WMLA Meeting Minutes

May 21, 2015

MLS – Whately

Members present: Mary Anne Antonellis, Betty Johnson, Sue San Soucie, Jan Resnick, Joe Rodio, John Ramsay, Dan Paquette, Deb Kern, Judy Clini, Eliza Langhans

Members absent: Eric Poulin

Meeting called to order at 2:10 pm

Joe Rodio moved to accept the minutes as submitted, Judy seconded, passed unanimously.

Treasurer report as follows:

**Western Massachusetts Library Advocates**

**Treasurer’s Report -3/20/15 – 5/20/15**

**Deposits:**

**Bus 830.00**

**Membership 295.00**

**Leg. Breakfast 665.00**

**Total Deposits 1,790.00**

**Paid Out:**

**MLA Scholarships 750.00**

**Nat. Lib. Leg. Day 1,000.00**

**Galaxy 846.00**

**Bus To Boston 1,050.00**

**Springfield Leg. Bkf. 150.00**

**Travel – Rivard 127.65**

**Travel- Green 134.55**

**Total Paid Out 4,058.20**

**Cash on Hand in checking as of 5/20/15 8,481.50**

**Humphry Fund 2,463.00**

**We received 1,435.00 for the Legislative Breakfasts.**

**We paid out 388.49.**

**We received 830.00 for the bus.**

**We paid out 1150.00**

Clayton Cheever has not yet cashed his check, Mary Anne will check in with him.

The Humphry Fund was established when John Humphry, Director of Forbes and member of Western Mass Library Club passed away. It was a memorial fund created by the Western Mass Library Club – to support WMRLS professional development efforts. When the Western Mass Library Club disbanded the funds were transferred to WMLA. The funds should be used for professional development for librarians.

What are we going to do with it in the future?

Jan made a motion that we expand the mission of the fund to include professional development and educational programs in the future.

Dan seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Discussion about partnering with MLS to offer PCPs.

Eliza suggests we throw more parties and that is an agenda item.

Mary Anne suggested offering stipends to small libraries to encourage attendance at trainings.

Mary Anne proposed hiring Shirley Keech to do a training on how to use ereaders, etc.

MLS is doing workshops on the commonwealth ebook collection.

MLS did offer a bunch of trainings on ereaders in the Eastern part of the state and John will ask them to do the same in the Western part of the state.

Membership – no report – a few memberships came in after the meet and greet.

Legislative updates

Betty shared an email from Greg Pronovitz about proposed funding for the Library for the Commonwealth.

“Mr. Rush, Ms. Donoghue, Messrs. Lewis, Brownsberger and Eldridge and Ms. Forry moved that the bill be amended, in Section 2, in item 7000-9401, by striking out the figure “39.4” and inserting in place thereof the figure:- “40.7”; and in said item, by striking out the figures “9,692,731” and inserting in place thereof the figures:- “$9,883,482”

John reported Don Hummason has submitted an amendment advocating for increases in 9401. He is trying to have it level funded – same amount as FY15.

The budget goes to conference in the beginning of June. WMLA should advocate for increases in budget lines.

John will send a sample letter for members to use as a template when communicating with our legislators.

Legislative day – how to do it better in the future.

Stan Rosenberg was not able to meet with attendees. There was a Senate Ways and Means hearing in Everett on the same day. Jan was unable to attend and she usually does some coordination of meetings with different legislators.

The year before, 12 – 13 people met with Stan’s chief of staff.

Planning for legislative day should begin during the breakfast season. We should target people new to the library profession in Western Mass and ask them to join us on the bus. During this time we should identify someone who will coordinate legislative day.

MLA- Jan subbed for John on giving a talk on advocating for the legislative agenda. The topic was the legislative agenda is your agenda. Good questions from the audience. Good topic for a WMLA program. Promoting funding for your libraries.

MLA suggested that the library community needs to be more proactive in advocating for library budgets then state library budgets will be cut.

WMLA members shared mixed responses – not all got messages back from the legislators they contacted.

MLA scholarships – Matt – works with Deb at Northfield, wrote John a nice thank you note. Other recipients are listed on the WMLA website.

National Library Legislative Day – Betty attended. Nine attendees from Massachusetts. First morning – meet at Liaison hotel – presentation from ALA, Betty went to visit Representative Neal – she met with all Aides. Attendees advocated for supporting LSTA budget, privacy and surveillance, net neutrality, importance of school libraries, support for public access to public funded research, freedom of information act. Betty felt it was a positive experience.

Betty thinks NLLD is rather whirlwind – Massachusetts delegation is very supportive of libraries.

MBLC employees pay their own way to the National Legislative Day. The State of Mass does not pay for out state travel.

Jan read from an email – Senators are meeting today to sort amendments into -yes and no bundles – the budget could all be assembled by the end of today.

Legislators like to know what is going on at our local libraries.

Website update – Dan is trying to keep up with WMLA happenings. Dan would like to put something on the website about the summer reading incentives.

The event page about the programming presentation we offered is done very nicely.

Joe will put a link to this page on the MLA Facebook page.

Meet and Greet – Great turn out, need a bigger venue next time – and less fancy food. Turn out shows a need and desire for that kind of social networking opportunity for librarians in Western Mass. It was worth it to give something back to the members – a purely social event. WMLA can help to create a sense of localized community that WMRLS provided.

One person commented that maybe more effort can be made to group people by library type.

Maybe at a future meeting there could be an ice breaker or a point of suggesting that people make a point of talking to people they don’t know.

MLS Whately building – Town of Whately will be having an election on June 9th for a debt exclusion. MLS is holding building off the market until June 15th.

MLS is waiting for vote to earnestly look for Western Mass offices.

MLS is looking along the 91 corridor. WMLA members expressed that it should be easy to get to and have adequate parking. Longer drives are more of a burden for small libraries.

Jan will promote summer reading incentives – WMLA will assemble prize packages at our July meeting.

Next meeting – June 18th at MLS Whately.

We will adjust the July meeting when we know the status of all prizes, at our next meeting.

Respectfully Submitted, Mary Anne Antonellis, WMLA Clerk