Present: Kathy Pletcher, Kris Adams Wendt, Connie Meyer, Nick Dimassis, Kathy Klager, Mark Ibach, Jean Anderson, Plumer Lovelace, Steve Conway, Kurt Kiefer (DLT), Michael Blumenfeld (WEMTA).
Virtual participation via GoToMeeting: Heather Johnson, Steve Conway, Martha Berninger, Kim Bannigan (WEMTA)
Absent: Julie Schneider, Diana Skalitzky, Sandra Heiden (WEMTA), Annette Smith (WEMTA)

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

The agenda was accepted as presented. Minutes of the April 1 meeting were approved with one correction (change “from” to “for” in last sentence of first full paragraph) on a motion from Ibach seconded by Meyer. It was reported that Elizabeth Schutz has informed the co-chairs she is unable to continue as a committee member and there are now two vacant seats to fill.

DPI/DLT Budget Request for 2017. Kiefer and Berninger gave an overview of the DPI/DLT budget discussion so far and various components. The LD&L budget team (Dimassis, Meyer and Conway; Pletcher absent) met with the DPI/DLT team on May 16. The DLT team will meet with Superintendent Evers for their first discussion in the week following this LD&L meeting. The DIP budget will be submitted September 15 to DOA. Public library system aids, the four statewide resource contracts, BadgerLink and Newsline for the Blind (all funded through the USF) were high priority items for WLA LD&L members, who asked what was really needed in each category.

DPI is required by statute to request the 13% index for public library system aids, but that doesn’t preclude a lesser increase in the executive budget. Consensus developed around a reasonable request for increase in public library system aids grounded in well-messaged promotion showing “the why” and value of potential benefits to local libraries. Additional system funding supporting multiple-library efficiencies in the area of technology, for example, could free local funds for enhanced services in other areas. Berninger stated that contract funding would be $3,243 over base for FY18 and $7,133 for FY19; a more detailed breakdown will be available within the next week. Inclusion of Learning Express under the BadgerLink umbrella is under consideration; more information will be forthcoming. It was noted that, unlike WISELearn, the WISEdash and WISEdata initiatives are currently limited to schools; integrating services beneficial to public libraries into all three programs would require statutory changes. WLA stakeholders need to be “sold” with a clear picture of the value and practical application of these programs. Action items emerged: Meyer to take point on a survey of system directors to gather talking points supporting how an increase in system aids could benefit citizens by providing more flexibility for local library budgets. Conway to advise on coordinated messaging once themes emerge.
Report of WLA lobbyist. Libraries Transform game plan: Conway spoke about necessary relationship building elements during campaign season, particularly coordinating Libraries Transform messaging among libraries that host candidate forums, listening sessions or office hours, as well as WLA members participating in traditional campaign events. There is a need to efficiently aggregate a list of these and other events so that local libraries in a legislator’s district are aware of opportunities. Cross county payments and county board resolutions: A request by three legislators for a Legislative Council Study Committee on the topic was not chosen. Pletcher asked for volunteers for a working group to identify current perceived problems, gather data and meet with key legislators to share information. Task force members: Klager (Chair), Pletcher, Wendt and Mark Arend (Winnefox Library System) advised by Conway, who will contact the Wisconsin Counties Association.

Libraries Transform posters. Dimassis and Meyer will work together to get the word out through SRLAAW about the legislator posters that are already available for presentation, photos that need to be taken and the process by which individual libraries can obtain presentation and display copies through the WLA office.

Federal Legislative Report/Federal Legislative Day. Kiefer reported in the absence of Schneider who sent a written summary. Besides Kiefer and Schneider, this year’s delegation included Peter Loeffel and Bryan McCormick (directors of public libraries in Muskego and Janesville), Jaime Healy-Plotkin (Wisconsin State Law Library), Martha Van Pelt (SCLS Director), School Library Media Specialists Michele Green and Heidi Catlin (New London and Rhinelander).

WLA conference program. LD&L is partnering with WLTF on Thursday, Oct. 28. "Libraries and Legislators: Transforming Together!" Speakers: Panel members – several legislators and library leaders (Conway will assist) Description: Playing on the Libraries Transform! This program will be a discussion on the legislative funding process and how state funding creates value at the local level via local libraries. Those values include economies of scale through lower pricing, less implementation effort locally and avoiding rework, creating equity in resources for all libraries. This session supports WLA’s relationship building effort with legislators to support libraries in serving their communities.

DPI/DLT update. Kiefer summarized the COSLA “Measures that Matter” data mapping project to illustrate library value.

WEMTA update. New WEMTA president Kim Bannigan reported that Smith and Heiden will be handing their WEMTA legislative committee duties to new co-chairs for the coming year and shared emails for direct contact. The agreement between WEMTA and WLA has not yet been finalized.

Announcements and other business. In addition to items mentioned elsewhere, there was a brief discussion of the emergent SRLAAW/WLA partnership to support government relations.

2016 meetings. August 5, (Friday) September 30 and (Thursday) December 1.

Adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 12:50 PM on a motion from Meyer seconded by Ibach.

Respectfully submitted,
Kris Adams Wendt, recorder