



Library Development & Legislation (LD&L) Committee

Friday, July 26, 2019

10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

WLA Office

4610 South Biltmore Lane, Suite 100, Madison, WI

MINUTES

Members present: Connie Meyer, Kris Adams Wendt, Kathy Klager, Pete Loeffel, Vicki Teal Lovely, Sherry Machones, Larry Oathout, Jim Ramsey, Mark Arend *remote*, Paula Kiely *remote*, Bruce Gay *remote*, Heather Johnson *remote*, Plumer Lovelace (WLA Executive Director), Steve Conway (DeWitt, Ross & Stevens).

Members absent: Kathy Pletcher, Amy Birtell, Nick Dimassis, Steve Ohs, Scott Vrieze

Guests: John DeBacher (Dept. of Public Instruction), Martha Berninger (DPI), Dee Pettack (DPI) *remote*

Co-chair Meyer called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM. The agenda order was approved without changes, with item 4 (state budget update) deferred until Conway's arrival at 11:00 AM.

Approval of minutes from the May 2019 meeting. The minutes of the May 18, 2019 meeting were approved unanimously on a **motion from Loeffel seconded by Oathout.**

County workgroup. Meyer and Klager delivered a presentation about cross border payments to the Northern Waters Library Service Trustees on July 13. Arend shared information about Portage and Marquette County library users being made more aware of library services in both counties and how county dollars follow cross county borrowing. There was brief discussion of county levy limit exemption for Act 420 payments. The workgroup will continue to monitor matters of potential impact, seeking opportunities to provide clarity for librarian colleagues as well as county officials.

Libraries Transform posters. Ramsey wrote to the WLA Foundation requesting renewal of project underwriting of no more than \$3,000 for the next phase of the project and asked to be put on the next WLAF meeting agenda. Assuming funds are approved, Conway could start taking photos at the end of August/first part of September. Lovely and Lovelace will provide Conway with an up-to-date system logo card for the photo opportunities.

State aid formula workgroup. Workgroup chair Machones reported the group met for the first time after the May 17 LD&L. Discussions were on the history of the system aids formula and what variables were present in the PLSR formula. Members of the workgroup are currently revising the data to match the latest budget numbers. The group expects to reconvene in the fall. In response to multiple questions from DeBacher and Kiely regarding work group members, origins, authorization and intent, Meyer indicated the need for LD&L to be engaged in PLSR outcomes that will need legislative approval. Loeffel indicated an interest in joining the group's next meeting. DeBacher indicated DPI next steps regarding the formula portion of the PLSR recommendations include research into formula history, potential alternatives and metrics used for other states' distribution formulas. It was discussed that a

liaison from the LD&L workgroup could be valuable to DPI as political considerations and regional issues become part of the overall discussion.

TEACH program. Lovely provided an update on what happened to E-rate/TEACH surplus in the 2019-2021 budget. The Joint Finance Committee approved [Alternative A2a from paper #610](#) (see Table 3, page 5) for Broadband Expansion Grants. The scenario left \$3,826,400 available to schools and libraries at the end of the biennium compared to the \$23,626,400 that the governor recommended. What's to become of that balance? There is \$2,943,000 for e-rate expenditures in each year of the biennium. E-rate allows a public library system to apply for federal E-rate grants for technology infrastructure equipment for a system headquarters. Lovely questioned whether it was worth further pursuing use of these funds for public library system infrastructure through this biennium and, additionally, whether the BadgerNet program would have enough funds to support school and library work. Pettack anticipated a final meeting with DOA regarding these expenditures.

State budget 2019-2021 update and looking ahead. Meyer thanked Conway and Pettack for their assistance and advice leading to successful achievement of the WLA 2019-2021 agenda. The budget signed into law by Governor Evers on July 3 included \$1,000,000 annually above base level public library system funding of \$15,013,100 for FY 2019-2020 and FY 2020-2021. This means the \$16,013,100 shared among Wisconsin public library systems in 2019 under a "one time only" 2017-2019 budget provision will be maintained at that amount in 2020 and 2021 which will become the new base. Funding requests for the library service contracts, BadgerLink and Newslines for the Blind were all approved at the amounts requested. Recollection Wisconsin was not added into the JFC budget as a fifth statewide resource contract as WLA proposed and it is hoped that capacity can be found within the current WISELearn resource portal appropriation at the Department of Public Instruction. DeBacher noted public library system funding is still \$500,000 below the 2011 level.

Conway complimented the LD&L team and library community on its consistency of messaging, noting the team skills only get better as team members gain experience and form relationships over several budget cycles. Most budget increases take two or three sessions to achieve; WLA did very well. In the next cycle, Conway recommended additional focus on stories and data demonstrating libraries as an excellent continuing investment; libraries are still relevant and offer needed services of value to communities. No legislator should be left fearing they could overfund libraries if there's nobody there.

Milwaukee Public Library legislative requests. Kiely reported that Rep. Goyke will draft a bill combining downtown Milwaukee Public Library directional signage with the Court of Honor (a series of statues, most honoring military figures, that line the West Wisconsin Avenue median strip between 9th and 10th Streets) and is networking with various groups and Marquette University. No sponsor has been found regarding amending § 940.208 to add assault on any municipal employee to the description for charging as a felony. Conway suggested WLA might consider signing on in support of a future bill offered by a coalition of municipal government organizations. He will look into both issues and report back.

Library Legislative Day 2020. Arend and Loeffel volunteered to assist Ramsey with more of the detailed tasks for LLD. In the absence of Dimassis (who was hosting Sen. Baldwin at a Beloit Public Library event), it was suggested that he might appreciate remaining in charge of the program but would appreciate more help with other details. Meyer will contact Dimassis. Ideas for more PR materials and leave behind lit pieces were discussed, along with digital presentations for the morning briefing and/or short "carry in" presentations on iPads or tablets. Ramsay will work with Lovelace on an announcement for the fall conference folders.

Federal relations coordinator. Machones reported the Office of Library Advocacy (OLA) has officially been eliminated with those responsibilities absorbed by the Public Policy and Advocacy (PPA) office and a Manager of State Advocacy position created to perform the state and local policy and advocacy activities. ALA stated: “By aligning the federal, state and local advocacy efforts into one unit, we will be better positioned for the future as we build our national network of library advocates, as well as more effective and collaborative in our policy and advocacy efforts at all levels of government. The process for advocacy – i.e., tactics, skills – is largely the same regardless of the governmental level – federal, state, or local. By integrating our advocacy efforts into the PPA unit, we will become more efficient, have better policy alignment, and make it easier for all ALA members to take advantage of the tools, training, and resources we provide to them to be effective library advocates.”

National Library Legislative Day will be May 4/5, 2020. ALA will pay expenses to an invitation only fly-in sometime in February 2020, to which Machones expects to represent Wisconsin. A new state legislative listserv has been established for chairs of state organization legislative committees. Machones is president of the Association of Specialized, Government and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASGCLA) which is developing strategies as to how to handle the e-book pricing issue. www.ala.org/asgcla/about

LinkedIn Learning — formerly Lynda.com, a platform used by libraries to provide online learning opportunities to library users — plans to make substantial changes to its terms of service that would significantly impair library users’ privacy rights. The requirement for users of LinkedIn Learning to disclose personally identifiable information is completely contrary to ALA policies addressing library users’ privacy, and it may violate some states’ library confidentiality laws as well as a librarian’s ethical obligation to keep a person’s use of library resources confidential. ALA urged LinkedIn and its owner Microsoft, to reconsider their position on this.

Since Lynda.com was mentioned as a more public library friendly alternative to the Microsoft Academy proposal initially funded in the WI 2017-2019 budget, this is of interest to WLA. The Joint Finance Committee Rejected the Governor's proposal to delete the Information Technology Education grant program, which provides \$875,000 annually to a recipient (currently Microsoft IT Academy) to provide information technology education to public school and technical college students as well as public library patrons. It remains intact with the same appropriation, including reference to 16 public libraries. Conway will follow through with his contacts and bring back a status report.

DPI/DLT update. On Friday, July 12, DeBacher and DPI staff Ben Miller presented a [draft implementation plan for](#) carrying out recommendations included in the Public Library System Redesign Steering Committee [Final Report to](#) the Council on Libraries and Network Development (COLAND). The plan includes a column with dates to indicate when work on individual recommendations will begin, and when subsequent activities to carry out the recommendations are anticipated.

Considerable discussion ensued regarding PLSR implementation timetable and funding sources, as well as whether the PLSR final report had been “accepted,” “endorsed” or “approved” by various entities. The July 26 DPI report to LD&L is linked [here](#). The August 2 DPI report to SRLAAW, which mentioned the LD&L discussion is linked [here](#).

LD&L’s WLA fall conference program. The program is advertised as follows:

Get Ready for 2020! Voter Education and Registration Assistant Project - *Kris Adams Wendt, WLA Library Development & Legislation Committee; Debra Durchslag, League of Women Voters of the Northwoods; Yolan Mistele, League of Women Voters of the Northwoods; Laurie A. Ollhoff, T.B. Scott Free Library, Merrill*

A dynamic team from the League of Women Voters of the Northwoods has been working with librarian colleagues in Florence, Forest, Langlade, Lincoln, Oneida and Vilas Counties to promote voter registration for all eligible adults. The Voter Education & Registration Assistance Project (VERAP) includes an Instructional Notebook to guide library users through the voter registration process, which can usually be completed online and on the spot. There is also a Resource Notebook to easily enable library staff to answer questions about online voting registration as well as paper registration, photo ID and voting. This program will help prepare all libraries for the busy election season in 2020.

Presenting at other organization's conferences. At the last meeting Oathout suggested looking into the possibility of WLA/LD&L presentations to further relationship building at annual conferences sponsored by the Wisconsin Counties Association, League of Wisconsin Municipalities, Wisconsin Towns Association. Arend volunteered to chair a new working group to explore this topic and asked for other volunteers to contact him.

WLA conduit. Conway reported that Amanda Soelle would like to work with WLA. She has suggested that a survey of WLA membership would be a useful way to gauge potential interest and offered to work with LD&L members on something that could be sent out through memberclicks. Meyer, Klager and Wendt are willing to work with Amanda on wording.

Announcements and other business. Arend announced his last day at OWLS before retirement is September 15 and invited LD&L members to the party on September 13 in Oshkosh. Lovelace announced that Vrieze has accepted another job out of state, will finish out his term as WLA president to the end of the year, but not serve as past president.

Adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 12:10 PM on a **motion from Klager seconded by Loeffel.**

Respectfully submitted,
Kris Adams Wendt, Recorder