



Library Development & Legislation (LD&L) Committee

Friday, May 17, 2019

10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

WLA Office

4610 South Biltmore Lane, Suite 100, Madison, WI

DRAFT MINUTES

Members present: Connie Meyer, Kris Adams Wendt, Mark Arend, Paula Kiely, Kathy Klager, Pete Loeffel, Vicki Teal Lovely, Sherry Machones, Larry Oathout, Steve Ohs *remote*, Jim Ramsey, Scott Vrieze *remote*, Steve Conway (DeWitt, Ross & Stevens) *remote*.

Members absent: Kathy Pletcher, Amy Birtell, Nick Dimassis, Bruce Gay, Heather Johnson, Plumer Lovelace (WLA Executive Director)

Guests: John DeBacher (Dept. of Public Instruction), Dee Pettack (DPI)

Co-chair Meyer called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. The agenda order was approved without changes.

Approval of minutes from the March 2019 meeting. The minutes of the March 22, 2019 meeting were approved unanimously on a **motion from Ohs seconded by Machones**.

2019-2021 state budget update. Conway and Pettack provided a progress report on WLA's 2019-2021 state budget agenda. Joint Finance Committee (JFC) members have reached the part of the process where a series of executive sessions are scheduled to review and make changes to individual agency budgets. A majority of JFC members have chosen the route of "based budgeting" (i.e. using the current two-year budget as the starting point for change going forward) rather than taking up and making changes to the Governor's Executive Budget proposal introduced as [AB56/SB59](#). JFC will consider the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) budget in executive session on May 23.

The LD&L budget team has been working with Conway and Pettack since January to ensure that items from the DPI section of the Governor's Executive Budget supported by WLA are included in the JFC version of the budget. Our JFC friends have requested a Legislative Fiscal Bureau budget paper analyzing options for funding public library system aids, a necessary step for the insertion of our largest request. [LFB Paper #603](#) offers three alternatives: (1) the funding level proposed by the Governor, (2) provide \$1 million over base annually so that funding remains at the 2018-2019 level, or (3) revert to base level funding at the 2012-2017 amount. At least nine JFC votes are needed to pass motions. At this time, it is anticipated that the other state library aid requests for core services summarized will be included in the JFC budget at the DPI funding levels WLA endorsed. The Recollection WI inclusion under WISELearn as the Governor proposed could end up as part of a separate "back page" motion. Conway and Pettack recommended against additional last minute contacts with legislators to avoid crossing the line between healthy advocacy and annoying pestering. Wendt was advised to delay the next installment of the WLA Legislative Newsletter until after May 23.

JFC public hearings and legislator listening sessions in districts. WLA had an excellent presence at the four public budget hearings held last month! A total of 52 library supporters attended in person with many more submitting written testimony to the JFC clerk and making individual contacts with JFC members and other legislators. Wendt provided overall coordination. She thanked everyone present who participated and distributed a summary page detailing WLA site captains and attendees at each location which will appear in the next Legislative Newsletter. Meyer, Klager, Ohs, Loeffel and Lovely shared their experiences. Arend, Loeffel and Kiely reported on the two “People’s Budget” listening sessions hosted by the Governor that they attended in Oshkosh and Milwaukee. Meyer shared an idea for future JFC budget hearings. She suggested that adding a few people to share their individual library stories would be beneficial. Legislators indicated that hearing from people is important to them. Patrons speaking on their own accord, not coming up with the WLA group, could be a powerful tool if done properly. Conway and Pettack agreed regarding independent patron testimony. Wendt will continue to flag LD&L members and colleagues to legislator listening sessions at libraries in their home districts as she becomes aware of them from monitoring the Wheeler Report and other sources.

Libraries Transform posters for new legislators. An inventory of legislators with and without posters compiled by Wendt was distributed in the meeting packet. Ramsey will coordinate future activities with Conway. Meyer shared documentation supplied by the WLA office regarding LD&L’s original request for underwriting by the WLA Foundation (which needs to be renewed) and project expenditures to date.

Machones/Arend motion for LD&L to send a letter to the WLA Foundation requesting funds to produce an additional 75 posters. All aye. Motion carried.

County workgroup: automatic renewals, adjacent county requests, WCA conference program. Meyer reported that the topic of automatic renewals was discussed at the last SRLAAW meeting, producing the consensus that no ILS run by public library systems is doing it. Klager asked whether any critical cross county payment issues had arisen since the March meeting; Oathout and Arend reported on some conversations in their area which did not appear to merit the attention of the work group. DeBacher had no news of incidents reported to DLT. Kiely mentioned new service area lines had been drawn for Milwaukee Co. Public Library branches. Oathout mentioned the Wisconsin Counties Association (WHC) is holding its annual conference September 22-24 and suggested WLA might provide a breakout session on library funding at the 2020 gathering; Meyer will reach out to WHC contacts.

Statewide collaborative technology projects. Lovely and DeBacher provided an update on statewide collaborative technology projects and funding sources. No LD&L attention was necessary at this time.

TEACH program. Lovely and DeBacher shared information regarding likely changes to TEACH program funding and rules based on what is known so far about the Governor’s Executive Budget request and Joint Finance Committee deliberations. There are many unanswered questions regarding future participation by public libraries and public library systems. Pettack will follow up with the State Budget Director at Department of Administration.

Current Milwaukee Public Library legislative requests. Kiely shared two Milwaukee Public Library concerns regarding possible amendment of WI Statute 940.208 to include protection for certain types of neighborhood library service workers and seeking exemption to Department of Transportation freeway directional signage policy to enable a sign for the main library downtown. Conway will follow up.

DPI/DLT update. DeBacher provided information about the launch of the [Libraries Activating Workforce Development Skills \(LAWDS\) project](#). The Project Advisory Council (PAC) gave a presentation at WAPL

Conference on May 2 and recommended that a June meeting be convened including representatives of all of the DWD and Workforce Development Board regions and all of the public library system areas to address project logistics and communication/collaboration with the Boards of all organizations. Wisconsin Workforce Development Boards and Department of Workforce Development (DWD) staff will be co-creating and co-delivering the first training module on Workforce Development Boards Roles and Responsibilities. Scheduling is being worked out with systems. Pettack has been monitoring workforce development funding for Career and Technical Education grants. Enhanced workforce development opportunities through library partnerships with DWD is a key component of the WLA request for additional public library system aids.

Library Legislative Day ideas for 2020. Library Legislative Day will be held at the Madison Concourse on February 11, 2020. Ramsey will be consulting with WLA Office staff about registration deadlines and appointments scheduling, as well as a flyer in the fall conference folders.

Federal Relations Coordinator. Machones shared information about ALA urging the FCC to issue a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for E-rate, Category 2 funding. The ACCESS BROADBAND Act passed the House of Representatives. ALA endorsed this legislation to streamline and better coordinate broadband activities within the federal government. WI Senators Baldwin and Johnson are among U.S. Senate co-sponsors. ALA filed comments on the Educational Broadband Service spectrum to retain eligibility rules to preserve educational and public interest purposes. More than 500 libraries have partnerships with mobile hot-spot services. House appropriators approved a \$25 million increase for IMLS, including \$17 million for LSTA and an extra \$2 million for the Innovative Approaches to Literacy program. ALA has released the [Libraries' Guide to the 2020 Census](#).

WLA Conference LD&L Thursday afternoon program. The LD&L program slot is 1:45-2:30 pm on Thursday, October 10, 2018. Wendt was asked to invite members of the League of Women Voters of the Northwoods (LWVNOW) who have developed tools designed to help librarians assist citizens with online voter registration. The panel will include a librarian from one of the libraries where LWVNOW is already piloting the tools in Forest, Langlade, Lincoln, Oneida and Vilas County libraries.

WLA conduit. In the absence of Lovelace, there was no update.

Lobbyist evaluation report. There was a brief discussion of evaluation-related documents distributed to LD&L members in the meeting packet, which included a cover letter from Lovelace concluding with the following statement: "I have no doubt that the current legislative success enjoyed by WLA, Library Systems and Wisconsin libraries, is due in great part to the passion and dedication that we are fortunate to receive from our Government Relations Advisor, Steve Conway." Members present concurred.

Announcements and other business. Ohs announced he may be absent from the next couple of LD&L meetings due to impending fatherhood. Arend (loosely) plans retirement in mid-September and anticipates his position will be posted in June. There was a brief anecdotal discussion of the politics of co-located school/public library partnerships.

Adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 12:35 PM on a **motion from Ohs seconded by Arend.**

Respectfully submitted,
Kris Adams Wendt, Recorder