

Western Massachusetts Library Advocates

Meeting Minutes

November 14, 2019

Present: Nora Blake, Andrea Bernard, Katherine Hand, Lisa Downing, Mike Moran, Jan Resnick, Andrea Puglisi, Lynn Coakley, Wendy Pearson

Call to Order by Nora Blake at 9:38 AM

Financial Report

Joe Rodio provided the Financial Report. Nora Blake reviewed it in his absence. Joe filed the WMLA Annual Report with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in October. Nora requests that the clerk file future annual reports. Joe also archived WMLA material at UMASS. Dan Pacquette provided access to square to Joe Rodio.

Membership Report

Katherine Hand reported that there were four membership renewals this month and she is sending out monthly reminders. Katherine has also reminded board members to join or renew their membership. Lisa Downing suggests targeting trustees and library board members to become individual members. Katherine suggested sending information through the trustees listserve. Jan has been attending trustee orientations and bringing membership forms. Jan will contact Maura Deedy and Rob Favini at MBLC to see if WMLA can be highlighted at the upcoming MLTA conference. Nora will update website to make it easier for members and potential members to either send a check or pay online. Katherine will then send out another reminder.

Minutes

September 19, 2019 meeting minutes were reviewed, corrected and approved. Going forward, approved meeting minutes will be posted to a folder in Google Drive. Katherine will send access to the shared Google Drive to everyone. All minutes will be made available upon request and minutes for the past six months will be given to any new member.

Legislative Breakfasts

Decided to continue current format for local legislative breakfasts. Nora will contact Humason's office to see what his office wants to do as his seat will be vacant. A legislative breakfast has been scheduled for Berkshire County on January 31, 2020 at the new Monterey Public Library. Adam Hinds will be present. CMLA has also begun organizing legislative breakfasts and there may be overlap for communities bordering Worcester County.

Katherine will ask Ellen Boyer, Director at Greenfield Public Library to host a legislative breakfast. Pelham Public Library is a second choice and East Forrest Park may also be a potential site. Joe, Wendy, and Nora will be the legislative breakfast committee. Discussion of potential non-breakfast events such as a cocktail hour in Greenfield at Hawks and Reed.

Wendy Pearson will send an email reminding WMLA members to ask legislators to make libraries a legislative priority. Katherine will reach out to Natalie Blais to ask her to make libraries a priority. Jan will also reach out to her contacts.

MLA Legislative Committee

Mike Moran sent the recent minutes and provided an update. MBLC Legislative Agenda for 2021 is available. Library Legislative Day is on Thursday, April 2, 2020 right before the House

budget comes together. Would like to see additional legislators listed as part of the Library Caucus — Commerford and Welch especially. A subcommittee on the new e-books embargo has formed and Mike will participate. The subcommittee will explore a possible referral to the AG's Office. Rhode Island is also pursuing that route and there may be other states that want to be involved.

WMLA and CMLA have been invited to host a workshop on organizing legislative breakfasts for eastern Massachusetts with the MLA as a possible vehicle.

Census

Nora will represent MLA and WMLA on a teleconference on libraries and the census to motivate libraries to really participate.

MBLC

Jan attended a meeting of the Friends of Libraries (MLTA) in South Hadley. The MLTA seems to be revitalizing. LSTA has new grants for gardening, culinary, art preservation, historical documents. The Ways and Means Committee increased construction bond to 150 Million and there is a new amendment number. Terry McQuown is the new MLS Consulting and Training Director. Nora will send a welcome letter and info about WMLA and upcoming events. WMLA will ask to meet with Terry in March.

WMLA Calendar

Discussion of changing meeting dates. WMLA will meet on Thursday, December 19, 2019 at West Springfield Public Library. Beginning in January 2020 the wMLA meeting will move to the 4th Thursday of each month. Nora will put out a list of those dates and request host sites. Katherine will send an annual calendar out to everyone

Marketing

Katherine reached out to graphic designer and has not heard back from him. Katherine will update letterhead to reflect new WMLA Board Members.

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrea Bernard, MLIS
WMLA Clerk