

**Western Massachusetts Library Advocates
Meeting Minutes
June 5, 2020**

Present: Jan Resnick, Nora Blake, Andrea Bernard, Mike Moran, Katherine Hand, Wendy Pearson, Joe Rodio, Lisa Downing

Call to Order by Nora Blake at 3:05 PM

Minutes

WMLA Board Members reviewed the meeting minutes from February 27, 2020. Suggested corrections for typing errors were made and the board members voted to accept the amended minutes.

Donations for Summer Reading

Katherine Hand reported that there were 204 library requests for summer reading prizes in 2019. Katherine Hand offered to send out county-by-county data for libraries in western Massachusetts that participated last year.

The group discussed providing summer reading prizes to libraries that request them in western Massachusetts. The prizes can be sent by USPS, through delivery, or hand delivered when possible. Jan Resnick will write a letter to past summer reading sponsors thanking them for their support, the hopes of the WMLA for ongoing support, and seeking information about donations for the upcoming summer. She suggested that the safest approach is to seek stickers, bookmarks, or other small tokens that can be distributed. Jan Resnick will also provide links to online programs from museums such as the Eric Carle as well as other online resources. Jan Resnick also offered to reach out to libraries in western Massachusetts to provide information about summer reading prizes from WMLA.

Joe Rodio has not yet approached the BIG E as there is ongoing debate about holding the event. Previously the WMLA has given out 400 tickets. Joe Rodio suggested calling other local businesses to ask for donations of coupons. The group brainstormed a list of possibilities including Dunkin Donuts, Cumberland Farms, and Pride. Joe Rodio volunteered to contact Cumberland Farms and Pride. Katherine Hand suggested reaching out to local banks for donations and will contact Country Bank, Berkshire Bank, Greenfield Cooperative Bank, and Greenfield Savings Bank.

Lisa Downing suggested seeking prizes with a digital value such as a statewide ZOOM program with a celebrity.

Diversity and Libraries

Nora Blake suggested planning a program for the fall on diversity and libraries. Jan Resnick stated that the Western Massachusetts Readers Advisory Group is also making a plan to address this issue.

Nora Blake adjourned the meeting at 4:12 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrea Bernard, MSLIS
WMLA Clerk