot after seeing the 2021 virtual event through in February. A new County & Municipal Funding Workgroup chair is also needed. Mark will continue with that group as chair and Pete will be an automatic member as LD&L chair. There was interest from Bleck, Einwalter and Ohs to join this committee.

**Joint library funding exemption.** IFLS System Director John Thompson acquainted the committee with background to recent renewed controversy concerning joint library district funding in the Hudson area. Meyer had a conversation with the Hudson Mayor, sharing LD&L's profound reluctance to endorse legislation designed to mandate a narrowly written statutory solution to a particular locality's problem without regard for potential harm to other communities from unintended statewide consequences. Discussion ensued with consensus confirmed that this is a local rather than a legislative matter. Conway and Thompson will continue to monitor the situation and keep LD&L informed.

**2021 Library Legislative Day.** Loeffel, Lovelace, Conway and Ramsey reported having met to discuss logistics and details for turning 2021 LLD into a virtual event spanning February 16-18 with the usual briefing program on the first morning followed by zoom appointments. Cost \$25. WLA Office staff is meeting November 20 to analyze workflow for the mechanical transition from one format to another.

**County & Municipal Funding Workgroup report.** Since the last LD&L meeting Meyer, Klager and Conway have consulted with colleagues from the La Crosse area regarding library trustee and legislator concerns over the county's unique library funding configurations. Enhanced understanding of the wider picture was achieved. Once again, LD&L is on record advising that unique local problems are best solved at the local level through library funding conversations with county residents, rather than through introducing legislative changes in response to a particular problem which risks unintended consequences across the entire state. Meyer and Klager assured LD&L that, although they were leaving the committee, they would be available for background consultation. Klager explained her work with 2019 annual report data to update the old charts used to illustrate potential consequences of any changes to Act 150 or Act 420, and/or provide an overview for municipal and county governments with local concerns.

**Library stories video project.** Lovely reported on the videography stories gathered by herself and her son to enhance WLA's legislative budget presentation. Assistance is being received from Dimassis and Beloit Public Library staff member Amy Mitchell who will be writing the voiceover script. Testimonials illustrating relevancy and flexibility under pandemic conditions were gathered from all over the state. It is anticipated that a 30-minute video covering the state, as well as several regional shorter segments will be produced. The team hopes to have a rough finished product by the end of December. Klager suggests pull quotes would be useful for written marketing and messaging tools.

**2021 LD&L meeting dates.** 2021 meetings are anticipated to be virtual for the foreseeable future. Dates are January 22, March 19, May 14, July 23, September 24 and November 12. With WLA vacating its current office space, LD&L will need a new clubhouse once it is safe to meet in person once again. Conway's office has access to a conference room with audio-visual capability. DPI guests will need to check DPI protocol for meeting in a lobbyist's office space. It was also suggested that Lovely could inquire about using the usual meeting room by booking it with South Central Library System.

**Conference programs.** With the pandemic outlook uncertain at this time, Oathout will continue to monitor opportunities for LD&L to participate as various opportunities present themselves. He will maintain contact with the panelists lined up for LD&L programs at cancelled 2020 conferences.

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

**DPI/DLT update.** See DPI report to LD&L 05-15-2020 report linked [here](#). Ben Miller was congratulated as the new director of the library team within the DPI Division of Libraries and Technology.

**WLA update.** Lovelace reported there is now a six-person virtual conference workgroup to provide virtual support to live WLA events. No decision has been made about fall 2021 conference.

**Announcements and other business.** Meyer and Klager were heartily thanked for their years of service to LD&L with well wishes for the future. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=barWV7RWkq0>

**Adjourn.** The meeting adjourned at 12:20 PM on a **motion by Klager, seconded by Wendt.**

Respectfully submitted, Kris Adams Wendt, Recorder