

**Western Massachusetts Library Advocates  
Zoom Meeting  
April 19, 2023**

**Welcome and roll call:** Misha Storm, Wendy Pearson, Barbara Wurtzel, Katya Schapiro, Karen Traub, Lynn Blair, Elena Pepe-Salutric, Jan Resnick, Michael Moran, Nicole Daviau.

**Approval of March minutes:** Minutes tabled until next meeting.

**Treasurer's Report:** as submitted by Wendy Pearson, below. Wendy reads a thank you card from Antonia Golinski-Foisy.

WMLA March 2023 Treasurer's Report

Florence Bank Balance on 4/19/2023 - \$4,569.25

Activity:

\$23.97 deposit via Square

Last Statement date - 3/31/2023

Beginning balance: \$4,506.73

Deposits: \$876.05

\$400.00 CMLA LLD Bus Contribution

\$476.05 Bus fare & memberships

Withdrawals: \$1,237.50

\$200.00 MLA LLD contribution

\$287.50 CMLA - MLA table cost share

\$750.00 Kristin Mann Design - logo work

Ending balance: \$4,145.28

WMLA taxes, Form 990N, filed on 3-17-2023

Motion made to approve, Barbara, second, Mike, all in favor.

**Membership Report:** Lisa Downing is the new membership coordinator. No report this month. Discussion of membership sign up form.

**Board Member Updates:**

- a. **Logo Update/Swag Update:** Misha thanks the group for swag feedback-ordered pens, mints, and bookmarks for MLA conference.
- b. **Western MA Library Map:** Wendy discusses the library map sent out to the group. Berkshires had done it- patrons enjoyed it. Had "passport" books for each library to stamp, some gave prizes. Nicole suggests removing the need to "stamp"- having libraries sign off. Misha suggests breaking the map into counties. The group discusses a prize for visiting

every library in the county. Misha will connect with board members assisting.

- c. **Summer Reading Prizes:** No confirmation from the Big E for prizes. We have confirmation from the Basketball Hall of Fame, Yankee Candle and Eric Carle. New this year is the Children's Museum of Holyoke. Nicole will reach out to the Berkshire Museum and Mass MoCA. Jan suggests the Hancock Shaker Museum. Misha hopes to have answers by May 1. Jan suggests asking Senator Velis' office about the Big E. Barbara suggests the Armory Museum in Springfield and Six Flags.
- d. **MLA Basket:** Misha asks the group to send items to Misha or Lisa.
- e. Misha says Jan brought up the current climate of censorship and banning books- maybe WMLA wants to have a statement. Karen says MBLC has no general statement. Misha suggests the group starts familiarizing ourselves with other statements and Misha will start a working document.

**MLA Legislative Committee Updates:** As reported by Mike. MLA had a good level of participants from WMLA and legislators at legislative day. MLA is meeting again on Friday, but didn't meet in March- hoping for an update on the budget from MaryRose from the MBLC. On legislative day, there was discussion on e-book legislation. Mike will pass along any updates.

**MBLC Updates:** As reported by Karen. Karen reports on legislative day- fantastic day. Karen learned good lessons about advocacy and keeping in touch with legislators. Karen reports on the Crisis Communication webinar from MBLC which will be posted soon- Karen recommends. April's MBLC monthly meeting was in Randolph. Karen attended the Digital Commonwealth Annual Conference.

**Miscellaneous:** No added comments.

**Adjournment:** Meeting is adjourned, Mike makes a motion, Wendy seconds, all approve. The next meeting will be May 17 at 3:00pm.