



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

Friday, September 27, 2019

10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

WLA Office

4610 South Biltmore Lane, Suite 100, Madison, WI

### MINUTES

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

**Members absent:** Amy Birtell, Nick Dimassis

**Guests:** Martha Berninger (Dept. of Public Instruction), Shannon Schultz (DPI), Jennifer Chamberlain *remote* (Monarch Library System)

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

**Approval of minutes from the July 2019 meeting.** The minutes of the July 26, 2019 meeting were approved unanimously on a **motion from Kiely seconded by Machones** after this sentence was corrected on page 2 under TEACH program: “The scenario left ~~all but~~ \$3,826,400 available to schools and libraries at the end of the biennium compared to the \$23,626,400 that the governor recommended.”

**Legislative update.** Conway’s report on contacts with legislative library champions was followed by a brainstorming session to capture new and enhanced messaging for the upcoming biennium regarding the continuing value and relevance of libraries. Pletcher will summarize and distribute key data and discussion points to LD&L members to be further refined at the November 15 meeting.

**County work group.** Klager introduced Monarch Library System Interim Director Jennifer Chamberlain who informed LD&L members on recent Washington County Board discussions regarding potential exploration of inter-municipal joint agreements for direct support of libraries in Germantown, Hartford, Kewaskum, Slinger and West Bend. County financial support for in-county libraries has decreased as the level of Act 420 payments increased. From the county’s viewpoint, optimal success in establishing joint agreements could reduce or even entirely eliminate Act 420 payments from Washington Co. to libraries in adjacent counties currently serving “non-librariated” Washington Co. borrowers. However, decisions regarding joint municipal support of library service costs need to evolve from conversations and agreements among local elected officials and library boards. Library directors in the five municipalities are studying the matter with the intent to report findings in May 2020.

**Libraries Transform posters for new legislators.** Conway reported that gathering new photos is paused.

**TEACH program.** Lovely initiated discussion regarding what is known about access to available funding for libraries under e-rate/TEACH and sustainability for the backup and archive collaboration project, as

well as continuing questions about future allocation of LSTA and state dollars. SRLAAW has created a work group to address similar issues. Several LD&L members expressed concerns that WLA advocacy for funding of additional program efforts (outside of the usual requests for system aid, resource contracts, BadgerLink and Newsline) should be based on a clear understanding of the goals/scope of the ask and the pathway for libraries to access any dollars left on the table. (See also the TEACH program item in the July 26 LD&L minutes.)

**Current Milwaukee Public Library legislative requests.** Kiely is continuing to work with the City of Milwaukee lobbyist on downtown directional signage to Milwaukee Public Library and the Court of Honor. Conway remains alert for legislators in a position to assist the effort. There has been no progress regarding amending § 940.208 to add assault on any municipal employee to the description for charging as a felony.

**Library Legislative Ideas for 2020.** Library Legislative Day in non-budget producing even numbered years provides an opportunity to say thank you and set the table for the following year. Loeffel has volunteered to chair Library Legislative Day 2020 with Dimassis retaining morning briefing program responsibility in consultation with Conway. Arend and Gay will work with Loeffel to explore new ideas for creating and adding digital content to presentations in individual legislative offices. There was general discussion about organization of registration and legislator packets. Loeffel will work with Ramsey, Wendt and the WLA Office on registration deadlines, attendee recruitment and an advertising plan. A flyer has been prepared for WLA Annual Conference distribution.

**Federal Relations Coordinator.** Machones reported that the 45th annual National Library Legislative Day will be held May 4-5, 2020, at the Georgetown Conference Center in Washington, D.C. Federal education programs are stalled in the U.S. Senate. While the two-year budget agreement passed earlier this year provided top line funding levels for all expenditures, the sub-allocations between the 12 subcommittees exposed differing priorities between Democrats and Republicans. Since the House version provided a significant increase to many library and education programs, reconciling whatever comes out of the Senate could be rocky. ALA recently signed a coalition letter in support of the bipartisan Summer Meals and Learning Act (S. 2070 and H.R. 3667) which would create a small federal pilot program to incentivize summer reading and meal programs at schools that meet certain criteria. Wisconsin's own Bob Bocher, an ALA Senior Policy Fellow, has written [Possible Threat to the E-Rate Program: FCC explores capping the Universal Service Fund](#). Meanwhile, [ALA denounces new Macmillan library lending model, urges library customers to voice objections](#).

**DPI/DLT update.** Berninger and Schultz represented DPI/DLT. A copy of their report is linked [here](#).

**WLA Conference, voter registration materials program.** Wendt reported that the panel is all set for the LD&L sponsored program on October 10 featuring voter education and registration tools developed by the League of Women Voters of the Northwoods (LWVNOW). It is one of a handful of conference programs selected for live streaming and archiving on the WLA YouTube channel. Wendt and LWVNOW members presented at the August 2 SRLAAW meeting. The LWVNOW tools have since been distributed to all Wisconsin Valley Library Service member libraries, in addition to two libraries in Vilas County.

**WLA conduit.** Conway reported that further analysis has indicated reestablishing a WLA conduit administered by an outside contract may not be feasible due to the likely cost effectiveness of managing what's anticipated to be many small donations.

**Announcements and other business.** Kiely shared information about Milwaukee Public Library's recent experiences regarding digitization of and access to historic Milwaukee newspaper content. Ohs provided a brief update regarding DPI coordination of PLSR implementation. Lovelace gave an update on delayed WLA recognition of Senator Alberta Darling as a Library Champion and plans to present the Library Legislative Day award at the North Shore Library in Glendale. Lovelace will check on meeting room availability and compile a list of suggested dates for 2020 LD&L meetings for approval in November. Meyer announced plans to retire as Bridges Library System director in 2020, targeting sometime in March with the caveat to remain until a smooth transition is ensured.

**Adjourn.** The meeting adjourned at 1:00 PM on a **motion from Machones seconded by Meyer.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Kris Adams Wendt, Recorder