

## May 15, 2020 - WLA LD&L Meeting Highlights for WVLS Board of Trustees

### State Biennial Budget Request for 2021-2023

- While economic disruption caused by COVID-19 includes unforeseen expenditures and decreased tax revenue at the local, county and state levels, the past 6 years of relationship building and demonstrated return on state library aids have Wisconsin libraries well-positioned to message their value as key players in community recovery.
- Library stories are needed to illustrate the innovative strength of public libraries in times of social hardship and how they can contribute to the recovery in future.
- LD&L has formally recommended to DPI that the 2021-2023 biennial budget request for an increase in public library system aid should be the same as in 2019-2021, i.e. an extra \$2.5 million in the first year and \$4 million (the \$2.5M from the first year plus another \$1.5M) in the second. The funding increase approved for system aids in the current 2019-2021 biennium is now the new base rather than a “one time only” appropriation as in 2017-2019.
- Amounts for the four statewide resource contracts (Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library, the Cooperative Children’s Book Center, Milwaukee Public Library and UW-Madison), BadgerLink and Newsline for the Blind are still yet to be determined.
- Pursuing inclusion of Recollection Wisconsin as a new fifth contract at a first/second year level of \$150,000/\$300,000 was also supported.
- It should be noted that Wisconsin’s LSTA grant is still governed by statutory maintenance of effort (MOE) rules that make Wisconsin’s continued state aid support for library services a critical part of a healthy Division for Libraries & Technology budget from combined federal and state sources.
- Complete budget documents will be available at the August 15 WVLS Board meeting.
- WLA Government Relations Advisor Steve Conway will work with DPI Policy Initiatives Advisor Dee Pettack to arrange conversations between the WLA LD&L budget team and key budget advocates at DPI, the Department of Administration (DOA) and legislative leaders during the summer. The amount requested for public library system aids and Recollection Wisconsin may change as discussions progress and advice is received.

### LD&L Local & County Funding Workgroup activated

- Expansion and refocus of workgroup that has delivered effective liaison work with the Wisconsin Counties Association, while guiding county officials and legislators to greater understanding of how Act 150 and Act 420 payments deliver a high value of library service received for a relatively small investment.
- Newly charged with addressing ways in which WLA LD&L can work with system directors to provide assistance to local library directors faced with actual or expected funding decreases from municipalities and counties. (Suggestions included development of advocacy tool kit, potential webinars, individual coaching, effective messaging, etc.) This request was brought to LD&L following a recent Library System Directors meeting.
- Asked to develop consistent messaging to counties regarding the specific impact of decreased library circulation due to COVID-19 service disruption upon Act 150 & Act 420 payment requests.
- Will be meeting Tuesday, May 19; includes LD&L Co-Chairs, Kris Adams Wendt (WVLS), Mark Arend (retired), Pete Loeffel (Wauwatosa Public Library) and former LD&L member Mark Ibach (SCLS).