Western Massachusetts Library Advocates

May 18, 2017

Hatfield Public Library

Minutes

Present: Joe Rodio, Nora Blake, Lynn Coakley, Jan Resnick, Betty Johnson, Mary Anne Antonellis, Mike Moran, Dan Paquette and Katherine Hand

Absent: Mary Kronholm, Damon Vorce, and Deb Kern

Meeting called to order at 9:30 am.

Minutes from March 16, 2017 meeting: Joe moved to approve minutes with minor corrections, Nora seconded, passed.

Betty will bring the raffle basket to the MLA conference.

Treasurer’s report – tabled. Deb not present.

Membership – four renewals.

MBLC budget update

Budget request from the Senate for the agency budget line is improved. It is important to thank Ways and Means members for the budget support. We will need to guard against line item vetos from the governor.

We need to thank Karen Spilka, Kathleen O”Connor- Ives, and Don Hummason.

Academic Libraries are concerned about the loss of some of the databases. It would be useful to point out the loss of databases to legislators.

Many MBLC staff are currently paid with Federal funds. If the IMLS is eliminated MBLC staff could lose their jobs.

Jan will send out information about budget as it becomes available about appropriate future actions.

Spring Meeting Recap

Good attendance, good feedback, requests to make it an annual event, maybe do it a little earlier in the day. We need a better sign in sheet for next time. We could have three discussions instead of four. We could have a few less speeches and announcements. We could allow people to provide flyers and handouts instead.

Every group brought a different viewpoint to the topics and discussions.

Lynn spoke to Lisa Cheever from Blackstone who is interested in creating a Central Mass advocacy group and/or a Central Mass affinity group.

Joe is meeting with a Central Mass group in Sturbridge on June 5th to discuss advocacy.

National Library Legislative Day

Katherine met with Aides, all legislators had already signed off on dear appropriator letters. Massachusetts delegation was strong.

Scholarship winners

Laurie Wheeler from ARMS Library is one winner

Kevin McKenzie – West Springfield

Ann Dallair – Millbury

There were eight applicants.

John and Eric have notified winners.

July meeting – 20th, 9:30 – Sunderland - prize stuffing

June meeting – June15th – Baypath

Brainstorming – other possible summer reading incentives

Nora will make a letter about WMLA to include with summer reading incentives.

Announcements: The Gaylord Library will be a branch of the South Hadley Public Library.

Mitchell Resnick is the Citizen of the Year in South Hadley in recognition of volunteer service to the Town.

Meeting adjourned at 11:03 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Antonellis, WMLA Clerk