

Western Massachusetts Library Advocates (WMLA)
January 10, 2022 via Zoom
Meeting Minutes

Welcome: Lisa welcomes new MBLC Commissioner, Karen Traub. Lisa calls the meeting to order at 2:06pm.

Roll Call: Lisa Downing, Antonia (Toni) Golinski-Foisy, Natane Halasz, Michael Moran, Karen Traub, Lynn Blair, Jan Resnick, Misha Storm, Wendy Pearson, Bev Bullock.

Approval of December 13, 2021 Minutes: Mike makes a motion to approve. Approved.

Treasurer's Report (as submitted by Wendy): Motion to accept made by Misha. Approved.

WMLA December 2021 Treasurer's Report:

Florence Bank Balance on 1/10/2022 - \$6,766.61

Memorial donation for Gayle Ball: \$100.00 on 1/3/2022

Last Statement date - 12/31/2021

Beginning balance: \$6,842.64

Deposits: \$23.97

Withdrawals: 0

Ending balance: \$6,866.61

Donation in Gayle Ball's name made to the Cushman Library.

Membership Report: Natane reports November and December- no new memberships/renewals. One \$25 donation online in December.

Board Members Updates: Rebecca, our student board member, completed a project for the Western Massachusetts Food Bank to determine how close libraries were to bus lines. Rebecca has also been in touch with Eric Poulin about spreading the word about this student opportunity and recruiting a student of color for the second year of the student board member position.

MLA Legislative Committee:

- 1. Legislative Breakfast- Friday, February 11 @ 9am-** Confirmed.
- 2. Checklist-** Shared by Mike. Forbes will be the Zoom host, Forbes staff will help with logistics. Pre-registration would be a good idea to make sure we don't go over the 100 person limit. Lisa will set up pre-registration. Wendy adds last year had two regions, so there will likely be less this year. Lisa suggests a subcommittee meeting to help get things organized. Lynn, Jan, and Misha volunteer. Jan adds it is helpful for speakers to know what order they will be going in. Lisa talks about MBLC, MLS, and CWMars invitations. Last year there was a spreadsheet for which representatives were invited and which were able to come. Lisa asks Wendy to help organize the spreadsheet. Lisa brings up publicity for the event- how we can let our members know- Mailchimp and Facebook.

Jan suggests we put an invitation to the WRMLS list. Misha adds we advertise on the website as well. We had also used Flipgrid last year. Wendy created one and is fine-tuning it and will get it out the board next week. Lisa brings up purchasing breakfast for the attending officials. Last year a few took us up on the offer. Wendy adds that it is a nice gesture. Lynn makes a motion to extend up to \$25 for breakfast for attending representatives. Mike seconds. Approved.

MBLC: Jan reports that she and Mary Kronholm attended the WMLA meetings to bring info to the MBLC. Last week, the MBLC accepted the revised MBLC bylaws- primarily taking out procedural items, making descriptions gender neutral. Procurement advisory committee assessing vendors for new contracts. Voted to suspend the open hour requirements from December-April 6. Two staff received citations for outstanding performance from Governor Baker- Uechi Ng and Paul Kissman. Karen adds that Lauren Stara and Andrea Bunker received a design award. Karen says she saw WMLA on Facebook which is how she got involved with the MBLC. Jan received a call from James Lonergan- there is no replacement for her yet so she will probably be on for a few more months.

MLA Legislative Committee: Lisa rounds back to Mike to see if he has any updates. Mike says the Worcester Public Library canceled their in person breakfast.

Membership Renewal Drive:

Why Join WMLA Activity- Lisa and Natane talked about the Padlet activity. They decided they wanted to get things in order before we have a membership drive. Having our new logo would be ideal before we do a drive. Lisa would like to fix up our website as well. Natane adds that it doesn't feel like the right time to begin a membership drive. All of our documents and communications need a refresher first.

New WMLA Logo: Anna connected with a designer for our new logo. Anna wants to gather information from the board.

Website Updates: The WMLA website needs some updates. Misha has access to the website. The board contact needs updating, some new pictures are needed. The minutes need updating. Lynn offers to add the minutes if needed. Natane offers to help as well. Karen adds that she found two websites- one from Wordpress and one from Square- the Square is for collecting donations.

Miscellaneous: Lisa adds that she sent out the next meeting dates (posted below). We will have two more Monday meetings and then we will switch to Wednesdays.

Upcoming Meetings:

Monday, February 14 @ 2pm

Monday, March 14 @ 2pm

Wednesday, April 13 @ 3pm

Wednesday, May 11 @ 3pm

Wednesday, June 8 @ 3pm

Lisa will bring back the idea in late spring for taking a month or two off for the summer.

Adjournment: Lisa adjourns at 2:48pm.