



Library Development & Legislation Committee

Friday, September 29, 2017

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, Kris Adams Wendt, Nick Dimassis, Mark Arend, Bruce Gay, Marge Loch-Wouters, Jim Ramsey, Anita Weier, Plumer Lovelace, Kurt Kiefer (DPI/DLT), Martha Berninger (DPI/DLT), Dee Pettack (DPI), Michael Blumenfeld (WEMTA).

Virtual participation via GoToMeeting: Steve Conway (DeWitt), Heather Johnson, John Thompson (PLSR Steering Committee).

Members absent: Kathy Klager, Sherry Machones, Steve Ohs.

Co-chair Pletcher called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM. Wendt acted as recorder. Introductions were made around the table for the benefit GoToMeeting participants and guests. Bryan McCormick has withdrawn from committee membership; Wisconsin ALA Chapter Councilor Sherry Machones will follow him as the new Federal Relations Coordinator. There are now two committee vacancies.

Changes and additions to the agenda. The agenda was unanimously accepted on a **motion by Arend, seconded by Gay** after moving the Libraries Transform report to follow approval of the minutes at the request of Pettack.

Approval of minutes from the July 28, 2017 meeting. Minutes of the July 28, 2017 meeting were approved unanimously on a **motion from Weir seconded by Dimassis**.

Libraries Transform! Pettack reported contact with Assembly Speaker Vos staff members regarding scheduling a Poster Photo session for members of the Assembly and Senate early in November. Dimassis will follow up with the Speaker's office and coordinate with Lovelace (designated photographer) on details. Ramsey will give Rebecca Light the heads up to expect more photos for graphics production work.

Biennial Budget Request update. Conway congratulated LD&L for leading WLA's successful campaign to demonstrate library value during the budget process and was thanked in return for his excellent guidance. The 2017-2019 State Budget signed by Governor Walker on September 21 included bipartisan approval of an additional \$1.5 million investment in state aids to Wisconsin's 16 public library systems. Funding was also maintained at levels included in the Governor's original executive budget for core library services (BadgerLink, Newsline for the Blind, and four contracts). It further included a new line item allocating \$875,000 in both 2017-18 and 2018-19 "for a contract with a single provider of information technology education for public school pupils in grades 6-12, technical college students, and library patrons." The program is required to operate in 225 sites, *including 16 public libraries*, with funding awarded as a competitive grant following a RFP process. Thank you notes to legislators from the

library community are important. Conway and Wendt visited several Capitol offices two days previous to the LD&L meeting and reported legislative aids elated at handfuls of envelopes from WLA members. Rep. Felzkowski has assured Conway that her office will propose stand-alone legislation to pick up the remaining WISEdash/data piece to include libraries as eligible for sharing that appropriation. The timeline to the end of the current legislative session will be very tight as the legislature is expected to finish its business early in 2018. It was noted that Rep. Hintz is the new Assembly Minority Leader.

Before Conway left the conference call, he was given a hearty round of applause in recognition of his being named recipient of a WLA Special Service Award to be presented at WLA Annual Conference.

Cross county payments working group. Meyer gave the committee report in the absence of Klager. Conway and the LD&L cross county payments team had a very positive meeting on August 16 with members of the Wisconsin Counties Association and have been invited back to meet with members of its County Organization & Personnel Steering Committee in Stevens Point in October 5 and the full WCA Board in December. Meyer reviewed the draft slide presentation for October 5.

Library Legislative Day. Library Legislative Day is Tuesday, February 20, 2018 at the Madison Concourse Hotel with Dimassis as chair. Dimassis led discussion focused on gathering ideas for recognition of assistance from key legislators this session. Decisions were deferred pending advice from Conway.

Planning for the campaign season – Libraries: A Civic Space for Civil Debate. It was recognized that 2018 would offer opportunities for libraries to demonstrate their value as places to host community forums and listening sessions. The Spring Primary is once again the same day as Library Legislative Day – February 20, with the Spring General Election on April 3. The Partisan Primary for the fall election is Tuesday, August 14, with the General Election on November 6. This election is for Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, U.S. Senator, Representative in Congress, State Senator (odd-numbered districts) Assembly Representatives (all districts). LD&L will keep track of open seats and inform WLA members about candidates. **Full discussion of this item was deferred to the November meeting agenda.**

WLA Conference program. These two programs are being offered by LD&L:

Wednesday, October 18 - 1:20-2:05 "It's All About the Pen!"...and Relationships

Speakers: Steve Conway & Nick Dimassis, Connie Meyer, Kris Adams Wendt

Relationships turn requests into legislation, and then into bills that the governor signs: it's all about the pen. Come hear how Wisconsin's library advocates are successfully building relationships with their legislators so they know how libraries are bringing value to their constituents. There is lots of exciting relationship-building going on – come get ideas and ask questions!

Thursday, October 19 - 1:20-2:05 "Simple, Effective Ways to Create a Partnership with Your Local Workforce Development Centers"

Speakers: Cate Zeuske, Deputy Secretary, Wisconsin Department of Administration; David Anderson, Assistant Deputy Secretary, Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development; and Mark E. Mundl, Racine County Workforce Solutions Manager. Mary Therese Boyle as moderator.

Libraries have long provided valuable support to people seeking to improve their career skills, change careers, and apply for jobs. Let's take it to the next level by partnering with Workforce Development

Boards/Centers to have greater impact! Our speakers will share stories of successful partnerships, offer strategies to initiate partnerships, and provide tips on avoiding political missteps.

Federal Legislative Advocate report. Kiefer gave a brief summary in the absence of Machones, who had supplied the following report to the September 27 Legislative Newsletter: The full House of Representatives voted as part of a large spending package ([H.R. 3354](#)) not to make *any* cuts in federal funding for the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), including all funding for its programs under the Library Services and Technology Act, and for the Department of Education’s Innovative Approaches to Literacy program. Notably, the package also increased funding for the National Library of Medicine by \$6 million. The Senate Appropriations Committee approved an increase of \$4 million in funding for the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), all of which would go to the formula-based Grants to States program. The full Senate is not likely to take up its own appropriations bill until late this year. Once the Senate has acted on a spending bill and the process of resolving differences with the House bill begins, ALA and library supporters everywhere may need to again push hard to retain funding gains made in the Senate.

DPI/DLT update. Kiefer provided more talking points for the proposed stand-alone legislation to include library projects as eligible for assistance under the WISEdash/data appropriation, as well as the potential addition of rural libraries for TEACH grants. He asserted the PLSR work indicates a need for these types of resources going forward. An update on DPI staff vacancies was provided, as well as the COSLA “Measures that Matter” project. A draft report is in the works with a national action plan expected before the holidays.

There was a brief pause in the meeting at noon for a celebratory pizza lunch in honor of the successful end of the state budget process.

PLSR update. John Thompson sent a report to LD&L via email. The Steering Committee has written Executive Summary requested in March and posted it to the PLSR website. Steering Committee members have been holding regional sessions around the state “to present the progress of the process, answer questions and collect feedback from the community.” Questions from those sessions will be captured and released. Workgroups will share updates on their models at WLA Annual Conference.

WEMTA update. There was no report as Blumenfeld was no longer present at this point in the agenda.

Announcements and other business. Gay announced that he has been hired as the new director of Waukesha Public Library. Weier urged attention be paid to relief funds for hurricane impacted libraries.

Upcoming 2017 meetings: After discussion, it was decided to change the final meeting date of the year from Thursday, November 30 to Friday, December 8. Pletcher, Meyer and Wendt will address updates to the WLA Legislative Agenda and communicate necessary changes to committee members so as to ensure timely approval of the 2018 agenda by the WLA Board.

Adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 1:00 PM on a **motion from Dimassis seconded by Gay.**

Respectfully submitted,
Kris Adams Wendt, Recorder