

**Western Massachusetts Library Advocates
Zoom Meeting
May 17, 2023**

Welcome and roll call: Wendy Pearson, Misha Storm, Katya Schapiro, Lisa Downing, Barbara Wurtzel, Karen Traub, Elena Pepe-Salutric, Lynn Blair, Bev Bullock, Michael Moran, Abby Baines

Approval of March and April minutes: Wendy makes a motion to approve March and April 2023 minutes, Barbara seconds. All approve.

Treasurer's Report: as submitted by Wendy Pearson

WMLA April 2023 Treasurer's Report

Florence Bank Balance on 5/17/2023 - \$4,569.25

Last Statement date - 4/28/2023

Beginning balance: \$4,145.28

Deposits: \$23.97 via Square

\$400.00 CMLA LLD Bus Contribution

Withdrawals: \$0

Ending balance: \$4,569.25

Motion to approve from Lisa, second by Katya. All approve.

Membership Report: As reported by Lisa Downing

April 2023: processed 9 renewals and 1 new membership this month. We have 34 active memberships in 2023 and 172 people in our database that have not yet renewed.

Misha suggests a monthly e-newsletter.

Motion to approve made by Barbara, seconded by Wendy. All approve.

Board Member Updates

- a. **Summer Reading Prizes:** Misha reports the final list of places that provided incentives. Misha will send an email out to the email listservs for libraries to put in requests for prizes.
- b. **MLA recap:** Lisa, Karen, and Misha attended MLA. The shared table with CMLA went well, but we need a banner. Misha asks for a vote for \$100 for a banner. Lisa makes a motion. Mike seconds. All approve.
- c. **NELA in October:** NELA will be in Springfield in October. A non-profit table is \$400, we could split with CMLA. Barbara makes a motion to split a table with CMLA, Mike seconds. All approve.
- d. Lisa asks about timing the annual meeting until after NELA and give out invitations.

MLA Legislative Committee Updates: Mike emailed out an update. Mike has been working with Senator Gobi about the Massachusetts Center for the Book funding. Senator Gobi did file

an amendment. Mike asks about the legislative committee program at MLA- did anyone attend? Lisa said the session was interesting with the discussion on the issue of e-books. Mike reports the budget is moving along and as he gets word, he will inform the group.

MBLC Updates: Karen emailed out an update. Karen feels proud of WMLA. Karen reports MLA was great- many inspiring speakers on topics like the future of libraries. Karen went to the Commissioners for a statement on intellectual freedom and they are running with it- a statement is being drafted. The Commissioners will vote on it in June. The MA Center for Book has a new director: Dr. Courtney Andre. There will be a new Commissioner. At the MBLC PR Committee meeting- there was a discussion on library crawls. WMLA is working on one for our area.

Miscellaneous: Lisa mentions Andrea Puglisi has returned to MA libraries. If we are thinking of an annual speaker, either Andrea or another librarian in Springfield could be good choices. Barbara mentions the email from STCC looking for speakers and suggests having a list of speakers to speak on book challenges that would be willing to talk publicly. Misha welcomes Abby to give an introduction. Board members introduce themselves.

Adjournment: Wendy makes a motion to adjourn, Mike seconds, all approve. The meeting adjourns at 3:56pm.