



WISCONSIN  
LIBRARY  
ASSOCIATION

## Library Development & Legislation (LD&L)

### Committee

Friday, January 22, 2021

10:00 AM

Virtual via Go-To-Meeting

### MINUTES

**Members present:** *(all attending remotely)* Pete Loeffel, Kris Adams Wendt, Mark Arend, Betsy Bleck, Nick Dimassis, Bruce Gay, Heather Johnson, Vicki Teal Lovely, Sherry Machones, Larry Oathout, Steve Ohs, Jim Ramsey, Nyama Reed, Plumer Lovelace (WLA Executive Director), Steve Conway (Conway Consulting)

**Members absent:** Jennifer Einwalter, Kathy Pletcher

**Guests:** Ben Miller (DPI), Martha Berninger (DPI), Bradley Shipp (OWLS), Chad Glamann (OWLS), Rebecca Kilde (IFLS), Lori Baumgart (NFLS), Jill Fuller (Bridges)

Chair Loeffel called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. The roll was called, and a quorum declared present. The agenda order was approved by consensus.

**Approval of minutes from the November 13, 2020 meeting.** The minutes of the November 13, 2020 meeting were approved unanimously on a **motion from Gay seconded by Arend**.

**Libraries Step Up Marketing Toolkit presentation.** Bradley Shipp, Chad Glamann, Rebecca Kilde, Lori Baumgart, and Jill Fuller shared information about [the Libraries Step Up project](#). It is a collaboration between OWLS, Bridges, Nicolet and IFLS library systems to draw attention to all the work that libraries did in 2020. This effort was initiated to counter the misperception that libraries have been closed during the pandemic. Postcards and a toolkit of plug-and-play and customizable communications resources have been developed for use with legislators during the biennial budget cycle and municipal/county elected officials during local budget deliberations in the second half of the year. See also [Libraries Step Up Video Walkthrough](#)

**Legislative update including 2021-2023 budget request.** Conway praised the engagement from the LD&L Budget Team during meetings with members of Joint Finance Committee (JFC) and majority/minority party leaders. More are being scheduled for February. Several returning library champions are among legislators appointed to JFC. It is expected that items from the DPI budget endorsed by WLA will be included in the Governor's Executive Budget document released on February 16, coinciding with the start of Library Legislative Day(s) meetings. WLA is well positioned if the majority party decides to use the current budget as a starting point rather than making changes to the Executive Budget. Pre-pandemic, the process would include in district listening sessions organized by members of both parties, and JFC public hearings in the spring. It remains to be seen how additional public input will be gathered.

**LD&L Committee 2021.** Loeffel reported having helpful conversations with 2020 Co-Chairs Connie Meyer and Kathy Klager. The LD&L Committee roster is complete at 15 members. [Secretary's note: Loeffel needed to leave the meeting briefly to discover why his library's fire alarm was ringing (non-emergency: burnt toast in the break room), which served as a reminder that he had expressed the need back in November for a volunteer to serve as vice-chair. Wendt gently nudged Bleck toward that honor, which suggestion was graciously accepted during the following week. The committee roster has been adjusted accordingly.]

**2021 WLA Legislative Policy Statement.** The 2021 WLA Legislative Policy Statement is identical to last years and has already been approved by the WLA Board. LD&L added its endorsement of the document on a **motion from Wendt seconded by Gay**. All aye. Motion carried. [It will be posted to the WLA website.](#)

**Library Legislative Day 2021.** Loeffel, Conway, Ramsey, Dimassis, and Gay took turns leading discussion of program and technical aspects of WLA's first ever entirely virtual Library Legislative Day(s) on February 16, 17 and 18. A final marketing and recruitment push was discussed. Ramsey and Wendt will troubleshoot the registration spreadsheets and coverage for 130 legislators (2 seats are vacant) during the last week in January before Ramsey takes on the Herculean challenge of scheduling appointments the following week. Some legislative offices are not equipped to host virtual meetings and WLA may need to assist, making additional licenses necessary. Loeffel will organize a meeting of core LLD workgroup members for the end of next week.

**Legislative Day Leave Behinds.** The 2020 LLD materials for registrants and legislators were reviewed. Some needed to be updated. A new handout was suggested to directly address the ways in which librarians have stepped up to provide innovative services during the pandemic, stressing that libraries are still open for business and continue to support their communities in many important ways.

**County & Municipal Funding Workgroup.** Arend will chair this workgroup, with Bleck, Einwalter, Ohs as new members. Loeffel asked Arend to arrange for a group session to which Meyer and Klager are invited in order to review recent issues and get everybody on the same page.

**Library stories video project.** Lovely gave a progress report on the work that she, her son Thomas, and George Sande have done with Dimassis and the Beloit Public Library staff. Material filmed at two dozen libraries around the state is currently organized loosely around the topics of technology, community & services during the pandemic, and resource sharing. Three segments will be produced for the LLD morning program. Links to rough cuts were shared with committee members who couldn't wait to see the final product!

**Conference programs.** Oathout is standing by to coordinate offerings from LD&L at such time as WLA is able to resume conference events.

**Federal Relations Coordinator update.** Machones delivered the report linked [here](#).

**Wisconsin DHS Vaccines and Libraries.** Machones shared a letter signed by Lovelace and herself as WLA President to the State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee (SDMAC) asking that librarians and library workers in public, academic, and special libraries be included in state and local Phase 1b of COVID-19 vaccine distribution plans to protect staff and minimize risk to library customers. A copy of the letter is linked [here](#).

**DPI/DLT update.** See DPI report to LD&L 01-22-21 linked [here](#).

**Announcements and other business.** None.

**Remaining 2021 meeting dates:** March 19, May 14, July 23, September 24, November 12. Meetings will be conducted virtually until further notice.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 AM on a **motion by Bleck seconded by Wendt**.

Respectfully submitted, Kris Adams Wendt, Recorder