

**Western Massachusetts Library Advocates (WMLA)
September 14, 2022 via Zoom
Meeting Minutes**

Welcome and roll call- Lisa Downing, Karen Traub, Misha Storm, Natane Halasz, Jan Resnick, Wendy Pearson, Antonia Golinski-Foisy (Toni), Michael Moran, and Lynn Blair.

Approval of minutes from June 8 and August 10- Lisa makes a motion to approve the June and August minutes. Wendy makes a motion, Natane seconds, all in favor.

Treasurer's Report- as submitted by Wendy Pearson

WMLA August 2022 Treasurer's Report
 Florence Bank Balance on 9/14/2022 - \$7,092.67
 Last Statement date - 8/31/2022
 Beginning balance: \$7,068.70

Deposits: \$23.97

Withdrawals: \$0

Ending balance: \$7,092.67

Membership Report- as reported by Natane Halasz

August 2022:
 No renewals.
 One new member.

New Members	(Champion): (Business/Institution): (Friends/Library Group): (Family/household): (Individual): x 1 (student/retiree): (open):	Total: \$25.00
--------------------	---	----------------

Board Member Updates

- 1. Discussion with MLS-** Lisa was invited to go to the MLS Executive Committee to talk about the WMLA/MLS relationship. Lisa spoke about our annual event, our focus on advocacy, and our communication with elected officials. Lisa

asked MLS to keep us in mind with using WMLA as a means to connect to Western MA libraries. As well as building on existing relationships in the Western part of the state. Lastly, opportunities for small libraries. Jan adds that WMLA or CMLA could participate in the BLT (Basic Library Techniques) classes.

2. **Update about logo RFP-** The logo RFP went out to several locations this week.
3. Wendy adds that some Berkshire Libraries are doing a library crawl.
4. Lynn informs the group about the Pioneer Valley Library Collaborative and provides the web address. Lynn welcomes anyone to share the events or attend- they are open to everyone.
5. Toni spoke with two people who may be interested in joining the WMLA board. Toni welcomes anyone else to think of any new names. Toni adds West Springfield had Representative John Velis come in to do a talk- a great way to connect with officials.

MLA Legislative Committee Updates- Mike adds that there is nothing to report on, other than thanking legislators for their support in the meantime.

MBLC Updates- Karen provided a written report prior to the meeting. Karen attended a discussion on the legislative agenda. Karen describes the funding priorities.

Annual Meeting Agenda- Lisa shares a draft agenda of the annual meeting. Jan asks about the timing and schedule. The group decides to have breakfast at 9 and start the business meeting at 9:30, with the idea share starting at 10am. The deadline for registration would be 1 week prior.

1. **Table topics-** Lisa shares six ideas for table topics. Mike remembers ten minutes for topics. Mike suggests asking people during registration of the topics they're most interested in. The group discusses the table topics and comes up with "catchier" names. Natane asks if the breakfast is a good place to crowdsource ideas for WMLA. Misha- "how can WMLA support you as an advocate?" The group discusses registration procedures.
2. **Logistics-** Breakfast at 9, meeting at 9:30, ideashare at 10.

Nominating Committee- we are looking for names for new people to join the WMLA Board. We need to fill the Vice President seat.

Student Seat

1. **Gift for Rebecca-** The group decides at least a thank you letter for her resume and a gift card for Rebecca. Lisa makes a motion to send Rebecca a thank you letter and a \$50 gift card. All in favor.
2. **Look beyond Simmons?** Rebecca put WMLA in touch with an interested student.
3. **Defining the opportunity-** Lisa adds we can define the opportunity as time moves on. Lisa will invite the student to the next meeting which is the annual meeting.

Miscellaneous- the next meeting will be the annual meeting, we will meet again with the board in November.

Adjournment- Lisa adjourns the meeting at 4:02pm.