



## Library Development & Legislation Committee

Friday, January 27, 2017

10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

WLA Office

4610 South Biltmore Lane, Suite 100, Madison, WI

### MINUTES

**Present:** Kathy Pletcher, Connie Meyer, Kris Adams Wendt, Nick Dimassis, Kathy Klager, Bruce Gay, Heather Johnson, Marge Loch-Wouters, Steve Ohs, Jim Ramsey, Julie Schneider, Anita Weier, Plumer Lovelace, Michael Blumenfeld (WEMTA), Kurt Keifer (DPI/DLT), John DeBacher (DPI/DLT), Ed Van Gemert (UW-Madison libraries).

**Virtual participation via GoToMeeting:** Bryan McCormick, Mark Arend, John Thompson (PLSR), Janet Vraney (WEMTA).

**Absent:** Sherry Machones, Steve Conway (DeWitt)

Co-chair Pletcher called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM. Wendt acted as recorder. Self-introductions were made around the table. Schneider announced her retirement and plans to move to an arid state where she can ride her motorcycle all year; she will be leaving LD&L after the May meeting.

**Changes and additions to the agenda.** Wendt requested adding 2017 Spring Election under announcements and other business. The agenda was accepted by consensus as amended.

**Approval of minutes from December 1, 2016 meeting.** Minutes of the December 1, 2016 meeting were approved as amended on a **motion from Ohs seconded by Loch-Wouters**. All aye. Motion carried.

**Biennial Budget Request increase for 2017.** Meyer reported on meetings scheduled by Conway since the December 1 meeting with the Governor's budget staff. At least two dozen legislative leaders and members of the Joint Finance Committee will be covered by early February. Response to these well-timed WLA strategic conversations has been very positive and outlook is guardedly optimistic. Legislators are looking for accountability and ways in which increased public library system aids will enhance demonstrated value in the three areas identified by the system directors survey (broadband, workforce development, lifelong learning). The Governor's executive budget is expected to be announced on February 8. Library Legislative Day conversations on February 21 will continue smart messaging.

**Libraries Transform!** Dimassis provided an update on the Libraries Transform project. Finished posters that have not yet been presented to legislators will be printed out for distribution through attendees at Library Legislative Day. Attendees should also be encouraged to take photos of legislators with the big library system logo card to create posters for legislators who didn't get in on the initial round last year.

**Library Legislative Day.** Dimassis reported on arrangements so far. Schneider and Ramsey are assisting with appointments and registration data. Objective is to have a relaxed morning briefing to provide

confidence boosters and a few key talking points for legislative visits. Program lineup to include overview by Conway, Kiefer (WISEdata/dash language change), Tomahawk PL director Mary Dunn (hosting listening sessions), selected system directors (value library systems bring to local libraries, elaboration on the three identified value areas). The State Superintendent will stop by to give greetings.

**DPI/DLT update.** Kiefer provided updates on the BadgerLink RFP process, school library media consultant position hiring process, school e-books program, Common School Fund, Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA) ongoing national projects and priorities, net neutrality, and the importance of connecting federal library funding to essential state and local program effectiveness. WLA's 2017 Federal Legislative Advocate, Brian McCormick (regrettably unable to attend this meeting) is director of Speaker Paul Ryan's home library in Janesville. DeBacher provided updates on the LSTA 5-year plan process and speculation about potential treatment of IMLS funding under the new administration's first budget. Discussion ensued. Consensus developed for the creation of an ad hoc task force to proactively identify federal level priorities, craft appropriate messaging, create ongoing relationship building capacity and plan for rapid response to such issues as may arise. There is a relatively short window of opportunity to put a plan in place before National Library Legislative Day. **Motion by Ohs seconded by Meyer** to inform McCormick of the conversation and create a federal legislative working group under his direction. All aye. Motion carried. Conway will also be informed of this development and asked for advice. Ohs and Machones indicated an interest in participating in the working group. Kiefer left the meeting following the DPI/DLT report.

**WLA Member Concern** (concealed carry exemption on university campuses). Vice Provost for Libraries and University Librarian Ed Van Gemert appeared for information only to share the concern of UW System library directors regarding any potential changes to concealed carry laws which may allow weapons in all UW System buildings. Campus librarians are aligned in opposition with campus police chiefs and other UW System leaders and are monitoring the situation.

**Cross county payments working group.** Klager reported on recent activities of the cross county payments working group including meetings held with legislators to share data demonstrating how different payment models shift gains and losses from one group of counties to another, creating difficulties in new counties and legislative districts. Shawano County is considering initiating a county wide library consolidation plan to reorganize the funding of library services and eliminate Act 420 payments to neighboring counties. There have been some questions from Kewaunee County officials regarding non-uniform assessment for library services calibrated to where cross border borrowers reside, which is unconstitutional. The LD&L cross county payments working group is concentrating on a list of best practices for standardized reporting of data elements within payment requests, to be shared with SRLAAW at its February 20 meeting. Before the next LD&L meeting the group will also collaborate with DLT staff on guidelines for consolidated county public library decision-making, similar to guidelines written for consideration of combined school and public community library facilities.

**In county payments to libraries.** Meyer reported on an inquiry from Sen. Harsdorf regarding county payments to libraries within their borders specific to issues between the City of Hudson and St. Croix County. It has been suggested that s. 43.12 be modified to add a "uniform distribution" clause. Discussion ensued. Consensus reached was for Meyer to draft a letter to Sen. Harsdorf indicating LD&L could neither seek nor support such a change that potentially introduces a significant risk of unintended consequences across the entire state, and that unique local problems are best solved at the local level.

**Federal Legislative Advocate Report.** No report in the absence of McCormick, but many federal topics were covered under Kiefer's COSLA report.

**PLSR update.** Thompson reported on PLSR events since the last LD&L meeting. The Steering Committee met on December 19 and workgroup leadership and Steering Committee members met on January 20. Complete information can be found at the PLSR website. <http://www.plsr.info/>

**WEMTA update.** Vraney shared information about the annual WEMTA Conference on March 19-21, ongoing advocacy efforts in collaboration with the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) and concerns about administrative rules changes to the 2015 Every Student Succeeds Act. Blumenfeld distributed copies of the WEMTA legislative agenda and provided an update on second consideration of SJR3/AJR2 to delete the office of state treasurer from the state constitution. With approval of two consecutive legislative sessions, the proposed amendment would be subject to statewide referendum in April 2018 and could go into effect the following January. WEMTA is strongly opposed to this legislation which substitutes the Lt. Governor for the Treasurer as a member of the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands because current commissioners do not play a leading role in K-12 school funding or the state budget process.

**Announcements and other business.** Dimassis and Ramsey have solicited statements from candidates for State Superintendent of Public Instruction in answer to the question: "How do libraries (public, school, academic) fit into your vision for an educated and economically strong Wisconsin?" Responses are due by February 3 and will be shared in the February Legislative Newsletter. Wendt provided another reminder about absentee and early voting for those attending Library Legislative Day on February 21 (also Primary Election Day). It was noted that while public libraries are designated polling places for many Wisconsin communities, that is not universal and remains a local determination.

**Upcoming 2017 meetings:** March 24, May 19, July 28, September 29, November 30

**Adjourn.** The meeting adjourned at 3:40 PM on a **motion from Schneider seconded by Loch-Wouters.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Kris Adams Wendt, recorder