

WESTCHESTER LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting

December 11, 2014

White Plains Public Library

Present:

Liz Anastasi, Elizabeth Cerino, Ann-Marie Cutul, Alexandra Gaete, Maxine Grandison, Terry Kirchner, Diana Lennon, Leah Massar, Donna Pesce, Sara Rodgers, Sharon Rothman, Rebecca Steere, and John Torres

Excused:

Tim Baird, Z. M. Baird, Gina Bell, Dan Glauber, Valerie Herman, Martha Iwan, Bonnie Katz, Kathleen Mannino, Joseph Mannozi, William Moorhead, Maureen Petry, Srivalli Rao, Carolyn Reznick, and Sarah Rodriguez

The meeting came to order at 10:15. Motion (Kirchner/Massar) to approve the Minutes from November 13, 2014, passed.

President's Report:

- Present Emeritus and Treasurer Rothman presided as Mannino was excused. She formally presented Liz Anastasi as candidate for Vice President/ President elect. Board members voted unanimously to approve the appointment.
- Rothman also mentioned that Mallory Harlan, Young Adult Librarian at the Ossining Public Library, has been recommended by Katz for the Secretary position as Cutul plans to step down in June 2014. Harlan is interested in the position, and Board members agreed to put her on the ballot which will be in the Annual Conference packet.
- Rothman announced that Ayers is retiring at the end of the month, and Board members expressed their appreciation for her work chairing the Reference Committee. They unanimously agreed to give her a \$100 gift certificate. Kirchner will draft formal guidelines for gift giving for the next meeting.
- Rothman also asked Board members to send their job descriptions to Mannino and vendor suggestions to Iwan.

Treasurer's Report:

- Rothman reported that as of December 3, 2014, WLA had \$8043.02 in the Checking Account and \$23,204.36 in the Savings Account with a combined balance of \$31,247.38. She noted that more members are using PayPal to renew their memberships than paying by check. She urged Board members to be sure to renew their own memberships.
- Rothman also distributed a sheet detailing Annual Conference Costs 2010-2012. Registration has fallen over the years, and speaker fees have increased pointing to the necessity to develop a new strategy for the future.

Membership Report:

- Cutul reported for Rao who was excused. Renewal emails have been sent to all 2014 members. Rao has started to receive renewals by PayPal and by check and, so far, has 21 members for 2015. The next email renewal will go out after December 20.

- Rao recently sent an invoice and w9 from the City of Yonkers to Kathy, Sharon and Bonnie. This is for membership dues for Yonkers School librarians. One of them needs to fill it out and send it to the City of Yonkers ASAP since it takes a long time to put the renewals through.
- Rao also needs to have her email added to PayPal for receiving notification for payment made. She needs to have this access (view only) to make sure that the person renewing has paid, and the payment has been processed.

Youth Services Section:

- Cerino reported that \$150, or half of the budget for the Mock Awards program January 15, will come from the Friends of White Plains Library and the other half from WLS . The section has declined the offer from WLA to pay half since section members do not want to charge for the program as suggested by Board members at the last meeting.
- Cerino wondered if WLA could have a non-librarian membership. She noted that many of the participants in the “Not Just for YA Book Club” are non-librarians. She will keep track of the number for when we will develop a proposal to revise the dues structure.

Support Staff Section:

- Grandison reported that she has surveyed library support staff to see what programming they prefer at the Annual Conference. Customer Service was highest on the list.

Legislation Commiettee:

- Pesce reported that she will start issuing invitations to the legislators in January for the Annual Conference.

Washington Irving Committee:

- Cerino reported for Z.M. Baird who was excused. Committee members are continuing their reading but still welcome suggestions from the Board for titles by authors residing in Westchester. They will have a master list of titles once the 2014 publishing year is over.
- The committee is also looking into inexpensive ways of highlighting the award since doing a presentation at the Annual Conference is pricey.

Annual Conference:

Keynote Speaker:

- Rodgers suggested “reinvention” expert Claire Cook to fit in with our theme. Steere suggested inviting author Linda Fairstein. Board members liked both suggestions and asked Rodgers and Steere to investigate further.

Workshops:

- Kirchner will arrange for a WEBS career workshop. He also suggested a follow up workshop by one of the speakers at the upcoming METRO conference. He further suggested inviting the White Plains based Digital Arts Experience . Massar asked about the idea of having different topics at different tables with attendees moving freely between them.

WLA Dues:

- Rothman noted that the Board had discussed raising the dues but had not voted on it. Rodgers interjected that it might require the approval of the membership at large. Cutul checked the By-Laws which state that dues are proposed by the Board and voted on by members of the association by ballot. Dues have not been raised for many years, but Board members agreed that we would need to mount a campaign if we want to have a new proposed dues structure on the Annual Conference ballot.

The meeting was adjourned (Rodgers/Massar) at 11:40 A.M.

Respectfully submitted by Ann-Marie Cutul

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF LOCATIONS:

Upcoming Meetings:

January 8, 2015, at the WhitePlains Public Library

February 19, 2015, at the Peekskill Public Library

March 12, at the Greenburgh Public Library

April 9, 2015, at the Hastings Public Libfary