



Library Development & Legislation (LD&L) Committee

Friday, September 23, 2022
10:00 AM

South Central Library System meeting room, Madison WI

MINUTES

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

Members absent: Heather Johnson, Margaret Murphy

Guests: Ben Miller (DPI)*

**denotes remote attendance*

Loeffel called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM. Introductions were deferred, and the agenda order was left to the chair's discretion pending arrival of Conway and uncertainty whether/when Murphy would be able to join the meeting. OWLS Director Bradley Shipp was welcomed as a new LD&L member.

Approval of minutes from the July 22, 2022 meeting. The minutes of the July 22, 2022 meeting were approved unanimously on a **motion from Pletcher seconded by Lovely.**

2023 Legislative Day. Gay and Sauser gave a brief update on plans for February 7, 2023. A committee meeting will be scheduled next week to address the "Save the Date" flyer for fall conference distribution, handouts for attendees and legislators, and potential speakers for the morning briefing.

WLA update. Sauser announced Elizabeth (Lizzy) Bradley has been hired as the new WLA Membership & Communications Coordinator. A group of WLA members are interested in expanding the Intellectual Freedom Special Interest Group into a standing committee. LD&L members present showed interest in forming a plan for coordinated communications and messaging on the topic.

WLA fall conference update. Sauser gave a brief report on 2022 Fall Conference plans. A new WLA vision and values statement will be introduced at the annual business meeting. Pletcher, Wendt, Gay and Conway will schedule a meeting to organize their panel presentation "Yes, You Can: Library Legislative Day Tips and Tricks" on November 2.

Legislative update and 2023-2025 Wisconsin biennial budget. Conway led discussion of WLA positioning going into the budget process. There are many variables and unknowns until after the November 8 election – most notably the race for governor, decisions regarding legislative leadership and Joint Finance Committee membership. The \$5.2 billion state budget surplus encouraged DPI to request a \$10 million increase in state support for public library systems, an additional \$336,800 to support resources for lifelong learning (BadgerLink, Newline for the Blind and the four resource contracts for the Talking Book & Braille Library, Cooperative Children's Book Center and inter-loan from Milwaukee Public Library and the UW System). An additional \$450,000 over the biennium was added to provide a dedicated funding source for Recollection Wisconsin. WLA relationships occupy a neutral advocacy space between DPI and the legislative majority. With the potential for at least 30 new legislators in the next session, existing relationships will need to be enhanced and new ones initiated. Discussion ensued regarding library materials challenges, and the need to work within WLA and with SRLAAW to craft consistent shared messaging and generic information regarding typical book selection and

reconsideration processes. Arend and Shipps volunteered to work with Sauser on preparing information for discussion with individual legislators; Dimassis will share Beloit Public Library documents.

Libraries Transform Posters. In the absence of Murphy, there was general discussion about providing a digital file as well as a physical poster to legislators. Legislators may order duplicate copies from WLA at cost. Campaign season has put distribution of finished posters on hold for the present. Conway and Sauser will distribute them as soon as possible. The poster project will also provide introduction to the new legislators. Capitol offices will be reassigned between November 8 and inauguration on January 3.

County & Municipal funding Workgroup. Nothing to report.

NTIA Broadband Program. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) is looking for Wisconsin stakeholders for its [BroadbandUSA program](#) which promotes innovation and economic growth by supporting efforts to expand broadband connectivity and meaningful use across America. BroadbandUSA serves state, local, and tribal governments, industry, and nonprofits that need to enhance broadband connectivity and promote digital inclusion. Sauser has received a 75-page document which will be shared with LD&L at a later date.

Federal Relations Coordinator update. Machones summarized the information linked [here](#).

DPI/DLT update. Miller summarized the DPI report to LD&L which is linked [here](#). Dr. Barbara Van Haren continues to serve as Interim Assistant State Superintendent, Division for Libraries and Technology while the search continues. In addition to the library-related 2023-2025 DPI budget items previously mentioned, a new \$10.8 million budget ask to increase, diversify, and strengthen the educator pipeline includes stipends for internships or practicums to match library school students with Wisconsin libraries by way of encouraging graduates to remain in the state.

Announcements and other business. None

Remaining 2022 meeting dates. November 18

Loeffel declared the meeting adjourned at 11:28 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Kris Adams Wendt, Recorder