Western Massachusetts Library Advocates

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| |  | | --- | | Board of Directors Meeting  September 11, 2014  9:30 am  MLS-West  Whately, Mass. | |

Present: Sue SanSoucie, Mary Anne Antonellis, Eliza Langhans, Daniel Paquette, Bonnie Isman, Judy Clini, John Ramsay, Mary Kronholm

President Judy Clini called the meeting to order at 9:45 am.

**Minutes** of the August Board meeting were accepted.

**Treasurer?s** **Report.** Sue reported a balance of $7,355.84 in the account. Her report was accepted (moved by John, seconded by Mary Anne).

**Whately building**. No news on the possibility that the Tri-town emergency services group (Whately, Deerfield, and Sunderland) will make an offer for the building. MLS expects to know more after their meeting on September 15. The local Senior Center and Cable Access group are rumored to be interested, as well.

**WMLA website**. Dan plans to work on the website as part of a class in website design this semester. There was concern that a site with a lot of customized coding might be hard to maintain in the long run. Dan is aware of this, because the previous site had a lot of problems with design. We suggested that he discuss with his professor WMLA?s needs for a site that would be easy for multiple people to update. Eliza said it was better to take the time and do it (the website) right.

**Membership.** Bonnie reported that the membership renewal letters will be going out this week and asked for addresses of new directors. Invitations will also be sent to Friends and Trustees on the MBLC email lists. She asked about having a 2 year legislative agenda to match the legislative session. Mary said that Representative Hogan has asked the MBLC to create a 3 year plan for library funding.

**Annual Meeting.** Judy sent out publicity for October 8, and 20 people have registered already. Judy will also send out announcements to the Friends and Trustees email lists and to All Regions. Mary Anne and Eliza will send out a flyer through delivery. John will create a list of libraries to send the flyer. Dan will send it to the Five Colleges list. All Board members are asked to bring refreshments. Sue will buy coffee and juice. Greg will send a representative with the MLS Report for the Business Meeting. No report from the Nominating Committee. Several people fought over the prestigious position of Secretary ? not really, just kidding.

**Vacancy on the MBLC.**  Jan sent email with the response that she got from the Governor?s Office. There is no official process for nominations. Each Governor sets his/her own. The do keep the resumes as submitted. Anybody could submit a resume but you have to get someone (a state representative or senator) to push for your appointment. Filling the current MBLC vacancy may hinge on who is elected the next Governor.

**Fall Author Program**. Jan has booked Michael Ponsor for November 21. There will be door prizes. Program info and registration will be on the MLS calendar.

**New Business**

**MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings.** Mary attends these local breakfasts and it is a great opportunity to communicate with legislators. She distributed a list. Upcoming meetings include October 3 in Conway and October 10 in Sandisfield.

**Small Libraries Forum**. John suggested that WMLA help with travel costs to encourage western Mass. librarians to participate in the Small Libraries Forum on October 29 in Sturbridge. We agreed (Mary Anne moved, John seconded) to reimburse up to 10 library staff from western Mass. $25 each for travel costs. They will have to send in something to show that they attended the event. This will be announced at the Annual Meeting.

**Announcements**

**MLA Advocacy Task Force.** John is organizing a workshop to be called ?Know How? on advocacy skills. He is looking for elected officials or politicians who can talk about how to get across an advocacy message.

Various retirements and position vacancies were discussed. Mary attended the ground breaking for the Stockbridge Library renovations. Dan asked if there are limits on personal advocacy for candidates. We discussed what is allowable on personal time and at home vs. on work time and in the workplace. See the Mass. Office of Campaign and Political Finance <http://ocpf.cloudapp.net/> for more on this topic.

Meeting adjourned at 11:38 am

Submitted by Bonnie Isman

Annual Meeting: Wednesday, October 8 at the Granby Library. Coffee at 9:30 am. Program starts at 10 am