

**WESTERN MASS LIBRARY ADVOCATES
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 21, 2024 MEETING**

Present: Mary Biddle, Lynn Blair, Beverly Bullock, Deena Caswell, Nicole Daviau, Lisa Downing, Mike Moran, Wendy Pearson, Katya Schapiro, Misha Storm, Karen Traub, Barbara Wurtzel, Jan Resnick, Karen Traub, Courtney Andree(Mass Center for the Book)

Meeting called to order by Nicole at 3:01 p.m.

Agenda:

- Welcome and Roll Call
- Approval of January minutes
- Treasurer's Report
- Membership Report
- Board Member Updates - Legislative Breakfast - Misha, Abby, Nicole
- MLA Legislative Committee Updates
- MBLC Updates
- MLA Conference table and donation
- Miscellaneous - newsletter updates for March mailing, photos from breakfasts
- Adjournment

Approval of January minutes

Popstponed - approval will be voted on via email

Treasurer's report - Katya

Florence Bank Balance on 2/21/24 - \$\$3,981.44

Last Statement date 1/31/2024

Beginning balance: \$3,813.19

Deposits: \$335.31

Withdrawals: \$200

Ending balance: \$3,948.50

Katya will be filing the WMLA 2023 tax return soon.

Membership Report

Lisa reported that we have 15 renewals and 2 new members this year. Combining that with memberships that came in during the last quarter of 2023 we are up to 20% active memberships (total 31 out of 155 with email). The list of contacts without emails has decreased. Members appreciated WMLA swag sent via delivery as a thank you. Former WMLA Board member Katherine Hand wrote to say how great the new branding looks and that it is good to see the organization getting active again.

Lisa shared that we could make mention of the importance of renewing memberships in the March newsletter. Nicole suggested that we offer a prorated membership for mid-year. Lisa suggested a membership drive to organizations, specifically Trustees and Friends. A discussion about getting hard to reach potential member's contact information ensued. Karen said she will

promote WMLA at the MLTA meeting. Lisa will send Nicole updated language for the membership form. Anna Pop will put membership forms in welcome packets for new directors.

Legislative Breakfasts

Misha spoke at the Greenfield Legislative Breakfast attended by 60 people. Next year, we would like to articulate who is responsible for the tasks associated with planning the breakfasts.

Barbara suggested getting emails from all breakfast attendees. Abby reported that Williamstown had a full house, Pat McLeod did a great job, the food was great, set up was excellent. Abby pointed out that it was helpful to have two WMLA reps at each breakfast. Attendance lists from breakfasts should be sent to Lisa. Nicole reported that the Agawam breakfast was also well attended and successful.

MLA Updates:

Mike reported that MLA has a legislative tracker. MBLC will testify to the Ways & Means Committee. Mike mentioned that Nicole was the standout speaker at the Agawam breakfast.

Two upcoming events of interest:

Wednesday, March 6, 1-2 pm (or 2-3 pm):

-MLA hybrid legislative briefing on MBLC library legislative agenda:

<https://www.mblclegislativeagenda.com/>

Friday, March 8, likely 2 or 3 pm:

-MBLC staff testimony to Joint Ways & Means Committee

-Timing is approximate, as many other agencies are testifying as well.

MBLC Updates: Karen reported that MBLC has conducted the first round of interviews to replace James Lonegran. Karen expressed exuberant support for legislative breakfasts. MLTA would like to get more trustees as members.

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.

Newsletter: Barbara will put together text for our March newsletter. The theme will be burgeoning membership and breakfast success.

New Business:

Next meeting: March 20, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.

Adjourned at 3:59 p.m.