Western Massachusetts Library Advocates

 September 22, 2016

Griswold Memorial Library, Colraine

Members present: Katherine Hand, Joe Rodio, Betty Johnson, Dan Paquette, Eric Poulin, John Ramsay, Mary Anne Antonellis and Sue SanSoucie

Minutes from August meeting tabled until next meeting.

Treasurer report: $8736.47 balance in checking account. 3 rolls of postage purchased for Katherine who will mail out membership form.

A flyer advertising the October meeting is going in the delivery. Thank you to Eliza for creating the flyer and to Dan for printing and preparing the flyer and routing slips.

Katherine made a motion to accept treasurer report, Betty seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

Nominating:

Mike Moran from BayPath University is planning to join the board.

Lynn Coakley who recently retired from STCC is planning to join the board and will be VP/President elect.

Nora Blake will also be joining.

It would be great to have a school librarian on the board.

Mary Anne Antonellis is pleased to continue serving on the board but is unable to continue as clerk.

Slate presented by John Ramsay

President: Betty Johnson – 3 years

Vice President/president Elect: Lynn Coakley – 3 years

Past President: Joe Rodio – 1 year

Treasurer: Deb Kern – 1 year

Membership – Katherine Hand - 2 years

Damon Vorce – Lee Library - 3 years

Nora Blake – Easthampton Library - 3 years

Mary Kronholm – 3 years

Eliza Langhans – 3 years

Dan Paquette - 3 years

Mike Moran - 3 years

 Mary Anne Antonellis – 3 years

The position of clerk will be open beginning in October.

Advocacy – fall meetings with legislators

Date set up with Stan Rosenberg for late October – Wednesday, October 26th

Joe is working on setting up a meeting with Rep Smola – Palmer – Sturbridge – Nov. 3rd.

Katherine will try to contact Steve Kulik’s office.

Bernadette Rivard from Central Mass will be coordinating central mass breakfasts.

Joe and Deb will coordinate Western Mass breakfasts.

October meeting – West Springfield library will provide coffee, each member will bring a snack to share.

Promotion – Facebook, email notices and the flyer is being sent out.

Membership outreach – it might be helpful to post upcoming meeting dates in the website.

MLS is concerned about increasing delivery costs. They are considering eliminating delivery to some small libraries and discontinuing Saturday delivery.

Academic libraries depend on State Library agencies to supply databases.

New Business

MHEC Vendor Expo – Joe said more librarians should go. Lots of great info and free samples.

Advocacy – if they gave us all the money we needed, what would we do with it?

Small libraries need more staff, more frequent delivery, better professional development and advisory services. An increase in State aid might allow libraries to hire more staff.

Databases are especially important for academics – if databases are eliminated then the quality of education at our local public colleges is compromised.

Next meeting – October 20th – West Springfield.

Meeting adjourned – 10:37 am