



Library Development & Legislation (LD&L) Committee

Friday, May 14, 2021

10:00 AM

Virtual via Go-To-Meeting

MINUTES

Members present: *(all attending remotely)* Pete Loeffel, Betsy Bleck, Kris Adams Wendt, Mark Arend, Nick Dimassis, Heather Johnson, Vicki Teal Lovely, Sherry Machones, Steve Ohs, Kathy Pletcher, Steve Conway (Conway Consulting)

Members absent: Bruce Gay, Jennifer Einwalter, Jim Ramsey, Nyama Reed

Guests: Shannon Schultz (DPI)

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 March 19, 2021 meeting. The minutes of the March 19, 2021 meeting were approved unanimously on a **motion from Ohs seconded by Pletcher**.

LD&L roster and members. Loeffel announced Larry Oathout has left the committee.

Legislative update. Conway provided an overview of budget teamwork including numerous visits with Joint Finance Committee (JFC) members and legislative leaders since the March meeting. Senator Felzkowski and Representative Loudeneck are continuing to champion WLA budget asks to JFC members. Timely assistance has been received from these legislators who contacted their JFC budget buddies on our behalf: Senator Petrowski and Representatives Edming, Moses, Tittl, Swearingen and VanderMeer. It is anticipated that the DPI budget will be among the last agencies to be discussed and voted upon in executive session, likely in the next two weeks. Conway will remain vigilant for any new questions or concerns on the part of key legislators.

Joint Finance Committee public hearings. Conway thanked everyone who contributed to fielding a WLA presence at the JFC public hearings. Dimassis and Bleck covered [JFC - Whitewater](#) on April 9. Machones and Mercer Public Library Director Teresa Schmidt covered [JFC - Rhinelander](#) on April 21. Johnson and IFLS Library System Director John Thompson covered [JFC - Menomonie](#) on April 22. (Links lead to videos of 2-minute testimony at each location.) WLA was not represented at the virtual hearing on April 28, where limited registration slots filled up very quickly.

Federal recovery funds. The DPI/DLT Library Services Team Staff met with library system directors to develop a vision for a recovery, resilience and revitalization plan for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. It is important that messaging to legislators emphasizes the funding is aimed at enhanced resources for local libraries helping their communities, rather than a potential substitute for additional state library system aid. See also attached report under DPI/DLT update.

Library Legislative Day 2022. February 8 has been selected for LLD 2022 at the Madison Concourse. Bruce Gay will chair, assisted by Dimassis (briefing program) and Ramsey (scheduling). Bruce will work with Hannah

Bunting on marketing. Machones and Wendt will also contribute to the subcommittee which will meet before the end of the summer to get organized.

Libraries Transform posters. It was suggested that a volunteer be sought via a memberclicks ad to coordinate this project. Bleck is chairing the Nominating Committee which has solicitation of volunteers for various association duties and projects in its wheelhouse. Loeffel and Wendt will pull together a Libraries Transform Poster Project volunteer coordinator job description. Wendt will update the list of current legislators who already have posters. Loeffel will follow up with Hannah Bunting as to available WLA Foundation funds to cover the cost of complimentary copies of new posters for legislators.

County & Municipal Funding Workgroup. Arend indicated no pressing issues to report. Ohs shared that one of the Lakeshores Library System counties was currently engaged in a county planning process likely to include Act 150 and Act 420 discussion. Hudson Public Library will have a new director starting in September.

Conference programs. A new volunteer is needed to coordinate LD&L programs at upcoming WLA conferences. Loeffel will revisit topics being developed by Oathout before his departure. Potential suggestions emerging during discussion included a refresher on county funding, as well as revisiting and updating the advocacy, relationship building and budget ninja tips from LD&L's June 5, 2020 webinar "Positioning the Library for a Post-Pandemic Sustainable Future."

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

DPI/DLT update. Schultz delivered the DPI report to LD&L [linked here](#).

Announcements and other business. Pletcher congratulated LD&L members for their hard work to date regarding the 2021-2023 budget which is built on steady and significant relationship building progress by the library community during the previous three biennial budget cycles. Wendt anticipates one more issue of the Legislative Newsletter before the end of June using Constant Contact under the current arrangement with Conway's office before switching to publishing by WLA staff using MailChimp. State Superintendent of Public Instruction Elect Jill Underly will be sworn into office on July 5. A new Assistant State Superintendent for the Division for Libraries and Technology has not yet been announced.

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

Loeffel declared the meeting adjourned at 11:04 AM.

Respectfully submitted, Kris Adams Wendt, Recorder