



Library Development & Legislation (LD&L) Committee

Friday, March 19, 2021
10:00 AM
Virtual via Go-To-Meeting

MINUTES

Members present: (*all attending remotely*) Pete Loeffel, Kris Adams Wendt, Betsy Bleck, Nick Dimassis, Jennifer Einwalter, Heather Johnson, Vicki Teal Lovely, Sherry Machones, Larry Oathout, Jim Ramsey, Nyama Reed, Steve Conway (Conway Consulting), Hannah Bunting (WLA membership coordinator).

Members absent: Mark Arend, Bruce Gay, Steve Ohs, Kathy Pletcher

Guests: Kurt Kiefer (DPI), Ben Miller (DPI), Martha Berninger (DPI), Shannon Schultz (DPI)

Chair Loeffel called the meeting to order at 10:06 AM. The roll was called, and a quorum declared present. The agenda order was approved by consensus.

Approval of minutes from the January 22, 2021 meeting. The minutes of the January 11, 2021 meeting were approved unanimously on a **motion from Bleck seconded by Oathout**.

Library Legislative Day 2021. Loeffel thanked everyone for their contributions to delivering a successful Virtual Library Legislative Day(s) experience on February 16, 17 & 18 despite unique challenges. The ability to meet virtually with legislators drew a larger attendance from the northern half of the state, as well as additional representation from smaller libraries with limited staff and travel budgets. Consensus was that a virtual component should be considered for 2022. Loeffel reported that Bruce Gay is willing to take on an expanded leadership role next year. Bunting will reach out to the Madison Concourse for available dates, mindful of the February 15 spring primary. Dimassis will reach out to potential morning program speakers once a date is known.

Legislative update. Conway is facilitating meetings between the LD&L budget team and individual members of the legislature's Joint Finance Committee (JFC), as well as legislative leadership in both houses to promote state library aid requests for the next biennium as they appeared in the Governor's Executive Budget.

WLA Executive update. Plumer Lovelace left his position as WLA Executive Director on February 25 for the Population Health Institute unit at UW-Madison's School of Medicine. As WLA President, Machones has taken over day-to-day executive oversight and working with Bunting and unit leaders to organize virtual spring conferences, fall conference and the Leadership Institute. A search director has been hired to manage the hiring process with an ad expected soon.

Joint Finance Committee public hearings. Conway dialed into the meeting at 10:22 AM. JFC Public Hearings have been scheduled for April 9 (UW-Whitewater), April 21 (Rhineland Hodag Dome), and April 22 (UW-Stout, Menomonie) with a virtual hearing on April 28 for which few details are known. It was decided to ask for one or two LD&L volunteers who felt comfortable delivering 2-minute testimony at each site rather than recruiting 50-60 people to literally stand up for libraries and back up speakers over the course of the hearings as in past years. Loeffel and Wendt will work on written tips and messaging based on past experiences.

WLA Legislative Newsletter. Wendt reported on changes to the Constant Contact account that has been used to produce the Legislative Newsletter since Conway and Tony Driessen were at DeWitt LLC. Conway has been picking up the cost of the Constant Contact subscription since launching Conway Consulting, with a former associate donating personal time to production. Wendt will work with Bunting to determine what WLA “in house” alternatives are available for publication at this time and to assess the best way to transfer the distribution list of accumulated subscribers for the past 6 years.

County & Municipal Funding Workgroup. Arend will be chairing the County & Municipal Funding Workgroup and has met with Bleck and Einwalter. Einwalter will share the August 2020 Washington Co. Public Library Study (by the Washington County Library Directors) with LD&L.

Conference programs. Oathout has checked with the panel members recruited for a 2020 LD&L conference program before pandemic cancellation of WLA events and determined the best new target date for implementation would be 2021 Fall Conference (November 16-19). There was a brief discussion of potential opportunities for WLA to present at future state county and municipal association events.

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

WPLC Advocacy Workgroup. Machones presented a request for collaboration from the Wisconsin Public Library Consortium (WPLC) Advocacy Workgroup. WPLC’s primary and most popular service is the Wisconsin Digital Library, which provides access to digital audio and e-books as well as other e-content on a wide range of subjects and is available to all Wisconsin residents with a public library card. Its funding comes from Wisconsin public libraries and public library systems, with additional support provided by Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) federal grants through DPI. The WPLC Advocacy Workgroup’s charge is to *“explore partnerships and other avenues for increased resources and maximizing the use of the collection.”* The workgroup is interested in starting a conversation with LD&L regarding potential state level funding, as well as the possibility of including digital circulation count in county payments to libraries for use by non-librarians residents. Workgroup members are presenting to COLAND on May 14 which is also LD&L’s next meeting date. Machones suggested that they be invited to the July 23 LD&L meeting.

DPI/DLT update. The DPI report to LD&L is linked [here](#). Kiefer announced his retirement from DPI on July 5.

Announcements and other business. Loeffel sent a letter to the two candidates for State Superintendent of Public Instruction on March 12 asking for a response to the question ““How do public, school, and academic libraries fit into your vision for an educated and economically strong Wisconsin?”” and has received no replies as yet.

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

Loeffel declared the meeting adjourned at 10:57 AM.

Respectfully submitted, Kris Adams Wendt, Recorder