

**Western Massachusetts Library Advocates (WMLA) Minutes**  
**Meeting**  
**Online Via Zoom**  
**November 9, 2022**

**Welcome:** Misha called the meeting to order at 3:01pm.

**Roll Call:** Misha Storm, Lisa Downing, Barbara Wurtzel, Elena Pepe-Salutric, Natane Halasz, Wendy Pearson, Karen Traub, Nicole Daviau, Jan Resnick, Katya Schapiro, Lynn Blair, Michael Moran, Sharon Sharry, Bev Bullock.

**Approval of minutes from September:** Lisa makes a motion to approve, Wendy seconds, all approve.

**Treasurer's Report:** As reported by Wendy (posted below). Wendy reports we are in good shape, but there are upcoming expenses- it would be a good idea to push for renewals and new members. Barbara makes a motion, Katya seconds, all approve.

**WMLA October 2022 Treasurer's Report**

Florence Bank Balance on 11/9/2022 - \$5,933.84

Deposit via Square: 11/1/2022 - \$23.97

Last Statement date - 10/31/2022

Beginning balance: \$7,135.46

Deposits: \$96.91

Withdrawals: \$1,322.50

Ending balance: \$5,909.87

**Membership Report:** As reported by Natane Halasz. In October, we had 4 individual memberships renewals. There were some memberships collected at the annual meeting. There is a question as to what is a membership and what is a donation. Lisa adds that we use Square on the website. The website may be confusing with the donation and membership tabs. Natane screen shares. We may need to clear up that web page and whether we are adding donors to the membership email list correctly. Wendy suggests taking the donation button off so everything comes through as a membership. Nicole adds that she never received any communication about membership renewals. Natane adds that it's a manual process. During the pandemic we didn't solicit member renewals, we are slowly returning to the process. Natane would like an automatic send-out. Lisa adds we had looked into membership software, but the cost was prohibitive. Misha will correct the website so there's no confusion.

## **Board Member Updates**

1. **Nicole Daviau-** Nicole is interested in the Vice President role. Misha explains that the Vice President usually serves as the President in the subsequent year. Lisa makes a motion, Wendy seconds, all approve.
2. **Logo Proposals-** Misha states we have three proposals and an addition from Molly Moss of Forbes Library. Misha screen shares the logos. The board discusses. Misha asks if we want to vote now. Lisa makes a motion to accept the proposal by Kristen Mann, Wendy seconds, approved, with one abstaining. Jan adds that new members should take a look at CMLA's web presence to see what they have done.

**MLA Legislative Committee Updates:** Mike emailed an update. We are at the beginning of the legislative cycle. We now know more about our state officials from yesterday's election. The legislative agenda from the MBLC is not quite final. MLA has set up a subcommittee to plan the first in person legislative day in March as well as planning a virtual day. The subcommittee can come up with a few ideas for working through the regional organizations to start planning for spring events. Would WMLA be willing to contribute to refreshments? There needs to be a decision made on whether a bus will be running. Maybe we can do one in person and one virtual legislative breakfast. A lunch gathering was very well attended at another part of the state so the timing can be flexible. Jan adds having 1-2 in person breakfasts with certain officials would be good. Did the central region chip in for the bus? Mike is unsure. Misha adds if we decide we can't afford the bus, we can organize a carpool. Mike asks if \$200 is reasonable to contribute for refreshments. Lisa seconds, approved.

**MBLC Updates:** As reported by Karen. Celeste Bruno is working on the legislative agenda to be done in the next few weeks. Karen states the WMLA breakfast was great. On the 22nd of October, Karen attended the MA Library Trustees Association meeting- good turnout. The next week, she attended the MA Friends of Libraries event. There were many great events and sharing happening!

**Student Seat:** Elena Pepe-Salutric is observing. Elena is from Simmons SLIS West. Misha asks if we should extend the invitation. Lisa makes a motion. Misha seconds, approved.

**Breakfast Debrief:** Jan and Mike sent their notes from the breakfast. Misha will send out.

**Advocacy 101 collaboration with CMLA:** Misha tabled until the next meeting.

**Misc.-** Lisa adds that we should send an end of year membership letter to solicit new members/renewals. Natane will assist. Jan adds in the past we've honored a legislator of the year as well as a small library tour- two ideas for the group.

**Adjournment:** The meeting is adjourned at 4:07pm. The next meeting is December 14 at 3:00pm.