



## Library Development & Legislation (LD&L) Committee

Friday, January 24, 2020

10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

WLA Office

4610 South Biltmore Lane, Suite 100, Madison, WI

### MINUTES

**Members present:** Connie Meyer, Kathy Klager, Kris Adams Wendt *remote*, Mark Arend *remote*, Nick Dimassis, Jennifer Chamberlain *remote*, Bruce Gay, Pete Loeffel, Larry Oathout, Steve Ohs, Jim Ramsey, Vicki Teal Lovely, Plumer Lovelace (WLA Executive Director), Steve Conway (Conway Consulting)

**Members absent:** Heather Johnson, Paula Kiely, Sherry Machones, Kathy Pletcher, Nyama Reed

**Guests:** Kurt Kiefer (Dept. of Public Instruction), Martha Berninger (DPI), Ben Miller (DPI)

Co-chair Meyer called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM and the agenda order was approved as printed.

**Approval of minutes from the November 15, 2019 meeting.** The minutes of the November 15, 2019 meeting were approved unanimously on a **motion from Dimassis seconded by Loeffel.**

**WLA lobbyist contract.** Conway transitioned from Dewitt LLP to his own firm, Conway Consulting, at the end of 2019. Lovelace reported a new contract between WLA and Conway Consulting has been signed. There was no interruption in services rendered and Conway's representation of WLA will continue as before.

**Legislative policy statement.** Meyer explained the purpose of the WLA Legislative Policy Statement which is annually refreshed, and was approved by the WLA Board on December 6, 2019. The Theobald Legislative Library (Legislative Reference Bureau Library) was added to the list of specialty libraries on p. 2 under "To enhance all Wisconsin libraries." Gay recommended two other small grammatical corrections which Meyer indicated she would change in the document.

**Legislative update.** Conway reported on working with Rep. Brooks to make sure that [AB490](#) did not contain any language that would impact Chapter 43 and be potentially harmful to libraries. Very few floor periods remain before the current legislative session adjourns for campaign season. Goals and timeline for the next biennial budget were discussed. Conway will contact Pettack and set up a library budget discussion meeting for April. He requested a 2021-2023 budget discussion item on the March LD&L agenda and asked that members come prepared to suggest specific ideas (increased funding, new projects, potential statute changes, etc.) for the next legislative session and how they relate to the messaging themes developed at the September and November meetings. Conway is taking the lead to work with legislative staff and secure Libraries Transform poster photos for Senators and Assembly members who didn't get in on the first round. It was suggested that the new batch feature legislators holding their favorite books in the style of the original Winnefox READ posters.

**Current Milwaukee Public Library legislative requests.** No report.

**Library Legislative Day.** Details regarding last minute registrations, documents for attendee and legislator folders, organization of the registration check-in table, messaging to attendees, and order of likely morning briefing program participants were discussed at some length and finalized for Library Legislative Day 2020 on February 11. Approximately 150 registrations were received by January 17. The handful of legislators without appointments will be contacted in district, with designated attendees stopping by their offices to drop off folders.

**County work group.** No current committee activities to report. General discussion ensued. There has been additional interest in the formation of joint libraries in several areas of the state. Also reports that some libraries have seen reductions in their local support as budgeting under levy limits continues to present a challenge.

**Federal Relations Coordinator.** Machones was absent but sent the report linked [here](#).

**DPI/DLT update.** See DPI Update to LD&L 01-24.2020 report linked [here](#).

**Conference programs.** Oathout submitted an LD&L sponsored program at WAPL (April 29-May1) with the working title of “The Worst They Can Say is No” and is confirming panelists to discuss local campaigns to maintain and/or increase municipal and county support for library services. Annual WLA Conference is October 27-30 in Green Bay. Meyer will contact Pletcher for local arrangements and potential program ideas. Discussion of advancing a WLA presence at other organizations’ conferences (WI Counties Association, League of WI Municipalities, WI Towns Association etc.) was deferred to the March agenda.

**Meeting dates for 2020.** The following LD&L meeting schedule was approved for 2020: January 24, March 20, May 15, July 24, September 25, November 13 at the WLA Office in Madison.

**Announcements and other business.** Chamberlain mentioned the Mid-Moraine Municipal Association as an example of a regional organization that might welcome a library related program at one of its meetings.

**Adjourn.** The meeting adjourned at 1:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kris Adams Wendt, Recorder