Present: Kathy Pletcher, Nick Dimassis, Connie Meyer, Kris Adams Wendt, Jean Anderson, Mark Arend, Mark Ibach, Kathy Klager, Bruce Gay, Heather Johnson, Marge Loch-Wouters, Sherry Machones, Steve Ohs, Jim Ramsey, Anita Weier, Plumer Lovelace, Steve Conway (DeWitt), Michael Blumenfeld (WEMTA) Virtual participation via GoToMeeting: Bryan McCormick, Julie Schneider, John Thompson (PLSR) Absent: Diana Skalitzky, DPI representation

Co-chair Pletcher called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM. Wendt acted as recorder. New members were welcomed: Bruce Gay, March Loch-Wouters, Bryan McCormick, Sherry Machones, Steve Ohs, Jim Ramsey and Anita Weier. Departing members Mark Ibach and Jean Anderson were thanked for their contributions. Self-introductions were made around the table.

Changes and additions to the agenda. Pletcher added approval of the WLA State Legislative Agenda was added after report of the cross border payments working group. Wendt added 2017 Spring Election under announcements and other business. The agenda was accepted by consensus as amended.

Approval of minutes from September 23, 2016 meeting. Schneider noted she was listed as being both present and absent and that the later designation was correct. Minutes of the September 23, 2016 meeting were approved as amended on a motion from Arend seconded by Meyer.

Biennial Budget Request increase for 2017. Conway summarized WLA legislative relationship building work over the past three years, emphasizing positive impact on raising legislator awareness of library issues and structure, noting that early collaboration between DPI and LD&L is key to budget process outcomes. The SRLAAW survey earlier this year helped identify ways in which the request for additional public library system aids aligned with the Governor’s priorities of broadband expansion, workforce development and literacy/lifelong learning. The Governor articulated those same themes in his speech at Beloit Public Library in August when recalling his family’s personal connection to library services. Pletcher walked the group through messaging and “leave behind” summary for the LD&L budget team’s meeting with the Governor’s senior budget analyst following the LD&L meeting. That messaging is still evolving for future use in individual meetings with members of Joint Finance Committee, at local listening sessions, and on Library Legislative Day. Stories are needed to illustrate the impact of increased public library system funding at the local library level, as well as other DPI budget items for which cost to continue funding was requested. Discussion ensued. Several new committee members asked to see the September 15 DPI budget request including library items; Wendt will provide.
Academic and K-12 library funding is more difficult to influence through appropriate governance structures during the budget process without corresponding specific initiatives to grab onto. Support for academic and K-12 libraries are in the WLA Legislative Policy Statement. Conway asked to be kept informed of academic and K-12 issues, indicating that WLA provided information that made a difference in those areas behind the scenes during the last biennial budget discussions.

**Cross county payments working group.** For the benefit of new members, Klager provided background regarding cross county payments for library use by residents of municipalities without a library from adjacent counties. She reported on the meeting that morning between LD&L working group members and Sen. Cowles’ chief-of-staff, who is providing liaison with other legislators who had previously requested a Legislative Council Study Committee (which was not approved) to address the subject. Working group members presented data and payment models illustrating the potential for any changes to the current methodology for payment determination to merely shift benefit and loss among counties and libraries in a given legislative district, creating new dissatisfactions rather than eliminating complaints. The working group shared with the chief-of-staff a list of best practices suggested by LD&L and SRLAAW for standardized reporting of data elements within payment requests, something that would provide an administrative, rather than legislative, solution to some of the concerns expressed by individual county clerks. This resonated with the chief-of-staff, who requested to be informed when the best practices are implemented to put the issue to rest. He thanked the working group for their help and said he and Sen. Cowles would share the information with the other interested legislators.

Following further discussion among LD&L members regarding patron location coding and necessary reporting content, the working group was asked to proceed with communication to SRLAAW and next steps to get the best practices in place. Mark Arend volunteered to communicate to SRLAAW how his ILS plans to enter all possible patron codes in order to assure by the start of 2017 that every cross-county circulation will be recorded by patron location, and to get feedback on the feasibility of others doing the same. The working group will then meet to formalize the recommendation of best practices for formal SRLAAW endorsement at their February meeting.

**Approval of WLA State Legislative Agenda.** The 2017 WLA State Legislative Agenda draft was word-smithed. Pletcher will incorporate suggested changes and present the agenda to the WLA Board on December 2. The draft was adopted as amended and forwarded to the WLA Board on a motion by Arend seconded by Weiers.

**Libraries Transform/2017 Library Legislative Day.** Dimassis provided an update in both areas. Not all poster photos have been taken (returning as well as freshman legislators). Finished posters remain to be presented with attendant publicity. Systems have been asked to assume more coordination at the regional level. Registration for Library Legislative Day is up and running. Details of the morning briefing program and potential Library Champions recognition were discussed. Conway asked that a Save the Date flyer for legislative offices be sent to him for distribution to capitol mailboxes.

**Federal Legislative Advocate Report.** Schneider contacted Senator Johnson and Wisconsin’s US House delegation who won re-election November 8 to extend WLA congratulations and will also do the same for the President-Elect. ALA sent out an alert requesting calls asking for a delay on adoption of Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure Rule 41 which grants federal law enforcement authorities sweeping new powers of remote access to computers or computer systems to neutralize cybersecurity threats. The
hoped for bill written to delay implementation of the new rule until July, long enough to hold hearings to review potential consequences, did not pass. National Library Legislative Day is May 1-2, 2017. Bryan McCormick, as 2017 Federal Legislative Advocate, will coordinate send out registration information.

**PLSR update.** Thompson reported on PLSR events since the last LD&L meeting. An information handout summarizing highpoints of the project designed for Library Legislative Day registrants (not a leave behind for legislators) was discussed. In response to a question from Pletcher, Thompson indicated there are no specific legislative issues identified by PLSR at this time for which action is necessary.

**DPI/DLT update.** No DPI/DLT representatives were present. There was no report.

**WEMTA update.** Blumenfeld reported that the annual Wisconsin Educational Media & Technology Association (WEMTA) Conference is March 19-21 in Wisconsin Dells. WEMTA has been working with the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) to lobby on issues of national interest. The Board of Commissioners of Public Lands has demonstrated sound investment decisions to maintain Common School Fund stability despite an anticipated dip in earnings associated in part with unclaimed property collections shortfall.

**Announcements and other business.** Wendt led discussion of the non-partisan Spring Election which includes the race for State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Nomination papers are due by January 3. Primary day is the same as Library Legislative Day. WLA members planning on attending LLD will be strongly encouraged to secure absentee ballots. It was suggested that WLA solicit statements from all the candidates to share with the membership.

**2017 meetings.** (Fridays) January 27, March 24, May 19, July 28, September 29, and (Thursday) November 30.

**Adjourn.** The meeting adjourned at 3:40 PM on a motion from Ibach seconded by Meyer.

Respectfully submitted,
Kris Adams Wendt, recorder