Western Massachusetts Library Advocates

Tuesday, January 13, 2015

South Hadley Library

Members present: Eric Poulin, Betty Johnson, Jan Resnick,

Deb Kern, Judy Clini, Mary Anne Antonellis, John Ramsay, Sue San Soucie, and Joe Rodio

Also present, Mary Kronholm, MBLC Liaison

Visitor, Janet Lombardo, Director of the Porter Memorial Library in Blandford.

Members absent: Eliza Langhans and Dan Paquette and Pat McLeod

Meeting followed the Mass Library System Member Forum. Topics discussed at the Forum included an overview of services offered by MLS, the Talking Book Library of Worcester, eBooks, MHEC, and included a tour of the remarkable new South Hadley Library.

Meeting called to order at 1:06 pm.

The minutes from the December 18,2014 approved as amended.

Treasurer’s report: Paid $15.00 for books at the Judge Posner author event at Holyoke Public Library.

Total $9,979.73 in account

Betty moved to accept treasurer report, Eric seconded, all in favor.

Membership: Sue is thinking of putting a half-sheet reminder in the upcoming mailing about the membership dues.

Eliza is working on a flyer that includes a membership form. Sue wants to know if it has been approved. It would be good to have them available at the legislative Breakfasts.

Nominating: The position of President/President Elect is still open. Judy nominated Joe. Mary Anne seconded the nomination, he was unanimously elected.

Legislative breakfasts – waiting to confirm the date for Senate President Stan Rosenberg’s breakfast at South Hadley.

If the Senator’s office cannot confirm a date can we plan a date and invite him or a representative from his office, or can we send out the publicity without his breakfasts being confirmed. He is especially busy with his new role as Senate President and the beginning of the new term.

Easthampton Breakfast is February 13th. We do need to mail the overall publicity soon.

The bus publicity will go out with the breakfast letter.

John will speak at the MLA Annual Conference on behalf of WMLA about the MBLC Legislative Agenda.

Jan shared the packets of info that the MBLC will be distributing at the legislative breakfast. Folks should emphasize how efficient libraries are, efficient in how we use our funds, provide opportunities for all members of community, job seekers, English language learners, etc.

There are differences in funding levels for libraries in the small library in networks grant. The new formula will equalize the funding for all qualifying libraries by applying the following formula based in three factors, EQV, percentage of appropriated budget that the library’s network fee is, and a base fee. This will expand access to SLN grants to include more libraries.

It would be good to invite representatives from the libraries who will receive this new benefit to speak at the breakfasts.

C/W MARS would like to have someone from their membership or boards talk at each breakfast.

Jan shared some documents the MBLC is distributing to promote increased State Funding for libraries. These included the Legislative Agenda, a document called “helping people get back to work”, a map showing small libraries in networks, document explaining state library funding, and green sheet showing history of state funding.

Dan not present to talk about the WMLA website.

Meet and Greet should be pushed into February or even after the breakfasts. Thursday, March 19th, 6 pm at the Brass Cat in Easthampton is the new proposed date.

Jan posted a reminder on the blog about the Berkshire Breakfast.

Jan will add a few other posts over the next few days.

Betty will copy the blog items to Facebook.

WMRLS email list update.

In constant contact you must add a first and last name and an email address. John Is working on adding email addresses he is gathering to Constant Contact. Members are still working on networking with neighboring librarians and asking them to sign up for the WMRLS list.

John hopes to use a WMRLS list and the email list he is developing to contact people about news from Newsbank.

Betty reported on status of MLS Whately building. Whately is considering using it for its town hall. MLS is learning it must be patient in its desire to sell the building. Selling the building to the town of Whately would be favorable to the Department of Agriculture (the source of funding for the building).

MLS has looked at rental options in other locations to maintain MLS offices in western mass.

Author programs: Jan has a brief report. 11 librarians attended the author program in Holyoke. Mary King and Jim Craig won the door prizes. See Jan’s report which is attached.

There is consensus that author programs are positive experiences and worth pursuing.

Know-How Advocacy Program: John is working on this – a program about how to best communicate with legislators and municipal officials about advocacy efforts.

Scholarships for MLA (May 5 – 7, DCU center in Worcester) Four scholarships, up to $250 each, priority given to first time attendees but others will be considered. Previous awardees may not reapply. Eric will coordinate the scholarships. The scholarships are a reimbursement. Recipients must submit receipts to Sue for reimbursement.

Next meeting, February 19th, Whately, 9:30 am.

Semi-Annual Meeting – April 16th, Berkshires location TBA. Possible topics include internet safety, programming – maybe a panel. Mary Anne and Deb will do some research about a possible programming panel.

Jan suggested creating a perpetual calendar to help keep track of ongoing activities.

Meeting adjourned at 2:32.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Antonellis, WMLA Clerk

Attachment: Report from WMLA Author program at Holyoke Library

WMLA Author Program #3 – November 21, 2014

Michael Ponsor – *The Hanging Judge*

Holyoke Public Library

11 librarians attended

*The Hanging Judge* is one of six Must Reads for the Mass Book Awards, 2014.

Participants learned a lot about the Federal Court judicial system – juries, staffing, organization, appointments process.

Take away: The U.S. has 5% of the world’s population; the U.S. has 25% of the world’s prison population.

Door prizes (autographed copies of the book) won by Mary King and Jim Craig.

At least 4 of the participants booked Judge Ponsor for library programs.

Feedback: All but one of the evaluations rated it 5 excellent, 1 – 4.

 All that indicated said yes to more author programs.

 Comments re future author programs:

 Yes, love them

 Yes, this totally exceeded expectations

 Yes, any chance for Anna Quindlen?

 Can’t always get out for these, but yes

Costs:

 Honorarium ($100) which Judge Ponsor donated directly to the Holyoke Public Library

 $15 for copy of the book; NJR had a free copy to give away as well.

Thanks to Eliza for design help with the flyer.

Thanks to Joe Rodio for copying the flyer.

Thanks to Eric for copying the book discussion handout and evaluation forms.

*The WMLA Board voted on January 13, 2015, to host at least one more author program.*