Western Massachusetts Library Advocates

March 16, 2017

Lee Library

Meeting began at 10:15 am.

Members present: Lynn Coakley, Mary Anne Antonellis, Mike Moran, Nora Blake, Katherine Hand, Joe Rodio, Damon Vorce, Mary Kronholm, Betty Johnson, Deb Kern

Minutes- February – Katherine made a motion to accept minutes as submitted, motion passed with one abstention.

Members took a few minutes to introduce themselves to Damon Vorce since this was his first meeting.

The President’s proposed budget cuts include the IMLS.

Mary Anne will send letters to Richie Neal and Jim McGovern on behalf of WMLA asking for support for IMLS.

Treasurer’s report – beginning balance $10,650.93, deposits, $870, spent $13.72 in postage.

$1,005 – reimbursement to Deb for bus

$136.54 West Springfield –breakfast

$10,345.67 – new balance as of 3/15/2017

Nora made a motion to accept the treasurer’s report, Joe seconded, passed unanimously.

Legislative Day recap

Successful meeting in Stan Rosenberg’s office, Don Humason’s top three priorities include Library budget lines, Smitty Pignatelli came down for lunch.

We met with a lot of Aides – many legislators were not in office that day.

We met with an Aide in Senator Gobi’s office twice

Legislator’s and Aides appreciated how the legislative agenda was presented.

More than 200 registered people for the event, more than 300 attended. They ran out of food. More people are willing to advocate for libraries than in previous years.

Mike met with Todd Smola – ranking member of Ways and Means.

Legislators reflected concerns about changes coming due to Federal issues and lower revenues than expected.

The schedule of upcoming breakfasts is posted on the MMA website. Mary and Betty say it is good to go and keep libraries in mind.

Commonwealth Conversations are being held in Western, Mass on March 28th. There is a meeting at Umass at 6:15.

Mary and Jan are going to meet with Mike Knapik, director of Western Mass office of the Governor to advocate for libraries.

Katherine Hand will call GCC and ask if they have buttons left from their breakfasts or if they can make us buttons.

Membership – two people joined.

Margot Malachowski is interested in joining the WMLA board. Andrea Bernard from Charlemont is also interested.

Website, social media.

Joe and Betty have been posting on Facebook.

Spring Meeting

Idea Share Breakfast Buzz

A fast paced interactive conversation with your library colleagues about today’s hottest topics

Eliza will make the flyer by March 23rd, Deb will send emails on the 27th.

Mary Anne makes a motion to spend up to $15 a person for catering the breakfast. Katherine seconded, passed unanimously.

Lynn will find the caterer. Mary will put it on the trustee list serve

9 am start time. Deb will do registration. We will facilitate.

We will invite library school students to attend and participate.

The topics – Life after budget cuts? Fiction in your non-fiction? Not your grandmother’s library.

Serving the rule breakers.

New Business

Taking the Western Mass Library Advocate Story on the road to inspire similar efforts in other parts of the state. Mike Moran is in communication with a grass roots advocacy group organized by Greg Pronevitz at MLS.

Summer reading

Joe will reach out to John about Big E, Mary Anne will contact Friendly’s

Betty will send scholarship letter to Deb who send out an email. Maybe we can get a form on the website that people can print out. Scholarship deadline - April 20th so we can announce at Spring meeting.

May meeting in Hatfield – 9:30 – Thursday, May 18th

Adjourned at 12:20

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Antonellis

WMLA Clerk