

Western Massachusetts Library Advocates (WMLA)

Meeting

September 13 2021

Via Zoom

Minutes – Draft

1. Toni called the meeting to order at 2:05.
2. Roll call: Toni Golinski-Foisy, Lynn Blair, Lisa Downing, Natane Halasz, Mike Moran, Wendy Pearson, Katherine Umstot, Jan Resnick, Misha Storm  
Absent: Nora Blake, Sharon Sharry, Mary Kronholm, Anna Lawrence
3. August 9, 2021 minutes were approved with corrections by Katherine and seconded by Mike.
4. Treasurer's Report (submitted by Wendy):  
Florence Bank Balance on 9/2/2021 - \$6,693.42  
Last Statement date - 8/31/2021  
Beginning balance: \$6,403.72  
Ending balance: \$6669.45

\$175.00 in memberships were deposited on 8/5/2021 that will be reported on next month.

5. Membership Report:

In August we received:

New memberships (0)

Renewals: 1 x family, 1 x individual. Total: \$75.00.

Donations: 4 x donations. Total: \$70.00.

Also, we received 1 x institutional renewal in July which was not recorded in the July report.

Total: \$125.00.

In response to a question, Natane said that we are getting some response to our monthly membership renewal reminders.

6. MLA Legislative Committee - Mike reported that a Senate equivalent to House Bill 4418 addressing fair licensing of e-content for libraries was introduced by his own Senator Anne Gobi and it has been referred to the rules committee in each chamber.

Here are links to both bills and a list of WMLA legislators who have signed on as co-sponsors or "petitioners:"

<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/HD4418>

Rep. Brian Ashe

Rep. John Barrett

Rep. Smitty Pignatelli

Rep. Angelo Puppolo

<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/SD2749>

Senator Comerford  
Senator Gobi  
Senator Lesser

If you're in any of their districts and haven't already done so, Mike encouraged committee members to thank them for their support and thanked all of us for reaching out to our local legislators!

7. MBLC – The statewide hotspot program has been launched providing 2000-3000 to libraries; in addition to a 3% requested increase across the board, there will be a request this year for additional funding to the state aid line. Jan is hoping that WMLA will be active in supporting the legislative agenda as we have in the past.

8. Board Members Update – Nora has left for a new position at the Ipswich library in Eastern MA. Toni reached out to Adam Novitt, director of the Lilly Library in Florence, and Beverly Bullock, Director of the Meekins Library in Williamsburg. Adam is very interested in becoming a member of the board. Bev asked for some additional information that Toni provided and will get back to us soon. Toni will follow up with an update on nominations by email. Misha agreed to serve as a vice president and Lynn agreed to serve as secretary.

9. Annual Meeting/Idea Share – Toni has heard from a couple of board members asking if we could reconsider having our annual meeting via zoom. Board members expressed concern about holding it in person. Katherine made a motion to postpone the idea share until the spring and hold a virtual annual meeting and Wendy seconded. Wendy will follow up with the Bluebonnet to let them know that we are going to postpone and discuss holding or refunding our deposit. Misha will send a message to our members including a link to register for the zoom event on the MBLC calendar that Jan will set up. Jan suggested that we hold an open discussion during the meeting about where things are with our libraries in relation to the pandemic and Toni suggested discussing what libraries are doing to attract and serve patrons. Jan will develop language for the invitation and share with the board for feedback.

10. SLIS West Intern program collaborative opportunity - Toni reached out to Eric and let him know that we are planning on updating our bylaws to include space for an MSLIS student on our board. Toni will follow up with Eric to invite a student to our annual meeting that hopefully we can nominate to the board. We will bring the revised bylaws back to the annual meeting for approval.

11. Toni announced that she plans to retire at the end of 2022. Katherine thanked everyone for her time on the board and the board thanked her for her outstanding service.

12. Next meeting - Virtual annual meeting on October 28 at 10 AM

13. Adjournment - Toni adjourned us at 2:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa Downing,  
Secretary