

**Western Massachusetts Library Advocates
Zoom Meeting
September 20, 2023**

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

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

Treasurer's Report: No report.

Membership Report: No report.

Board Member Updates

1. **NELA plans:** Misha notes the schedule is filled out for the WMLA table coverage. Bernadette (from CMLA) and Misha will be presenting. Misha brings up having a discount for people who register at NELA. Jan notes budget concerns and our upcoming programs and suggests having a limit. Katya says it may be worth it in the long run. Elena brings up if this is new or renewing members. Misha says \$5 across the board. Misha suggests doing what CMLA is doing, Mike makes a motion, Wendy seconds, all approve.
2. **Newsletter:** The newsletter has been sent out.
3. **Summer Reading:** Our final number was 122 libraries participating. Thank you's have been sent out.
4. **WMLA/MBLC Road Trip:** Requests to libraries in our areas have been sent out. We've gotten 65 libraries- most of Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin. Berkshire just did something similar, so not as many responses. Misha will be sending library info to the MBLC tomorrow. The launch date is October 16. Misha explains how the program works. There is a discussion on hashtags and marketing strategies.

MLA Legislative Committee Updates: As reported by Mike- Mike sent out an email of updates with info from the MLA Legislative Committee's meeting. Sarah Sogigian from MLS was at the meeting and highlighted several programs. Focus on the legislative agenda going forward- the legislative agenda will be on the MBLC website sometime next month. Spoke in general terms about library legislative day- aiming for March. An issue to discuss soon: how much importance should we attach to library legislative day vs. more local events like breakfasts. Jan commends Lisa, Karen, Mike and Misha for the level of communication.

MBLC Updates: As reported by Karen- Karen praises Lisa's presentation at the meeting. State Aid to Public Libraries, Administration for the MBLC, and MA Center for the Book- asking for increases. The MA Center for the Book annual board meeting is coming up. The office is in

Northampton and there will be an office warming party. Karen is a liaison to the MA Trustees and Friends Associations. October 21 is the MA Trustee Association meeting. MA Friends of the Libraries Association annual meeting will be in the spring, but Maura Deedy (MBLC) runs coffee hours on Zoom. There is a new commissioner- Barbara Barros. Karen mentions the state wide read in. MaryRose & June met with the new MSLA president and are working on a joint statement in support of school libraries. Jan suggests making a list of resources for those who may not be aware.

Annual Meeting Planning: Thursday October 26 @ 10am. Lisa and Northampton are hosting the Zoom with staff support. Abigail will assist. The presenter, Andrea Puglisi, will discuss online harassment prevention for librarians. Andrea will talk for 20 minutes followed by 10 minutes of Q&A. Jan will post the info about the meeting on the MLS calendar. Jan suggests asking MaryRose or James from the MBLC to attend, as well as Rob Favini and Celeste Bruno. Misha will invite Sarah Sogigian from MLS. Nicole suggests also inviting MLS consultants who assist the Western MA area. We will have the presentation after the business aspect of the meeting.

Elected positions

Past-president: Misha Storm

President: Nicole Daviau

Vice President: Abigail Baines

Treasurer: Katya Schapiro

Secretary: Wendy Pearson

Misha introduces Deena to the board. Abigail offers to step into a role. Misha says a VP is most needed. Wendy offers to step into the secretary role. Nicole will transition the meetings over to Google G-Suite. The student seat is open- Misha thanks Elena. Lisa suggests a person to fill the seat- Mary Biddle. Mary will attend the annual meeting.

Abigail asks if there will be any digital swag for the annual meeting, such as a WMLA sticker. Abigail spent \$100 for 150 stickers on Canva, makes a motion. Lynn seconds. All approve. Jan suggests a resource list for swag as well.

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

Adjournment: Mike makes a motion to adjourn, Nicole seconds. All approve. Meeting concludes at 4:13pm.