Western Massachusetts Library Advocates

January 19, 2017 Minutes

Springfield City Library

Members present: Joe Rodio, Betty Johnson, Dan Paquette, Mary Anne Antonellis, Mike Moran, Jan Resnick, Deb Kern, Lynn Coakley, Nora and Mary Kronholm

Minutes from December meeting tabled until next meeting.

Treasurer report: $9,280.12 balance. Treasurer report approved with a unanimous vote.

Advocacy

GCC Legislative breakfast. Well attended with 60+ participants. Senator Rosenberg’s remarks were generally positive about libraries.

Discussion about a letter writing campaign in support of State funding for libraries.

Discussion about setting up a meeting with Mike Knapik, head of Governor’s Western, MA office, to discuss importance of libraries and the need for increased State funding.

Governor’s budget will be released during the last week of January. Now is a good time to contact House members. Members of the House Ways and Means committee should be contacted. Western Mass Reps to Ways and Means include Steve Kulik and Toss Smola.

Mary recommended that library supporters and WMLA members try to attend Mass Municipal Association breakfasts.

Joe has been researching State Aid to Public Libraries awards over the past ten years. Most libraries receive less now than ten years ago.

Library Legislative Day is Tuesday, March 7th.

Lynn made a flyer advertising the WMLA bus. It will be distributed at upcoming breakfasts.

Dan has a file with address labels for all Western, MA libraries. He will send it to Joe. Joe and Mike will share the task of getting the bus flyer to all Western, MA libraries. There are 36 seats on the bus.

Setting up meetings with Reps at the State House

Stan Rosenberg – Jan

Humason – Dan

Hinds – Nora

Lesser – Mike

Photos from the breakfasts should be sent to Joe who will post them on the WMLA Facebook page.

MBLC Director to retire

Diane Carty will retire May 31st. A search committee has been formed. Jan is the chair. There are nine members on the committee.

Mary Anne made a motion to offer four $250 scholarships with a preference for first time attendees to MLA. Motion passes unanimously. Jan will ask Eric and John to oversee scholarship selection process.

Also approved with a unanimous vote, four $100 Trustee scholarships for one-day preconference.

Both scholarships are reimbursable. Recipients must provide receipts and proof of attendance.

National Library Lesgislative Day is in May. In the past WMLA has offered a $1,000 scholarship for one board member to attend. Members should consider if they are able to attend. More discussion at next meeting.

Eliza is working in setting up a spring WMLA meeting with author and speaker, Matthew Dicks.

Mike has contacted Suzanne Strempek Shea to invite her to participate in Library Legislative Day. Mike suggested gathering a prize package of books by local authors for a fun raffle on the bus. Mike and Mary Anne will solicit book donations.

MLS has organized a grass roots advocacy meeting, scheduled for February 9th. Mike will attend.

New Business

Ludlow needs new library director.

Next meeting, February 16th at Sunderland.

Meeting adjourned at 11:17 am.

Meeting adjourned – 10:37 am