

**Western Massachusetts Library Advocates (WMLA)
Meeting
March 8, 2023
Via Zoom
Minutes – Draft**

***Welcome:** Misha called the meeting to order at 3:03 pm.

***Roll Call:** Bev Bullock, Nicole Daviau, Lisa Downing, Mike Moran, Wendy Pearson, Elena Pepe-Salutric, Jan Resnick, Misha Storm, Karen Traub, Barbara Wurtzel; Kristen Mann (guest).

***Logo Discussion with Kristen Mann:** Kristen showed four revised versions of the initial designs she showed us last month; we favored model B for its balance of comfortable and professional; Kristen will tweak it by lightening the orange shade and send us further updates in the next week, which we'll review by email until we agree on a final version which could be ordered early next month for use at the MLA annual conference on May 8-9.

***Approval of February 8, 2023 Minutes:** Lisa made a motion to accept the minutes as submitted; Barbara seconded.

***Treasurer's Report** (submitted by Wendy):

WMLA February 2023 Treasurer's Report

Florence Bank Balance on 3/8/2023 - \$4,617.18

Activity: \$110.45 deposit via Square

Last Statement date - 2/28/2023

Beginning balance: \$5,001.66

Deposits: \$456.07

Withdrawals: \$951.00: \$900.00/King Gray Bus Lines;
\$51.00/Natane Halasz (membership mailing)

Ending balance: \$4,506.73

***Membership Report** (submitted by Natane):

“March 2023: As of 3/8/23, we have received 1 x new membership (Friends, \$50), and 2 renewals (1 x Friends \$50 and 1 x Individual \$25).”

The [running report](#) is found in our WMLA google drive.

Misha reported that Natane is stepping down from the WMLA board; Lisa volunteered to take over as Membership Chair, with assistance from Elena while she's still on the board this year – they will have a “transition meeting” soon with Natane and Misha; the board thanked Natane for her leadership in updating our membership records and procedures.

Jan is coordinating with MLS on further updating WMLA membership records with fields for town of residence and categories for students, retirees, volunteers, trustees, and friends.

***Board Members Updates:**

1. MLA Conference Table - Misha reported that she believes CMLA will pay MLA for our shared table and invoice WMLA for our half of the total cost.
2. MLA Basket – We’ll use the same theme of “Western MA products and treats” that worked well for us last year (members mentioned locally made honey, maple syrup, books produced by local publishers, etc.); everyone is asked to get one item to Lisa (marked for her attention) at the Forbes Library in Northampton by the date of next month’s meeting; Nicole will create a card listing contents of the basket.
3. New meeting schedule – So that all of our members can attend our monthly meetings, we’ll switch from the second to the third Wednesday of each month, still from 3:00 to 4:00 pm; that means our next meeting will be on **April 19**.

***MLA Legislative Committee Update:**

1. Virtual LLD report - Mike reported that over 80 people attended each of the two virtual programs co-sponsored by MLA and MSLA this morning – a briefing for new library advocates at 10:00 am, where Mike spoke for WMLA; and a virtual Library Legislative Day at 11:00 am, where Misha spoke for WMLA and 4 of the 7 legislators (or their aides) present represented WMLA districts – thanks to all WMLA board and other members who attended either or both.
2. LLD Plans – Misha reported that 19 people have signed up for the bus to Boston for the in-person Library Legislative Day next Wednesday, March 15, with 8 boarding in West Springfield, 5 in Palmer, and 6 in Auburn; Nicole will coordinate bus logistics, including check-in when boarding, new arrivals (if any), etc.; Misha will send our recent update of Jan’s “Advocacy 01” handout (also posted on the WMLA web site) to all registrants for the bus; Lisa will take some photos of passengers (with their permission) and bring more copies of Jan’s handout, plus WMLA membership forms.

***MBLC Updates:**

Before the meeting Karen sent reports from MBLC staff James Lonergan and MaryRose Quinn at the Board’s March 2 meeting, including Governor Healey’s FY2024 state budget proposal, which includes some but not all funding increases requested in the MBLC legislative agenda.

***Miscellaneous:**

Nicole volunteered to work with Misha on organizing the Summer Reading Program, starting later this month.

***Next meeting:** Wednesday, **April 19**. at 3 pm.

***Adjournment:** Misha adjourned the meeting at 4:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Moran,
Secretary pro tem