

Westchester Library Association Board Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2015

White Plains Public Library

Submitted by Donna Pesce

Present: Alex Gaete, Dan Glauber, Martha Iwan, Bonnie Katz, Kathleen Mannino, Leah Massar, Donna Pesce, Maureen Petry, Srivalli Rao, Sharon Rothman, and Rebecca Steere

The agenda, meeting minutes from last meeting, and treasurer's report were distributed.

Elizabeth Cerino, Ann-Marie Cutul, Maxine Grandison, Sara Rodgers, and John Torres could not attend.

The move to approve the minutes was made by Rothman and seconded by Iwan.

Rao has returned from vacation and will stay on the board until the end of the year. A capable and conscientious person is needed for membership to take the registration and payments.

Treasurer's Report

Rothman reported that \$800 in membership is not reflected in the report. WLA had \$8123.55 in the Checking Account and \$23, 204.99 in the Savings Account with a combined balance of \$31,328.54.

Membership Report

Rao reported that we have 54 members. She sent a renewal notice yesterday and will send another "we miss you" notice at the end of February or beginning of March. A \$100 check came from the Mamaroneck Library with no form.

Web Administration

Glauber had nothing to report. He will put up the keynote speaker when we have more information and will double check Anastasi's name on the web site.

College Section

Massar had nothing to report.

Youth Services

The committee provided a handout for the Mock Awards taking place on January 15.

Washington Irving

Cathy Paulsen and Z. M. Baird report that the books written by the winners of the Washington Irving Awards are in the WLS catalog. They are looking to partner with the Westchester Arts Council to host a wine and cheese type event in the late spring or fall which means that there will be no Washington Irving award presentations at the Annual Conference this year. They are also looking into posting the promotional materials online for participants to print out themselves.

Public Relations

Gaete wanted to re-birth the off the desk committee by setting up a movie night at the Alamo in Yonkers. (It is located on Central Park Avenue, near Barnes & Noble.) They could show a library-themed movie and offer cocktails. Alex will look for a date in March. Movies mentioned were *Desk Set*, *Party Girl*, and *Day After Tomorrow*.

Legislation Committee

Pesce had nothing to report.

There was a discussion of the timing of lunch and the keynote speaker. Rodger's speaker could not come. Names discussed were Roz Chast, Siobdan Reardon, and Linda Fairstein. Linda Fairstein writes mystery thrillers set in New York. One is set in The New York Public Library. It was decided to wait to hear from Roz, then move on to Linda, if necessary, since she may be the bigger draw.

The "save the date" flyer should go out in late February. Martha will send it to the vendors.

Professional Development & Scholarship

Rothman reported that the scholarship committee had a difficult year. A librarian who applied for the tuition reimbursement was switched to the professional side to make her eligible. She was already reimbursed and wanted to use the money to go the NYLA. The board is not going to support it since recipients need to do what they applied for. It is unclear if the librarian went to NYLA. Rothman suggested paying her the money just to put this to bed and come up with a safety net so this does not happen again.

The librarian's director, Van Kozelka of the Katonah Public Library, was going to contact Carolyn Reznick, previous Chair of the Professional Development Committee. The library was contacted and did not reply. Rothman asked that a bill be submitted.

The scholarship and professional development documents need to be re-written to include a deadline to submit a receipt and a final word about discretion. And adding a line explicitly stating that recipients cannot receive funding from someone else, and reimbursement will only be given to applicant. Rothman suggested having three awards of \$250 each, so everyone can just apply.

Glauber will draft an email, making a strong statement, and send it to the board before sending it. He will not include the others who the librarian included on her email.

Ad Hoc

Pesce reported that the committee met after the last meeting. Each of the committee members will informally survey library staff in their in their service areas and choose a geographic area to research online what other library associations are offering. The research will take another month or two. The committee will meet again today.

Rodgers has been in touch with the Rockland library association, but the board has not heard back from her yet.

A person was asking WLA for librarian contacts. It was decided not to give them out.

Reference

Author Terry Ballard is writing a book about libraries and wants to make a presentation. The book will be about 50 specialty libraries in New York City and will talk about public access. It will be published in 2015.

Gossage Sager Associates, a library recruitment firm, may be interested in doing a presentation on what employers are looking for. The firm specialized in higher level jobs, so the board prefers if they can address this more in general.

Iwan will send Webjunction information.

The Gift-giving will be tabled until next time when Kirchner attends.

Board members need to renew their memberships.

For the next meeting, board members should think about raising the membership by \$5 to discuss at next meeting. This needs to be voted on at the conference.

Massar suggested not identifying the conference sessions at reference or academic, etc. on the program. This will be discussed at next meeting.

With no Washington Irving Award this year, there may be time to give to vendors to do 10 minute presentations. This may not be a good year to raise the price. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

The next meeting will be at the Field Library in Peekskill, and Anastasi will send the directions.

Gaete made the motion to adjourn and Steere seconded at 12 Noon.