



Library Development & Legislation (LD&L) Committee

Friday, January 27, 2023

10:00 AM

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

MINUTES

Members present: Pete Loeffel, Betsy Bleck, Kris Adams Wendt, Mark Arend, Nick Dimassis, Bruce Gay, Heather Johnson, Nyama Reed, Vicki Teal Lovely, Margaret Murphy, Bradley Shipps, Kristopher Turner, Laura Sauser (WLA Executive Director), Steve Conway (Conway Consulting)

Members absent: Heather Johnson, Sherry Machones, Kathy Pletcher, Jim Ramsey

Guests: Dr. Darrell Williams (DPI), Ben Miller (DPI), Shannon Schultz (DPI)

Loeffel called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM.

Approval of minutes from the November 18, 2022 meeting. The minutes of the November 18, 2022 meeting were approved unanimously on a **motion from Shipps seconded by Gay.**

Introduction of DPI Assistant State Superintendent (Division for Libraries and Technology) Darrell Williams.

Williams was introduced by Loeffel and welcomed to his first LD&L meeting. He shared biographical background information and looks forward to working with WLA and committee members.

Legislative update. Conway reported on meetings with legislative leaders and Joint Finance Committee members that have informed WLA's best approach to biennial budget process advocacy. SRLAAW members have provided WLA with supporting data to illustrate proactive benefits from additional state aid for public library systems in the current budget cycle, as well as programs and services that would be boosted by an increase in the 2023-2025 budget. Conway will set up dates after Library Legislative Day for the WLA LD&L budget team to meet with all 16 JFC members and 4 legislative leaders to go over our budget papers. Meanwhile, conversations during LLD23 visits will emphasize appreciation for past support and stories regarding positive impact of state library aid at the local level. Representatives of WLA and WiLS/Recollection Wisconsin (RW) met and mutually agreed to a collegial uncoupling regarding legislative advocacy for a Recollection Wisconsin line item in the next budget. RW will not be included in the WLA budget papers, enabling WiLS/RW to pursue their own independent course of action and messaging. Conway also reported on conversations with legislators regarding messaging bills drafted in reaction to constituent concerns about library materials. A new handout for legislators addressing library collection development and reconsideration policies/procedures will be added to the Library Legislative Day leave behind packets. Loeffel requested that the WLA LD&L budget team stay on the Zoom call for additional conversation after the main LD&L meeting adjourned.

2023 Library Legislative Day. Gay reported that the LLD23 Committee has been meeting weekly to iron out details for February 7. Over 200 registrants are expected! Confirmed speakers for the morning briefing program are Governor Evers, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Underly, Assistant Superintendent Williams, Senator Felzkowski and Representative Goyke. Attendees are being asked to bring letters with their contact information to their LLD23 appointments, inviting legislators to visit the libraries in their districts and offering space for constituent listening sessions. Conway will calibrate his briefing remarks to emphasize enthusiasm and pride in what WLA has accomplished due to excellent relationship building by its members.

Libraries Transform Posters. Murphy is enjoying her work on this project and making steady progress on the list of legislators who need a poster. Loeffel, Conway and Sauser reported enthusiastic reactions from the legislative offices where they recently delivered new posters.

County & Municipal Funding Workgroup. Nothing to report.

Federal Relations Coordinator update. In the absence of Machones, Loeffel directed the committee's attention to the ALA Federal Coordinator Report [linked here](#).

DPI/DLT update. Miller summarized the DPI report to LD&L which is [linked here](#). As of January 1, 2023, Arrowhead Library System and Lakeshores Library System have merged and are now [Prairie Lakes Library System](#).

WLA update. Sauser announced that Bleck will be representing LD&L on the WLA Intellectual Freedom Task Force formed at the request of the WLA Board. It will focus on services to librarians, training and toolkit development rather than legislative policy and will make recommendations prior to the WLA Board's March meeting. WLA Board priorities for 2023 include state library aid advocacy during the biennial budget process, intellectual freedom, diversity, and pathways to leadership, as well as a review of association bylaws and the organization manual. The [WAPL Conference](#) in Oshkosh is April 26-28. The [WAAL Library Showcase](#) will be held March 17. The [WLA Leadership Development Institute](#) is a six month series of trainings over a six month period from April 26 to October 24, 2023.

Remaining 2023 LD&L meeting dates: March 24, May 26, July 28, September 22, November 17.

Loeffel declared the meeting adjourned at 11:20 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Kris Adams Wendt, Recorder