



Library Development & Legislation (LD&L) Committee

Friday, January 26, 2018

10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

WLA Office

4610 South Biltmore Lane, Suite 100, Madison, WI

MINUTES

Members and guests present: Kathy Pletcher, Connie Meyer, Sherry Machones, Mark Arend, Bruce Gay, Kathy Klager, Pete Loeffel, Larry Oathout, Jim Ramsey, Plumer Lovelace, Kurt Kiefer of the WI Department of Public Instruction's Division for Libraries and Technology (DPI/DLT), John DeBacher (DPI/DLT), Martha Berninger (DPI/DLT), Michael Blumenfeld of the Wisconsin Educational Media & Technology Association (WEMTA)

Virtual participation via GoToMeeting: Nick Dimassis, Scott Vrieze, Heather Johnson, Kris Adams Wendt, Steve Conway (DeWitt Ross & Stevens), John Thompson of the Public Library System Redesign (PLSR) Steering Committee, and Janet Vraney (WEMTA)

Members absent: Anita Weier and Steve Ohs

Co-chair Pletcher called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. Klager and Wendt shared recorder honors with their notes to be merged by Wendt. Introductions were made, with Pete Loeffel welcomed as a new member.

Changes and additions to the agenda. Agenda order was accepted by consensus with no changes.

Approval of minutes from the December 8, 2017 meeting. Minutes of the December 8, 2017 meeting were approved unanimously on a **motion from Gay seconded by Machones.**

Legislative update. Meyer and Conway reported that Assembly Bill ([AB](#)572)/Senate Bill (SB)491, the **Public Library Data and Technology Training Bill**, was unanimously recommended for passage on January 4 by the Assembly Committee on Rural Development and Mining. After a public hearing on December 19, SB491 was unanimously recommended for passage on December 21 by the Senate Committee on Education. Meyer, Johnson, Klager, and Jean Anderson testified at both hearings. Meyer thanked her fellow team mates, as well as Conway for his ever-present guidance. Co-author Senator Testin's new aide Matt Wimmer (former aide to Rep. Swearingen, a bill co-sponsor) gave testimony for Testin before the Senate committee during his first week on the job. The Assembly unanimously passed AB572 (94-0, with 2 absences and 2 vacant seats) in floor session on January 16 and messaged the bill to the Senate where it was also unanimously approved (31-0 with 2 vacant seats) on January 23. It is now on the Governor's desk awaiting signature. Conway has made contact with the Governor's office and does not anticipate difficulties though it may take a while to schedule a signing ceremony, given the flurry of activity at the end of the legislative session. Conway acknowledged the perseverance of Assembly co-author Rep. Felzkowski and co-sponsor Rep. Loudenbeck who both worked to bring the bill forward after language expanding the use of DPI WISEdata and WISEdash information system

appropriations beyond K-12 schools to include applications of potential benefit to individual public libraries and Wisconsin's 16 regional public library systems was not included in the budget bill reported out of Joint Finance Committee. The bill also opens TEACH block grants to small rural libraries.

At this point Pletcher moved up agenda item 11 (WEMTA update) so that Conway could participate in discussion of [AB857/SB713](#). (Vraney unfortunately did not join the meeting remotely until 12:45.) Wisconsin Library Association (WLA) has joined WEMTA, the League of Wisconsin Municipalities and the Wisconsin Towns Association in registering in opposition. Blumenfeld provided background on the bill which has the potential to significantly reduce funding for school library media centers. It would eliminate the authority of the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands (BCPL) to make State Trust Fund Loans, broadens the authority of the BCPL to invest state trust fund moneys including the Common School Fund (CSF) and would strike the word "library" from statute 20.255 (2)(s) regarding a school district's expenditure of CSF income, allowing it to be used for other purposes. It has been assigned to the Senate Committee on Government Operations, Technology and Consumer Protection and Assembly Committee on State Affairs. WEMTA is taking the lead on this bill. Conway indicated that a Senate hearing could come up quickly under the chairmanship of the bill's co-author Sen. Stroebel. Conway stated it was important for WLA to be fully aware of WEMTA's strategy, strengths and legislative contacts so as to be on the same page, or at least know what WEMTA is doing so WLA can complement WEMTA's efforts with consistent messaging. He requested a meeting with Blumenfeld during the following week, perhaps coordination with other organizations in opposition; Blumenfeld will be in contact.

Blumenfeld also mentioned [AB773/SB645](#) as a concern to WEMTA for its potential to eliminate the Department of Revenue's ability to conduct third-party audits related to unclaimed property. Proceeds from unclaimed property go into the Common School Fund. WEMTA is ramping up to raise awareness of the upcoming Spring Election statewide referendum to eliminate the State Treasurer's office and promoting a "no" vote. WEMTA will be sending two representatives to National Legislative Day.

Cross county payments working group. Klager and Meyer summarized recent activities. The cross county library payments presentation to the Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) Board by Pletcher, Klager and Meyer on December 15 was well received. Pletcher, Meyer, Klager and Wendt have organized the articles to be solicited for the WCA *Wisconsin Counties* magazine March/April issue dedicated to libraries, which has a circulation of 10,000. In other examples of WLA outreach, Lovelace mentioned recently working with the Wisconsin League of Municipalities on the February issue of their *Municipality* magazine, and his scheduled appearance with WLA President Marge Loch-Wouters on the League's TV show, "The Local Perspective."

Library Legislative Day – February 20, 2018. Dimassis reported that Lt. Governor Kleefisch will deliver a welcome speech, along with Superintendent Evers. Senator Testin and Representatives Loudenberg and Swearingen will be honored as Library Champions, along with Kiefer. Rep. Felzkowski is Legislator of the Year. Legislative aides Danielle Zimmerman, Liz Portz and Matt Wimmer (from the offices of Loudenberg, Felzkowski, and Swearingen/Testin respectively) will receive special recognition. Klager will narrate a slide presentation looking back at WLA's legislative relationship building during the past year. Folder contents for registrants was discussed. Messaging will be centered on gratitude for support during the biennial budget process and passage of the Public Library Data and Technology Training Bill. Ramsey is coordinating the appointments schedule and will work with Wendt and Brigitte Vacha from

the WLA office to troubleshoot the registration list and secure coverage for all legislators. Ramsey, Arend and Klager will assist Vacha at the registration table on February 20. Dimassis is making a final push for registrations via email to members next week. Ramsey and Wendt will work together to update the Libraries Transform poster project list so that Ramsey can confirm whether finished posters have been received when he makes scheduling calls for Legislative Day and Lovelace can order copies.

Planning for the campaign season – Libraries: A Civic Space for Civil Debate. Nothing new to report. Legislative Day attendees will be reminded to leave their contact information during office visits and offer meeting room space for listening sessions and other events to legislators. It's important to invite legislators to visit libraries when out and about in their districts during campaign season.

Federal Legislative Advocate report. Machones reported that the American Library Association (ALA) is closely monitoring Federal Trade Commission (FTC) actions regarding net neutrality, net neutrality court challenges in individual states, and potential changes to e-rate process and funding. The White House budget proposal for FY2019 is again expected to eliminate the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL) programs so congressional contacts will be solicited at appropriate points in the process. Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grants to states are still uncertain for 2018; DPI/DLT will not distribute competitive grants to local libraries and systems. National Library Legislative Day is May 7 and 8. Machones will work with Pletcher and Kiefer to plan and organize the Wisconsin delegation.

DPI/DLT update. Kiefer provided an overview of current DLT issues and projects.

PLSR update. Thompson summarized the written report previously regarding the ongoing PLSR process shared with the LD&L list. Applications to become a Core Recommendation Collaborator (CRC – 10 people) or Model Development Summit participant (up to 35 different people) are being solicited. The focus group process is being coordinated and completed by Russell Consulting. Wisconsin Library Services (WiLS) will continue as the administrative support managers in the last phase of the project while Russell Consulting will be the facilitators. Thompson encouraged LD&L members to apply for CRC despite the potential for it to become a large time commitment, as there is a need for geographic balance and representation of regional needs. There was additional discussion of how public library system trustees are being kept up to date on the process so as to better understand potential budget implications and impact upon future planning. Although each system has a designated person to forward PLSR communications to member libraries there is no way to guarantee that communication is actually being received and understood. There is no hard and fast deadline for the final report to be submitted to DLT or the State Superintendent. Feedback periods on the Steering Committee work product are expected to extend into July.

Announcements and other business. None.

2018 meetings. March 23, May 18, July 27, September 28 and November 30.

Adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 12:55 PM on a **motion from Meyer seconded by Gay.**

Respectfully submitted,
Kris Adams Wendt, (remote) Recorder with on-site assistance from Kathy Klager.