

**Western Massachusetts Library Advocates
Zoom Meeting
June 21, 2023**

Welcome and roll call: Wendy Pearson, Misha Storm, Katya Schapiro, Lisa Downing, Barbara Wurtzel, Bev Bullock, Abby Baines, Jan Resnick

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

Treasurer's Report: as submitted by Wendy Pearson

WMLA May 2023 Treasurer's Report

Florence Bank Balance on 6/21/2023 - \$3,733.24

Check paid: \$670.22 on 6/16/2023 (for pens, bookmarks, mints)

Deposit via Square: \$23.97 on 6/6/2023

Last Statement date - 5/31/2023

Beginning balance: \$4,569.25

Deposits: \$50.00

Withdrawals: \$239.76 (GoDaddy website hosting: 2-year renewal)

Ending balance: \$4,379.49

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

Membership Report: As reported by Lisa Downing

May 2023: processed 1 renewal membership this month. Lisa will take over checking the PO Box from Wendy.

Misha shared that CMLA sends swag and a thank you card to new members. We agreed to do this for new and renewing members. Misha will send Lisa a supply of swag to send out with renewals.

Board Member Updates

- a. **Summer Reading Prizes:** Misha sent out summer prizes and about half went to western MA libraries and the other half from the rest of the state. Misha included a membership form with all of the western MA libraries that requested prizes.
- b. **NELA updates from CMLA:** The table cost is \$400 and CMLA will invoice us for \$200. Bernadette from CMLA submitted a conference program proposal about starting a library advocacy organization. The conference is October 15-17 in Springfield.
- c. **WMLA bimonthly newsletter:** Barbara created a draft bimonthly newsletter and Misha edited and added some content. The group discussed some additional content. For distribution, we will use Mailchimp to send emails to our members and include the MBLC and our legislators.

We will also mail newsletters to those without email addresses in our database. We will try to utilize interlibrary delivery if we can. Misha will work with Lisa on this project.

MLA Legislative Committee Updates:

Mary Rose reported that the Conference Committee is reconciling differences between House and Senate budget proposals into a compromise budget for a final up/down vote (with no amendments) by each chamber, which will be sent to Governor Healey. The ARIS report includes a new question on library challenges. Mike also highlighted two upcoming trainings, one on book banning and another about library staff harassment.

MBLC Updates: Karen drew our attention to the joint intellectual freedom statement and the grand opening of the Greenfield Public Library. Jan suggested that we endorse the MA Joint Statement on Intellectual Freedoms, Censorship, and Intolerance from the MBLC. Wendy made a motion to endorse the MBLC's statement and Bev seconded. All approved.

Annual Meeting Planning

It is time to start thinking about our slate of officers for election at our annual meeting. Nicole has expressed interest in serving as president. We are also seeking nominations for vice-president and treasurer. We discussed holding an in person event and decided against it because of NELA being in person in October. We decided to offer the annual meeting in October on zoom. We are looking at a morning on the week of October 23 and will aim to set the date at next month's meeting. Jan suggested that we include a call to action at the meeting and in the newsletter at that time to ask members to reach out to their elected officials before they declare their funding priorities.

We will aim to hold our idea share breakfast in the spring.

Miscellaneous: Abby has offered to work with Nicole to update the website with the new branding. Misha will follow up with them.

Adjournment: Barbara makes a motion to adjourn, Wendy seconds, all approve. The meeting adjourns at 3:52 pm.