

**WESTERN MASS LIBRARY ADVOCATES  
MINUTES OF JANUARY 17, 2024 MEETING**

**Present:** Abigail Baines, Mary Biddle, Lynn Blair, Beverly Bullock, Deena Caswell, Lisa Downing, Wendy Pearson, Katya Schapiro, Misha Storm, Karen Traub, Barbara Wurtzel, Jan Resnick

**Meeting called to order by Misha at 3:03 p.m.**

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**Agenda:**

- Welcome and Roll Call
- Approval of December minutes
- Treasurer's Report
- Membership Report
- Legislative Breakfast Subcommittee
- MLA Legislative Committee Updates
- MBLC Updates
- Miscellaneous
- Adjournment

**Approval of December minutes**

VOTED: Minutes approved. Motion Barbara, second Katya.

**Treasurer's report**

Florence Bank Balance on 1/17/24 - \$3818.93

Last Statement date 12/29/2023

Beginning balance: \$3813.19

Deposits: \$0

Withdrawals: \$0

Ending balance: \$3813.19

Change since last statement includes a \$200 withdrawal for Legislative Breakfast costs and recent membership renewals via Square.

**Membership Report**

Lisa & Mary sent out 108 emails for renewals. 6 renewals online were received. A physical mailing will be sent via USPS to 45 people without email addresses. We need consistent messaging to re-engage lapsed members. It was suggested to send a reminder in late spring and some targeted mailings to new library staff. Board members could send personal invitations. Abigail reported that MLS will distribute WMLA info at new director trainings.

**Legislative Breakfasts**

Liaisons report some challenges communicating with host libraries, including timing of events, inviting legislators, and publicity. Jan reported that libraries new to hosting may need more help from WMLA. A checklist from past breakfasts was discussed by Barbara and Jan. They also suggested providing note cards for attendees to write to legislators that we aggregate and mail

via USPS. This year's hosting libraries might be able to be a buddy to new hosting libraries next year.

**MLA Updates:** Misha presented Mike's report. She suggested that points made at the New Director Legislative Training could be aggregated

**MBLC Updates:** Karen reported that MBLC staff is having significant turnover due to retirements and relocation. Karen is on the search committee for the new MBLC director.

**New Business:** The 2024 MLA annual conference is scheduled for May 6 - 7. A preliminary discussion of a shared table with CMLA and a gift basket was undertaken.

Many Western Mass. library staff are attending PLA thanks to the MLS scholarship. Meetup plans are underway.

Next meeting: February 21, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.

**Adjourned at 3:55 p.m.**