

**Western Massachusetts Library Advocates
Zoom Meeting
November 15, 2023**

Welcome and roll call: Misha Storm, Michael Moran, Deena Caswell, Nicole Daviau, Katya Schapiro, Barbara Wurtzel, Lisa Downing, Abigail Baines, Mary Biddle

Approval of September minutes: Katya makes a motion to approve, all approve with the edit of adding Katya's last name.

Treasurer's Report:

WMLA November 2023 Treasurer's Report

Florence Bank Balance on 11/15/23 - \$3813.19

Last Statement date 10/31/2023

Beginning balance: \$3605.15

Deposits: \$530.04

Withdrawals: \$96.00

Ending balance: \$4039.19

Respectfully submitted by

Katya Schapiro, WMLA Treasurer

November 15, 2023

Difference between end of previous statement and current balance reflects renewal of PO Box for one year.

Membership Report: We have had three membership renewals this month. Lisa proposed a membership renewal mailing for 2024. Misha made a motion to approve up to \$50 for the mailing and Abigail seconded, approved by all. Mary has offered to help with the technical side of the mailing and Nicole will write the letter. It was suggested that we reach out to new directors. Abigail offered to reach out to them and is also willing to make calls to others.

Board Member Updates

1. Legislative Breakfast Subcommittee

We have meetings arranged for all of the Connecticut Valley senatorial districts. We are awaiting a date from Greenfield, Agawam, Springfield, Longmeadow, Greenfield, and Williamstown. We are planning to meet again to review the timeline and requirements for each breakfast.

2. In the past we have offered \$200 to each host library to offset breakfast costs. Misha suggests that we ask the library's and regional Friend's groups to help contribute to the

breakfast as well. Misha made a motion to provide \$200 to the four legislative breakfast hosts that was seconded by Mike and passed unanimously.

3. Many on the board are seeing visitors through the WMLA/MBLC road trip program. Visitors are having a great time seeing new libraries and receiving their stamps and gifts. Misha recounted a couple who had visited 80 libraries. We are going to try and feature this couple in an upcoming newsletter. Communication with the Berkshire libraries was challenging because they had recently had a similar stand alone offering. We received feedback about the short timeframe and wished they had more time. Another person wished the hours were able to be found more easily.
4. Misha thanked board members who helped staff the WMLA table at NELA. Misha and Bernadette's (CMLA) presentation about starting an advocacy group received a standing ovation. We received a request for an infographic or a library advocacy calendar. Misha suggested this could also be a good program topic. Mike offered to work with Misha on assembling this. Jan created a wonderful history of WMLA for the talk and Nicole is planning to review the content so that it can be posted on our website.
5. The Annual Meeting was very successful. We received good comments about Andrea Puglisi's talk about online safety.

MLA Legislative Committee Updates: As reported by Mike- Mike sent out an email of updates with info from the MLA Legislative Committee's meeting as well as information about the hearing about the state bills for ebooks and intellectual freedom. Breakfast planning is happening across the state and Mike reminded us to register our confirmed breakfasts with the MBLC. The committee planning the library legislative day in Boston will set a date soon. Mike recommended that we partner with CMLA to charter a bus. We will consider adding a stop closer to 495 to reach the eastern side of CMLA's territory. It was suggested that we check with Jan about the history of the stops as they exist.

MBLC Updates: As reported by Karen- Karen has been enjoying the library crawl and possibly room to include more libraries next time. Cate Merlin has been hired as new Head of State Programs at MBLC replacing Mary Rose Quinn who is retiring. Nicole will reach out to welcome her on our behalf. Nicole will send a retirement card to Mary Rose on our behalf.

Newsletter: Barbara is compiling a list of articles for the next newsletter. Content ideas include leg breakfast, road trip, NELA, and the annual meeting. We will include a mention of the WMLA history on our website if it is ready and a short bio of Mary as our new student board member.

Next meeting: The next meeting will be the annual meeting.

Adjournment: Misha makes a motion to adjourn, Abigail seconds. All approve. Meeting concludes at 3:59 pm.