

**Western Massachusetts Library Advocates (WMLA)
Meeting
August 10, 2022
Via Zoom
Minutes – Draft**

1. **Welcome:** Lisa called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm.
2. **Roll Call:** Bev Bullock, Lisa Downing, Toni Golinski-Foisy, Mike Moran, Wendy Pearson, Rebecca Schmidt, Misha Storm.
3. **Approval of Minutes from June 8, 2022 meeting:** This item was tabled.
4. **Treasurer's Report** (submitted by Wendy):

WMLA July 2022 Treasurer's Report

Florence Bank Balance on 8/10/2022 - \$7,068.70
Last Statement date - 7/29/2022
Beginning balance: \$7,068.70
Deposits: \$0
Withdrawals: \$0
Ending balance: \$7,068.70

WMLA June 2022 Treasurer's Report

Last Statement date - 6/30/2022
Beginning balance: \$7,044.73
Deposits: \$23.97
Withdrawals: \$0
Ending balance: \$7068.70

5. **Membership Report:** Natane will submit an updated report at next month's meeting.
6. **Board Members Updates:** Misha reported that she had distributed summer reading prizes to 108 libraries across the state this year, including 48 WMLA area libraries. She suggested including a WMLA membership flyer in this distribution next year.
7. **MLA Legislative Committee Update:** Mike forwarded an MBLC press release before the meeting reporting that Gov. Baker has signed a new FY2023 state budget that includes increases in all library lines equal to or more than we requested in our library legislative agenda:

<https://mblc.state.ma.us/news/news-releases/2022/nr220801.php>

He urged everyone to thank their legislators for their support this session, if they haven't already done so. He will send a suggested template based on his own thank you messages to his legislators.

8. **MBLC Update:** Mike reported that Debby Conrad has been elected the new Chair of the Board.

9. **Annual Meeting:**

- It will be held on Thursday, October 20, at the Bluebonnet Diner in Northampton;
- Timing will be advertised at 9:00-10:30 am (we'll ask for 8:30-11:00 to do setup and breakdown);
- Cost per person this year is \$23.50;
- We'll have a membership table to encourage attendees to join WMLA;
- We'll develop a detailed agenda and consider a registration cap at next month's meeting;
- Registration will open shortly after that meeting (September 14);
- Wendy will check with the Bluebonnet on when they'll need our registration numbers;
- Lisa will speak with Molly Moss about a hybrid option;
- Misha will send out a Save the Date message via Mail Chimp with a Canva image;
- Six topics were identified for discussion in the Idea Share portion of the meeting: 1) how libraries are dealing with Covid; 2) diversifying and promoting use of our collections; 3) censorship; 4) removing access barriers by going fine free, etc.; 5) employee-related issues, such as morale, unions, and low wages; 6) advocacy.

10. **Nominating Committee:**

- Toni offered the names of Barbara Wurtzel and Barbara Friedman to fill two vacancies: Anna Lawrence's; and her own – she will contact both candidates;
- Lisa will confirm with Lynn Blair if she will stand for Secretary again (Wendy confirmed at the meeting that she will stand for Treasurer); Misha will stand for President;
- Other members are urged to consider standing for the open slot of Vice-President/President-Elect.

11. **RFP for WMLA Logo:**

- Lisa sent out a draft RFP before the meeting that she and Rebecca had developed for review;
- Discussion led to several amendments: 1) ask for submissions in JPG format; 2) reduce other requirements to "Brand style guide including color palette with values and typefaces";
- Toni made a **motion** to approve the RFP as amended above; it was seconded by Misha; all voted yes.

12. **Simmons Student Seat:**

- We congratulated Rebecca on recently completing her MLIS degree at Simmons West, thanked her for her diligent service as a WMLA board member over the past year, and wished her all the best;
- Lisa will contact Eric Poulin at Simmons West about identifying another student to fill Rebecca's seat;
- Misha suggested that we also consider local students enrolled in online MLIS programs anywhere.

13. **Next meeting:** Wednesday, September 14. at 3 pm.

14. **Adjournment:** Lisa adjourned the meeting at 4:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Moran,
Secretary pro tem