

**Western Massachusetts Library Advocates
Zoom Meeting
August 16, 2023**

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

Approval of June minutes: Michael abstains from vote. Katya makes a motion, Wendy seconds, all approve.

Treasurer's Report: as reported by Wendy Pearson:

WMLA August 2023 Treasurer's Report
Florence Bank Balance on 8/16/2023 - \$3,557.21
Deposit via Square: \$23.97 on 8/15/2023
Last Statement date - 7/31/2023
Beginning balance: \$3,733.24
Deposits: 0
Withdrawals: \$200.00 - to CMLA for NELA table share
Ending balance: \$3,533.24
Motion to approve made by Lisa, Nicole seconds, all approve.

Membership Report: as reported by Lisa Downing- 5 renewals (1 household, 2 seniors, and 2 libraries) that are believed to be in response to the newsletter mailing. Lisa sent out WMLA swag to 3 of the 5. Motion to approve made by Wendy, Mike seconds, all approve.

Board Member Updates

- 1. NELA plans:** WMLA is sharing a table with CMLA. The group discusses who will be staffing the WMLA table. Misha will reach out to see if people who are only staffing the tables need to pay to get in. Mike makes a suggestion of offering scholarships or the like to WMLA members to attend. Wendy mentions scholarships for free bus fare for legislative day. Lisa asks about the roll up WMLA banner. Lisa hopes to see some Western Mass librarians at the conference. Misha remembers CMLA doing a discounted membership at the last conference.
- 2. WMLA seasonal newsletter:** Misha is planning on quarterly or seasonal newsletters. One will be coming out in September. Lisa suggests content for the next newsletter- legislative budget, giving thanks to legislators. Misha describes the process for printing and mailing newsletters.
- 3. WMLA/MBLC library road trip:** Lisa, Nicole, Elena, and Lynn met with Celeste and June from the MBLC about the library road trip. Misha asks Wendy since the Berkshires just did a road trip- should they be included this year? Wendy says they should be unless the geographic area is too large. The Berkshires will be included. The committee will keep working on the project- a call for participation will be going out this week. Lisa

discusses the crawls the other networks have done and pros/cons. We will include non-CWMars libraries, we will just notate that they aren't part of the network.

MLA Legislative Committee Updates: as reported by Mike. Mike discusses the budget lines. The MLA Legislative Committee will meet again in September. Mike thanks the group for their advocacy work. Nicole asks if legislators get the newsletter- Misha, yes, Western MA ones do.

MBLC Updates: as reported by Karen. Karen emailed the group a report. The next MBLC meeting will be September 7. There is a new commissioner, Joyce Linehan. The MBLC staff is losing 5 staff members, plus James Lonergan, in June due to retirement. MLA and MBLC are working to have a Banned Books Read-In. Karen mentions four bills have been introduced regarding book banning. The PR communications team had a censorship survey and Karen discusses the findings. The Worcester Public Library has a book vending machine. The Greenfield Public Library's ribbon cutting is discussed.

Annual Meeting Planning: the Idea Share breakfast will be in the spring.

Elected positions

Past-president: Misha Storm

President: Nicole Daviau

Vice President: empty

Treasurer: Katya Schapiro

Secretary: empty (possibility of doing a rotating role)

Nicole will be stepping in as President. Katya will take over as Treasurer. Misha calls for a vote for the next Treasurer. Lisa makes a motion, Wendy seconds, all approve. For the Secretary role, Misha suggested a rotating role. Wendy knows someone who might be interested in being the secretary. Wendy suggests checking the bylaws. Wendy will invite her to the next meeting. Misha discusses the open Vice President role. Misha brings up the student seat. It is a one year role. Lisa knows someone on her staff who may be interested, but is not a Simmons student. The date for the annual meeting will be October 26, 2023 at 10am. Lisa asks if we want to have a speaker? Lisa will look into this.

Next meeting: The next meeting will be September 20 at 3pm.

Adjournment: Mike makes a motion to adjourn, Nicole seconds, all approve. The meeting adjourns at 4:03pm.