

**WESTERN MASS LIBRARY ADVOCATES
MINUTES OF APRIL 10, 2024 MEETING**

Present: Lynn Blair, Mary Biddle, Deena Caswell, Nicole Daviau, Lisa Downing, Mike Moran, Wendy Pearson, Katya Schapiro, Misha Storm, Karen Traub, Barbara Wurtzel.

Meeting called to order by Nicole at 3:02 p.m.

Agenda:

- Welcome and Roll Call
- Approval of February minutes
- Treasurer's Report
- MLA Legislative Committee Updates
- Membership Report
- Board Member Updates
- MBLC Updates
- MLA Conference table and donation (May 6-7)
- Miscellaneous

Approval of February minutes: Vote: Motion Wendy, Second Barbara

Treasurer's report - Katya reported that there is little financial activity this month

Membership Report - Very quiet, 3 new memberships

MLA Updates:

Almost 60 people from across the state attended the MLA Legislative Committee's virtual information session on current library legislation on March 26.

Mike reported that MLA reminded all about the legislation tracker on the MLA website.

The Committee co-chairs met with EveryLibrary on April 1 about creating a candidate questionnaire for this fall's elections.

The House budget proposal should be available by the end of April

Nicole asked about Legislative Day alternatives. Mike said the day might be held every other year put together by MLA and MSLA.

MBLC Updates: Karen spoke at the NOBLE breakfast; they are putting together an advocacy group. Tim Cherubini was appointed to the MBLC. The hiring is proceeding for many positions. IMLS nominated three Massachusetts libraries for awards. Mass Library Trustee Association will hold their annual meeting in October

MLA Conference table & basket: Misha felt our presence was valuable but didn't garner new memberships. Lisa pointed out that many are going to PLA so MLA attendance might be smaller this year. Misha will reach out CMLA about table share. Nicole will be at the conference and can be at the table and Misha will too. We will put together a WMLA basket and Nicole will deliver it to the conference. Please bring basket donations to Northampton or Blandford.

Newsletter: Much praise for Barbara's work on the newsletter.

New Business: Summer reading prizes tried for Six Flags and Big E. No luck yet

PLA recap: The conference was useful but also overwhelming for some. The vendor merchandising was helpful for generating ideas.

Next meeting: May 15, 2024, at 3:00 p.m.

Adjourned at 3:39 p.m.