

WESTCHESTER LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, April 11, 2019
Hendrick Hudson Free Library
Montrose, New York

Present: Kathy Beirne, Megan Fenton, Martha Iwan, Terry Kirchner, Diana Lennon, Joseph Mannozi, Kathy Palovick, Elaine Provenzano, Anthony Reda, James Trapasso, Catherine Riedel

Excused: Zahra M. Baird, Gina Bell, Laura Burk, Mayra Cabrera, Kathryn Feely, Giovanna Fiorino-Iannace, Dan Glauber, Maxine Grandison, Melissa Iamónico, Bonnie Katz, Christa O'Sullivan, Sharon Rothman

The meeting was called to order at 9:31 am by Diana Lennon. Elaine Provenzano moved to accept the minutes of the March meeting, with edits, and Catherine Riedel seconded the motion; all in attendance were in favor.

President's Report

- Diana reminded everyone of the May 9th board meeting at 9:30 am at the Greenburgh Public Library, which will be short and mainly focused on preparations for the conference (stuffing folders and finalizing plans).
- Diana inquired if everyone was still interested in a June lunch meeting, and that she will make necessary restaurant arrangements. This meeting will most likely be on a Thursday.
- YSS Conference will be happening on Friday, April 26, 2019. Diana, Catherine, and Elaine will be in attendance to help cover the table for WLA. Anyone else who is interested and able to help cover the table should email Diana.
- Diana reminded all section and committee chairs to complete their job descriptions and procedures, and update these on Google Docs, for the incoming board.
- Diana, Elaine, Jayne, and Terry attended the Celebrating Westchester Libraries Breakfast on April 4, representing WLA.
- Diana was contacted by the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) team, the New York Liberty, who play at the Westchester County Center in White Plains. They are interested in working together, perhaps on a social event in June. They suggest a night where we could reserve 50 seats, at \$11.50 per ticket, but we would need to provide a \$100 deposit by April 12. There is a concern about not being able to get enough interest by June, and there was agreement that we should revisit the opportunity

for a fall event (note: ticket prices will be going up to \$22.50). There was a suggestion that we could find a co-sponsor for this event to offset the cost of tickets, and that we could donate tickets to the event as a prize for Battle of the Books.

- In lieu of the WNBA event in June, we will opt for a less formal social gathering, possibly at Captain Lawrence's Wednesday Trivia Night. Megan will check the Captain Lawrence calendar for possible dates.

Treasurer's Report

Diana reported for Sharon, who was not in attendance.

- Special Libraries Association/Hudson Valley Chapter donated \$500 for the Professional Development Scholarship Fund. We will now be able to give up to three awards.
- Yonkers Public Library made a \$50 donation to WLA so that their staff could attend the February 28th Implicit Bias Training. This was done because professional organization memberships are not paid for by the Yonkers Public Library, and taking cash at the door was not permitted by the Greenburgh Library policy.

Conference Update

- Google form registration for the May 20th annual conference has gone live. The spring newsletter also went out with an announcement/call to register. We have 17 registrations so far- some of the topics leading so far are staff wellness and customer service. When registration closes we will choose the top topics for breakout sessions. If there is enough interest expressed by some of the write-in topics, those will also be added to the slate and voted on as topics for breakout sessions.
- Elaine asked everyone to let her know what assignments they can help with the day of the conference. We will need the registration table attended all day, since some will attend only in the afternoon. Elaine asked Kathy Beirne if she could be available for morning registration on behalf of Membership.
- Due to the space and layout of the Gateway Center, we have room for only six vendors this year. Martha has two confirmed so far. The smaller space will allow for a closer set-up, and the informal lunch will give the vendors a unique opportunity to mingle with attendees.
- The conference lunch break will also include a talk about the Native Plant Center, which will be optional for attendees.
- Anthony and Myra are liaisons at WCC. Elaine asked Anthony to ask WCC if there are floor plans for the Gateway Center that we can include in attendee packets. We also

need to find out where the outlets are for vendors, and if they have easels for note taking during the breakout sessions.

- Kathy Palovick is working on organizing legislators to attend. There is concern about their availability as Mondays they are in session in Albany. Terry noted that they may still be able to send an aide and/or a proclamation letter instead. Kathy will work on finding out if George Latimer or Ken Jenkins is available.
- Terry said the WLS will provide the funds for breakfast at the conference.
- Elaine passed around prototypes of the notebooks and bags to be given away as swag at the conference. 150 of each have been ordered, at a total of \$655.79. We will be billed so that a check can be issued. Notebooks and bags are being shipped to Diana. We will also give away WLA pens. Conference packets, notebooks and pens will be stuffed in bags, and given to attendees at registration.
- Jayne is spearheading the raffles. Anyone who can help with the raffles should contact her. Will the vendors be able to offer something to raffle?
- Awards- Professional Development Award will be announced at the end of the conference.
- Elaine asked that everyone please push the conference to your networks, and try to drum up interest for more volunteer facilitators.

Reference

Nothing to Report

Youth Services

- Catherine announced that Battle of the Books registration has opened.
- There is a Battle of the Books request to WLA; can we give money to purchase books? In the past we have given money for swag, and there was a discussion if we should give money for books in addition to swag. Those in attendance decided against this because it would be difficult to determine the libraries in greatest need of the free books.
- Catherine made a motion that WLA provide \$360 towards gifts for Battle of the Books participants under the condition that WLA's logo is included. James seconded the motion, and the motion passed 7-5.
- Several individuals expressed that they felt the amount provided to Battle of the Books should be higher. Elaine made a motion to increase the amount towards gifts for Battle

of the Books to \$400, under the condition the WLA logo is included. Catherine seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

- There was discussion about whether or not to award the Washington Irving Awards this year. The Awards have historically been a competition that involves multiple local Westchester authors, and that is a criteria we cannot support this year. There was a discussion about the need to rewrite the award procedure so that we can support it going forward. Catherine will continue as the Youth Service Committee Chair next year and will form a committee to research/rewrite the award procedures.
- YA Book Buzz will be meeting on April 12 at 6:00 pm at Savor in the Westchester Mall's food section.

Support Staff

Nothing to Report

Academic

- Anthony notes that a former president of WCC will give a talk and tour of the WCC campus at the May 20 annual conference.
- Anthony also notes that the CPO of the YWCA could be a potential vendor at the annual conference.

Professional Development

- Hudson Fusion Blogging and Marketing workshop is coming up on Thursday, April 18 at 3:00 pm at the Ossining Library. Registration is somewhat low, so Megan requests that you push the event to your networks.
- There have been no completed applications for this year's Professional Development Awards, and there are only a few days left until the April 15 deadline. Everyone agreed that we should extend the deadline to May 1, in order to allow more time for interest and submissions.

Public Relations

- Christa has scheduled a number of emails to go out for upcoming events: April 16- Hudson Fusion Blogging and Marketing Workshop & Reminder of Extended Deadline for Professional Development Awards; April 24- Annual Conference Registration Reminder; May 8- Annual Conference Registration Reminder; May 13- Last Call for Annual Conference Registration.

Website

- Everyone noted the website is looking good and updated. Diana said to let her know if anyone needs something changed or updated so she can let Dan know.

Membership

- Kathy notes that the membership list is updated and that membership is up. It was noted that we have more than doubled memberships, largely thanks to the new Organizational Membership option.
- Terry said he will push the Organizational Membership option to the libraries who are not yet participating. Kathy will provide him with a list.

Nominations

- Nominations for next year's slate of officers are: President- Elaine Provenzano; Vice President- Giovanna Fiorino-Iannace; Secretary- Alison Robbins; Treasurer- Sharon Rothman. Diana made a motion to accept the slate of officers, and Martha seconded it, all in attendance were in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:52 by Diana Lennon.

Respectfully Submitted,
Megan Fenton

Upcoming Meetings

May 9: Greenburgh Public Library

June 6: End of the Year Luncheon