



WISCONSIN
LIBRARY
ASSOCIATION

Library Development & Legislation (LD&L) Committee

Friday, September 24, 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, Jennifer Einwalter, Bruce Gay, Vicki Teal Lovely, Sherry Machones, Margaret Murphy, Steve Ohs, Kathy Pletcher, Jim Ramsey, Nyama Reed, Laura Sauser (WLA Executive Director), Steve Conway (Conway Consulting).

Members absent: Heather Johnson,

Guests: Hannah Bunting (WLA staff), Ben Miller (DPI), Shannon Schultz (DPI), Martha Berninger (DPI)

Chair Loeffel called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM. The roll was called and a quorum declared present. The agenda order was approved by consensus.

Approval of minutes from the July 23, 2021 meeting. The minutes of the July 23, 2021 meeting were approved unanimously on a **motion from Gay seconded by Reed.**

Introduction of Laura Sauser, WLA Executive Director. Loeffel welcomed new WLA Executive Director Laura Sauser to the table. Sauser briefly introduced herself and shared several WLA updates.

LD&L Roster and Members. An updated roster was distributed with the meeting packet. Loeffel introduced new member Margaret Murphy who will be managing the Libraries Transform Legislative Poster project (see report below.)

Legislative update. Conway indicated a slowing of legislative activity since the 2021-2023 budget was signed on July 8. Legislators were happy to receive WLA thank you notes. Sauer has been accompanying Conway on some capitol visits. Increased association visibility at the capitol during the budget process has further encouraged legislators to contact WLA when approached by local government officials with questions about library funding and Chapter 43. Such inquiries provide an opportunity for WLA LD&L to connect the parties involved with the appropriate library system staff and local librarians, as well as DPI consultants, as needed.

County & Municipal Funding Workgroup. Further discussion riffing off Conway's report continued, with news regarding Dodge, Winnebago and Walworth Counties shared by Einwalter, Arend, and Ohs.

Library Legislative Day, February 8, 2022. Gay met virtually with Machones, Ramsey, Dimassis, Wendt, Conway, Sauser and Bunting on August 27. State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jill Underly will speak. A list of potential legislative champions and "advocate" awards was discussed. Whether the event needs to be in-person, virtual or hybrid will be discussed at the November 12 LD&L meeting.

Libraries Transform posters. Murphy walked committee members through the Libraries Transform Posters project plan. A letter has been sent to the WLA Foundation requesting underwriting for legislator presentation copies going forward.

Federal Relations Coordinator update. Machones delivered the report linked [here](#). The Build America's Libraries Act is stalled. Machones and Sauser plan to attend the ALA virtual Legislative Summit on October 16.

DPI/DLT update. The DPI report to LD&L is linked [here](#). Miller met with Loeffel, Bleck, Machones, Lovely, Reed and Wendt on August 10 to gain more information about the public library system funding formula analysis for which DPI

has hired Dr. Ken Kriz, as well as share LD&L concerns regarding the potential for unintended legislative consequences from well-intentioned conversations and data gathering. Miller will routinely update the LD&L subcommittee after conversations with Dr. Kriz. It is anticipated that LD&L formula subcommittee members will be the first stakeholder group to talk with Dr. Kriz sometime in the next two months. Further discussion ensued regarding collaborative communication between DPI/DLT and LD&L going forward, not only about the Dr. Kriz project but also when troubleshooting issues of continuing interest to the County & Municipal Funding Workgroup.

Remaining 2021 meeting dates; potential transition to in-person: The November 12 LD&L meeting will be virtual. Lovely will investigate holding in-person meetings at the SCLS meeting space formerly used by LD&L when WLA Offices were located in the same building. Loeffel will draft 2022 meeting dates by November 12. A call-in option is needed to accommodate those who would prefer a virtual alternative.

Announcements and other business. None.

Loeffel declared the meeting adjourned at 11:25 AM.

Respectfully submitted, Kris Adams Wendt, Recorder