Library Development & Legislation Committee  
Friday, January 29, 2016  
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM  
WLA Office  
4610 South Biltmore Lane, Suite 100, Madison, WI

MINUTES

Present: Kathy Pletcher, Kris Adams Wendt, Julie Schneider, Connie Meyer, Nick Dimassis, Diana Skalitzky, Mark Ibach, Jean Anderson, Plumer Lovelace, Kathy Klager, Annette Smith (WEMTA), Sandra Heiden (WEMTA), Steve Conway, Michael Blumenfeld (WEMTA), John DeBacher (DLT), Martha Berninger (DLT)

Virtual participation via GoToMeeting: Heather Johnson, Shannon Schultz

Absent: Elizabeth Schutz

Co-chair Pletcher called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM. Wendt acted as recorder.

Introductions were performed. The agenda was accepted as presented. Minutes of the December 3, 2015 meeting were approved on a motion from Schneider seconded by Heiden.

Legislative Day 2016 Planning Committee. Dimassis led discussion of morning briefing and rotunda anniversary program, and other details to finalize the day’s agenda. Schneider and Schultz reported on registration (at 175 so far) and a few issues yet to be resolved. The poster project is progressing nicely thanks to coordination by Rep. Loudenbeck’s office. Some consideration was given to coordination of briefing points for remarks by Lt. Gov. Kleefisch and Superintendent Evers during the rotunda program. DeWitt will walk the letter of invitation over to capitol mailboxes.

Report of the WLA lobbyist. Conway summarized progress to date on the Return of Library Materials bill (AB609/SB466) through the committee hearing process with kudos to Johnson, Klager, Meyer and Schultz. Questions during the Assembly committee hearing indicated a need for concise talking points on the use of some variation of law enforcement by libraries to assist with retrieval of materials and collection of replacement costs for lost items. Media reports tend to be hung up on police and fines. Conway sketched out the next steps in the process, including newsletter and memberclicks messaging of action alerts, working with legislative leaders and the governor’s office to assure passage and signing before the legislature adjourns for campaign season. The “Libraries Transform” theme from the legislative posters will carry over to relationship building activities through the end of the year as preparation for the next budget writing cycle. Messaging: every library demonstrates a value proposition; we could do more with additional resources. Questions surrounding Act 157, cross county payments and the “opt-out and bill direct” resolution originating in Kewaunee Co. have surfaced in Shawano and other counties. Several senators have indicated an interest in forming a Legislative Council Study Committee to examine cross county payments. AB704 would allow a tribal college-county joint library to participate in a public library system. The bill was introduced in response to a Chapter 43 public library compliance issue specific to Menomonie County. A tribal college-county joint library is established when a county board enters into a qualifying agreement with a tribal college to maintain a
public library for the county. WLA has endorsed the bill. A motion by Skalitzky seconded by Schneider authorized Conway to register WLA in support of AB704. Watch list items: Nothing new to report.

Federal Legislative Report; National Library Legislative Day. Schneider reported there is no specific library related legislation of interest at the federal level at this time; monitoring of budget request is ongoing. National Library Legislative Day will be May 2-3, 2016. Schneider will announce and encourage registration through MemberClicks.

WAPL/WAAL conference. It was suggested that public librarians and trustees alike would benefit from a WAPL spring conference session about implementation of the Return of Library Materials changes to the Chapter 43, providing legal guidelines and cost benefit analysis to either contracting with a collection agency or working with municipal government to explore potential assistance from local law enforcement. Pletcher and Meyer will pursue options. Conway would welcome an opportunity to meet and talk with WAAL members (including WICU and/or CUWL opportunities) to gain mutual understanding of issues where WLA’s governmental relations advisor might provide assistance.

WEMTA update. Heiden asked about current status of the revised WLA/WEMTA partnership agreement and Lovelace indicated there were still some things to sort out, but progress was “90% there.” Annual WEMTA conference is April 10-12. WEMTA would like to send two representatives to National Library Legislative Day. WEMTA officers plan to meet with Board of Commissioners of Public Lands (BCPL) Executive Secretary Barry and invite him to WEMTA conference for the annual Common School Fund presentation. BCPL infographic handouts will be shared with LD&L. Blumenfeld shared a brief status review of AJR5 and SJR4 proposing the elimination of the State Treasurer’s position and the substitution of the Lt. Governor for the Treasurer on the BCPL Board.

DPI/DLT staff. DeBacher and Berninger reported on various issues of interest including updates on LSTA and ESEA funding as well as ongoing DPI/DWD interest in better alignment of federal resources so as to include public library access to services among local community-based partnerships under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

Announcements and other business. Skalitzky initiated discussion of the state ex offender registry protocols and how/whether public libraries might receive notification of individuals released into the community whose supervision rules include no contact with children. She will gather more information for the April meeting.

2016 meetings. The following dates were set: (Friday) April 1, (Friday) June 3, (Friday) August 5, (Friday) September 30 and (Thursday) December 1.

Adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 1:05 PM on a motion from Meyer seconded by Schneider.

Respectfully submitted,
Kris Adams Wendt, recorder