



Library Development & Legislation (LD&L) Committee

Friday, May 18, 2018

10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

WLA Office

4610 South Biltmore Lane, Suite 100, Madison, WI

MINUTES

Members present: Kathy Pletcher, Connie Meyer, Kris Adams Wendt, Amy Birtell, Bruce Gay, Kathy Klager, Pete Loeffel, Jim Ramsey, Vicki Teal Lovely, Anita Weier, Plumer Lovelace (WLA Executive Director)

Remote participation via GoToMeeting: Larry Oathout, Steve Conway (DeWitt Ross & Stevens), Dee Pettack (Department of Public Instruction)

Members absent: Mark Arend, Nick Dimassis, Heather Johnson, Sherry Machones, Steve Ohs, Scott Vrieze

Co-chair Pletcher called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM. Introductions were made around the table. The absence of many members, as well as the usual guests from DPI was noted due to a conflicting meeting of the Public Library System Redesign (PLSR) Steering Committee. The agenda order was approved without changes.

Approval of minutes from the March 23, 2018 meeting. Minutes of the March 23, 2018 meeting were amended for correct spelling of Vicki Teal Lovely's first name and approved unanimously on a **motion from Klager seconded by Meyer.**

Legislative Update and 2019-2021 State Biennial Budget. Pletcher summarized a meeting of the LD&L budget team (Pletcher, Meyer, Wendt, Lovelace, Conway, and WLA Past President Jean Anderson) on May 15 with State Superintendent Tony Evers, Kurt Kiefer, and Dee Pettack. Superintendent Evers requested the meeting out of respect for WLA's strategic bipartisan success during the past two legislative sessions – not only regarding budget matters, but also for securing passage of four bills. Evers promised that LD&L would be consulted on messaging and strategy as budget details emerge to be shared, as well as kept fully informed of all additions or changes to the library-related items included. Going forward, Pettack has been designated by Evers as his liaison working directly with WLA LD&L and Conway on budget strategy, and with DPI budget director Erin Fath.

WLA is well positioned moving forward to request another modest increase in public library system aids. Meyer distributed a draft WLA budget priorities document. Elimination of the 13% index requirement in 2017 provides new flexibility to request realistic and sustainable ("catch up and keep up") support for public library system funding which fell behind during the three budget cycles when the appropriation was flatlined from FY2012 through FY2017 at \$15,013,100. The extra \$1.5 million WLA championed for the current budget cycle boosted system aids to \$15,513,100 for FY18 and \$16,513,100 in FY19. In addition to maintaining that cost-to-continue level, a modest increase of \$2.5 million was proposed for the next biennium to realize \$17,513,100 in FY20 (plus \$1M) and \$19,013,100 in FY2021 (plus \$1.5M).

Pettack confirmed that the DPI budget will be submitted to the Department of Administration (DOA) in September. Additional information needs to be gathered before requests for the core state library services (BadgerLink, library service contracts, Newsline for the Blind) are known. Meyer sent a survey to system directors on April 20 to update potential projects related to workforce development, technology and lifelong learning and will follow up with another reminder.

Conway re-emphasized this budget round will be an agency driven process with the goal of including DPI items supported by WLA in the governor's executive budget request at the start of the process. Legislators meet one-on-one with the governor at the end of September. Meetings will be scheduled between the WLA budget team and key players in the governor's office, legislative leadership and members of the Joint Finance Committee. WLA member enthusiasm, relationship building and grassroots contacts are important to a successful outcome. Klager and Loeffel will be included in the LD&L budget team. New LD&L members will be tapped for select legislator meetings to provide experience and training. To assist in relationship building during campaign season, Wendt will compile a list of incumbents, challengers and open seats sorted by legislative district and public library systems.

Cross County Payments Working Group. Klager reported that the LD&L sponsored program, "Show me the money!" drew an excellent audience. The slide show about Act 420 payments originally designed for presentation to the Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) provoked thoughtful questions and discussion. The working group will continue to monitor Act 420 controversies brought to LD&L attention, as well as identify opportunities to proactively share information at the local and county level. Discussion ensued regarding creating a promotional tool for systems and local library boards in support of 2019-2021 budget requests, and potentially working with WCA to secure support at the county level. Klager mentioned there's a need for the working group to secure the most recent annual report data from DPI/DLT so as to update the county and legislative district Act 420 payments comparison charts. Pettack offered to assist with that information.

Planning for the campaign season. In the absence of Dimassis, consideration was limited to previous discussion under the legislative update and biennial budget.

Microsoft academy rollout. Lovelace will reach out to Kurt Kiefer regarding next steps.

Federal Legislative Advocate Report. Machones was absent but sent the following National Library Legislative Day (NLLD) report: "Seven people represented Wisconsin [including LD&L members Machones, Ohs, Lovely and Weier]. ALA was very late in getting out information this year about the event, due to constantly changing priorities on their side as well as the White House. ALA directives this year were fully funding the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL) program, passing the Reauthorization of the Museum and Library Services Act, and passing the federal Depository Library Program Modernization Act. Our group was honored to meet Congressmen Pocan and Gallagher in person. All visits were positive and all attendees as well as legislators were engaged. We were encouraged to invite Wisconsin Senate and House members to visit their libraries while on summer recess and see broadband in action, as well as take part in our Libraries Transform project. Machones has made follow up contact and will be working to ensure library visits from legislators. Machones thanked Vicki Teal Lovely, Kurt Kiefer and Micki Uppena for materials used during the WLA delegation visits." Weier and Lovely added their own comments in person. The NLLD team will be taking point on capturing "Libraries Transform!" poster photos for Wisconsin's

congressional delegation. Lovelace will be assessing continuing WLAF support for the project going forward as there will be new faces to include after the November election.

DPI/DLT update. There was no formal report due to the absence of DPI/DLT staff. Birtell shared information about the ways in which Monarch Library System has been working with regional job centers and Department of Workforce Development (DWD) personnel. DWD is interested in working with local libraries to have relationships and programs in place against future layoffs or economic downturn. Individual system plans for Gale Courses were also discussed. Birtell was asked to work with Conway and keep LD&L informed on progress and potential for system level initiatives with DWD; a regular item will be added to future LD&L agendas. Lovelace brought up the DPI/DWD Interagency Work Group and Laura Bush grant.

PLSR update. Members were referred to the report John Thompson sent via email.

Announcements and other business. None.

Upcoming 2018 meetings – ~~July 27~~ subsequently changed to July 20, Sept. 28, Nov. 30

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

Respectfully submitted,
Kris Adams Wendt, Recorder