

**WESTCHESTER LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**  
**Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Warner Library at Tarrytown**  
**February 27, 2014**

**Present:**

Mary Ayers, Pam Berger, Tata Canuelas, Ann-Marie Cutul, Ed Falcone, Debbie Fletcher, Alexandra Gaete, Maxine Grandison, Martha Iwan, Bonnie Katz, Donna Pesce, Maureen Petry, Srivalli Rao, Carolyn Reznick, Sara Rodgers, Sharon Rothman, John Torres, and Augusta Turner

**Excused:**

Tim Baird, Zahra M. Baird, Dan Glauber, Valerie Herman, Terry Kirchner, Kathleen Mannino, Joseph Mannozi, Leah Massar, and Jessica Tagliaferro

The meeting came to order at 10:10. Motion (Rao/Iwan) to approve the Minutes from December 12, 2013, passed.

**President's Report:**

- Katz was contacted in January by Pesce and Rodgers regarding Library Advocacy Day which happened 2/26/14. The goal is for WLA coordination and representation in 2015.
- Katz, Ayers and Petry attended an SLA event. SLA's Membership Chair proposed partnering for a future event.
- Grandison will order copies of "Expect to Win" by Carla Harris for the Annual Conference giveaway, courtesy Carla Harris in lieu of an honorarium.
- MerriBeth Advocate, Assistant Director of the Mid-Hudson Library System, has agreed to moderate the Conference panel. Katz will prepare questions for the panel in cooperation with colleagues representing low-vision, outreach, and education. Advocate will review the questions and add her own.
- Katz has been in touch with Doubletree regarding the menu which will still be chicken and vegetarian pasta but modified. The contract specifies that the workshop spaces will be the same, but room assignments need to be made. Conference publicity needs to be disseminated in a variety of ways. The honorarium for each speaker remains \$250 which was voted upon by the Board in September 2013. Registration fees for the Annual are yet to be determined.

**Treasurer's Report:**

- Falcone reported that as of January 1, 2014, WLA had \$8,210.69 in the Checking Account and \$27,274.47 in the Savings Account with a combined balance of \$35,485.16. He further reported that the total income for the Mid-Winter Conference was \$2090 and total expenses \$2,508, leaving a net loss of \$418.

**Membership Report:**

- Rao reported that WLA currently has 135 members. She urged Board members to renew, if they hadn't.
- Rao will send out a final membership reminder March 7 with the Conference "Save the Date" flyer.

**Web Administration Committee:**

- Katz reported that Glauber will set up the registration for the Annual Conference.

### **Conference Committee:**

- Rodgers is negotiating the Doubletree hotel accommodations for the Conference. Committee and Section Chairs should forward speaker contracts to Rodgers.

### **Reference Section:**

- Ayers has secured one Conference speaker so far, William N Myhill, associated with Project Enable and a Faculty Associate with the Center for Digital Literacy at Syracuse University. She has also been in touch with Mark Fang, Director of the Westchester Human Rights Commission and envoy executive with the Equal Access Initiative. Turner has contacted a Professor of Public Policy at Pace University.

### **College Section:**

- Katz reported for Massar who was excused. Massar is investigating two possible Conference speakers dealing with learning disabilities, universal design and online learning.

### **Youth Services Section:**

- Fletcher reported that Zahra M. Baird has made arrangements for two Conference workshops. One is titled "Great Literacy and Reading Apps for Youth" to be co-chaired by Z. M. Baird from the Yonkers Riverfront Library and Catherine Sorensen, school librarian at Heathcote School in Scarsdale and part-time Children's Librarian at the Bronxville Public Library.
- The second workshop is titled "the Science of Goal Meeting," with speaker Erin, an associate of Emiliya Zhivotovskaya from the Flourishing Center in New York City.

### **Support Staff Section:**

- Grandison has arranged for a Conference workshop with Marzena Ermler focusing on stress resilience in dealing with people with disabilities.

### **Public Relations Committee:**

- Gaete will make up a Conference brochure. Katz asked section chairs to have biographies of speakers sent to Gaete by March 10.

### **Raffle Committee:**

- Torres is working from last year's Raffle List to solicit prizes. He asked Rao about the possibility of a voucher from Mercy College for a free college course.

### **Legislation Committee:**

- Pesce reported that Library Advocacy Day was February 26, earlier than usual.
- State library funding proposed for the 2014-2015 year is at 1997 levels according to NYLA which is advocating \$102 million, as required by law.
- Assembly Member Fred W. Thiele, Jr., was appointed Chair of the New York State Assembly Committee on Library and Education Technology. Local Assembly Members on the committee are Thomas Abinanti and Steven Otis.
- Pesce asked if WLA board members had an interest in visiting legislators at their local offices.

### **Professional Development Committee:**

- Rothman reported that she received a report from last year's scholarship winner. She has not received any applications, so far, for this year's award.

## **Annual Conference:**

### *Title:*

- Board members discussed several titles for the Conference dealing with learning accommodations for people with disabilities but did not settle on any one. The Conference Committee will discuss further and make the final choice.

### *Schedule:*

The following schedule was decided as follows:

8 – 9 Registration and Vendors

9 – 9:45 Set of Workshops

10 – 11 Keynote Speaker

11 – 11:30 Vendors

11:30 – 12:15 Set of Workshops

12:15 – 12:30 Vendors

12:30 – 2 Lunch, Politicians, Business Meeting, Awards, Declaration for the Right to Libraries

2:15 – 4 Panel

### *Fees:*

- Board members agreed to keep the same fee structure as last year.

### *Brochure:*

- Katz asked all information be forwarded to Gaete by March 10 so she can prepare a Conference brochure before the March 13 meeting.

### *Publicity:*

- Katz suggested the publicity should start in the middle of March, right after the March 13 Board meeting and that we should utilize both paper and non- paper formats. Alex offered to send conference flyers via WLS ILL.

### *Declaration for the Right to Libraries:*

- Berger mentioned that ALA President Barbara Stripling has initiated a campaign for the Declaration *for the Right to Libraries*, her hallmark initiative. She will buy copies of the Declaration and bring them to the Conference.

### *School Library Cooperation Award:*

- Berger will work with Mannozi to find candidates for the award.

### *Sponsorships:*

- Katz suggested we find a sponsor for the Conference Breakfast.

The meeting was adjourned (Fletcher/Canuelas) at 12:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Ann-Marie Cutul

## **Upcoming Meetings:**

**Thursday, March 13, 2014, at the White Plains Public Library**

**Thursday, April 10, 2014, at the Mount Kisco Public Library**

**Meetings held 10 A.M. to 12 Noon.**

**Friday, May 9, 2014, Annual Conference at the Doubletree Hotel in Tarrytown**