Western Mass Library Advocates

Sunderland Public Library

Thursday, July 21, 2016

Members present: Katherine Hand, Betty Johnson, Dan Paquette, Mary Anne Antonellis, Sue San Soucie, Jan Resnick, John Ramsay, Deb Kern, Eric Poulin, Eliza Langhans, and Joe Rodio.

Minutes from May 2016 meeting, Betty made a motion to accept the minutes, John second the motion, it passed unanimously.

Treasurer report.

$8,727.47 balance in account.

$95.88 for Go Daddy reimbursed to Dan Paquette (former board member).

MLA scholarships are paid.

$49.82 for constant contact reimbursed to Sue San Soucie for three months.

We may consider switching to a free email service such as mail chimp. The group agreed that this is a fiscally responsible move and Deb Kern will work on making the switch.

We need a volunteer to take over membership. Katherine Hand volunteered to take on the responsibility.

Nominating.

We do not have a Vice President/President Elect for the slate of officers for the October meeting.

Advocacy.

MLS monthly report is a useful tool for staying on top of what MLS is up to.

Governor’s budget vetos to line 9401 have created budget shortfalls for the MLS. The MLS is looking at strategies to cut costs. The cut to MLS is $113,000.

Diana Davis has resigned due to illness and they are considering not replacing her. They are considering reducing financial support for databases, which are very important to academic and school libraries.

Kate Hogan was at the MLS open house and she was surprised that all of the funding is being cut from MLS.

The BPL gets a per capita funding amount from this same budget line, and that per capita amount must be funded before other services from the line are funded. Unless the BPL per capita amount is changed, the budget shortfall only effects MLS.

The MBLC also has a $140,000 deficit.

Mass Center for the Book funding has been completely eliminated.

Legislative breakfast – MLA suggests having them scheduled by August 25th and planning them for December, January and February. Mary Ann Cluggish suggested that we are talking about all the awesome work libraries are doing at the breakfasts making it look like we are doing great. We need to make it clear that we are struggling.

MLS Northampton office is open. They had an open house on July 12th.

NELA advocacy summit – Jan attended.

Keynote - Jeremy Johansen, NY Library association director – he would be a good WLMA speaker. 12 steps to building your organization’s credibility as an advocacy leader.

Panel spoke about advocacy.

A lobbyist from the Connecticut Library Association gave a talk about lobbying on behalf of libraries.

ALA advocacy office has and advocacy handbook.

Suggestion from summit. Point out to legislators the percentage of their district that has library cards. Watch the statehouse news.

Continuing Ed – Programs

West Springfield, October 20th, Mary Kronholm has contacted a speaker, Mary Anne will not be able to attend the meeting.

Eliza will put info about the October meeting on the website. She will contact Mary Kronholm to get info about the speaker.

MBLC update – Bruins mascot, Blades is making the rounds of libraries across the state. Blades was in Sunderland on July 20th and will be in South Hadley next month.

State Aid hearings have been held to gather feedback about proposed changes.

No announcements.

Next meeting – August 11th at WMLA Northampton.