Western Massachusetts Library Advocates

Minutes

June 15, 2017

Hatch Library at Bay Path University, Longmeadow

Members present: Katherine Hand, Joe Rodio, Dan Paquette, Mike Moran, Jan Resnick, Mary Kronholm, Lynn Coakley. Betty Johnson, Mary Anne Antonellis

Absent, Eliza Langhans, Damon Vorce, and Deb Kern, and Nora Blake

May minutes approved with one addition.

Treasurer report

$8682, 04 current balance

Bluebonnet fee - $687.50

$325 membership added

$193 savings from downsizing PO Box

$232 for Go Daddy

$25 – Every Library donation

$446 for Katherine to go to DC for National Library Legislative day

Three MLA scholarships have been paid, $750

Membership forms need to be updated with new PO Box. The website needs to be updated with new PO Box.

Membership report – five new memberships, two brand new members this month.

MBLC budget update –

The budget is in conference. The legislature is hoping to close a budget by July 1st. There is still time to contact legislators to ask them to support the budget.

Deb Bruneau, former director of Adams library, passed away.

Mary Anne proposed a $50 memorial gift to the Adams Library in Deb’s honor, Joe seconded, passed unanimously.

Summer reading prizes

The Eric Carle has donated a one day family pass for each library.

Lynn has called the Norman Rockwell museum without success so far.

Annual Meeting in October

Eliza has contacted author Matthew Dicks who does a great storytelling program.

We need to pick a date and location. We will ask Eliza to contact Mr. Dicks for dates.

Possible locations are Holyoke, South Hadley, Chicopee, Agawam and Longmeadow.

We should avoid conflict with NELA, 22-24th. The week of October 16th is a good week.

Betty will email Eliza.

Joe is Past-President and is tasked with nominations.

He will review board members, who is near the end of their term and he will begin to recruit new members. Joe will have a report for the July meeting.

Jan and Katherine are collecting summer reading prize requests.

Joe will mention the prizes at User’s Council next week to encourage libraries to participate.

Other Business

Joe met last week with a South/Central Mass group who wanted to know how WMLA operates and they are interested in starting a Central Mass Library advocacy group. They are going to have a meeting in the fall. They will announce the meeting at User’s Council next week.

There is another group meeting in North Central Mass. They will also try to contact them.

They want to build a strong Central Mass Libraries coalition.

Mary Anne went to a Town Hall meeting with Congressman Jim McGovern to advocate for the IMLS. Jim said it is a no brainer.

MBLC – What’s Your Four – First Lady Baker is participating in What’s Your Four.

WMLA should invite the new MBLC Executive Director to visit for a meet and greet.

8/22, 8/23 or 8/24 are possible dates – Mary will ask the new director – Shutesbury will host.

Lynn Coakley would like to begin talking about the breakfasts in September.

In the past there was a time when there were fewer breakfast but they were much larger.

It might be good to combine the three Springfield area breakfasts into one.

Meeting adjourned at 11:17 am

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Anne Antonellis, WMLA CLerk