

Western Massachusetts Library Advocates (WMLA)

Meeting

July 12, 2021

Via Zoom

Minutes – Draft

1. Toni called the meeting to order at 2:05.

2. Roll call: Toni Golinski-Foisy, Lynn Blair, Nora Blake, Natane Halasz, Mary Kronholm, Anna Lawrence, Mike Moran, Jan Resnick, Sharon Sharry.

Absent: Lisa Downing, Wendy Pearson, Misha Storm, Katherine Umstot.

3. June 14, 2021 minutes were approved as submitted. The WMLA board voted to donate \$200.00 in memory of Betty Johnson's daughter Rhonda Thompson to a fund established for her young daughter Ella Thompson (donations to: Mark C. Thompson, FBO Ella G. Thompson, c/o Greenfield Savings Bank, 58 Bridge St., Shelburne Falls, MA 01370).

4. Treasurer's Report (submitted by Wendy):

Florence Bank Balance on 7/12/2021 - \$6,603.72

Last Statement date - 6/30/2021

Beginning balance: \$6,903.72

Deposits: \$0

Withdrawals: \$0

Ending balance: \$6,603.72

Deposit of \$300.00 was sent to Bluebonnet Diner for the Ideashare Breakfast scheduled for October 28, 2021.

5. Membership Report:

June membership report:

New members: 0

Renewals: 0

Donations: 0

Natane has begun sending out renewal reminders.

6. Board Members Update – Misha is now director of the Dickinson Memorial Library in Northfield (congratulations!); her new email address is: northfielddirector@cwmar.org. Nora will be leaving WMLA next month to become director of the Ipswich Public Library; her last day at Easthampton will be August 13; the board congratulated her and wished her all the best. We will need two new at-large board members to replace Nora and Katherine, whose terms both expire at the annual meeting in October; as outgoing nominations chair, Nora will continue recruiting a new slate of officers over the next month.

7. MLA Legislative Committee - Mike reported that the Budget Conference Committee restored the \$300,000 for the MA Center for the Book which had been included in the House budget, along with all the other budget lines, including some increases, in the House budget; the BCC's budget is now on the Governor's desk; Jan noted that although he can veto specific line items, the legislature is likely to override his vetoes. It would be appropriate for us all to thank our local legislators for their support. Mike also reported that John Chrastka, Executive Director of EveryLibrary, will continue working with MLA on best practices for advocacy over the next year.

8. MBLC – Jan and Mary reported that at their meeting last week, the board allocated some of the American Rescue Plan funding they have to distribute in MA (\$1.5 million for public libraries; \$1 million for libraries hit especially hard by Covid) to purchase 3,000 T-Mobile hot spots; they are promoting ALA's "Libraries Transforming Communities" grant program for small and rural libraries (applications are due

September 16; WMLA will publicize via Facebook); Mary's term is expiring, but she hasn't been replaced yet; Jan is following up on a potential Springfield candidate for the board.

9. Annual Meeting/Idea Share – Thanks to Nora for scheduling this combined event at the Bluebonnet Diner in Northampton on Thursday, October 28, 2021, from 9:30 to 11:30 AM; the Diner will need a count of attendees by Monday, October 25; we'll promote to WMLA libraries via Mail Chimp, and Jan will get it on the MLS calendar; we'll allow table space for literature to MLS and MLA.

10. SLIS West Intern program collaborative opportunity – After sending him three emails, Toni hasn't heard back from Eric Poulin; she'll ask him again to respond when he's ready.

11. Logo – Our preferences for a new WMLA logo are for a design that has energy and color and is "evocative" of libraries and our region; Nora will share proposed designs we considered but rejected a few years ago; Anna has scheduled a meeting next week with reps from a design firm she knows: <https://samaracollective.com/>

12. Summer Reading Program - Misha reported via email: "All requests have been filled and sent out! We served 110 libraries this year. We do have some extra BB Hall of Fame, Eric Carle, and Yankee Candle - if anyone needs some extras for their libraries just let me know." Jan thanked Misha and Lynn for working with her this year as they prepare to start coordinating WMLA's Summer Reading Program next year.

13. Next meeting - August 9 at 2 PM

14. Adjournment - Toni adjourned us at 2:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Moran,

Secretary pro tem