

WESTCHESTER LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, September 15th, 2021
Zoom

Present:

Joy Alter, Mayra Cabrera, Kathryn Feeley, Megan Fenton, Giovanna Fiorino-Iannace, Maxine Grandison, Krishna Horrigan, Martha Iwan, Terry Kirchner, Joseph Mannozi, Susanne Markgren, Christa O'Sullivan, Elaine Provenzano, Renee Rauch, Anthony Reda, Allison Robbins, Joanna Rooney, Kim Stucko, Melissa Victoria

Invited Guests: Anne Izard Award Committee Members: (Rita Auerbach, Melissa Heckler, Ellen Tannebaum)

Excused: Z Baird, Kathy Beirne, Oz Coto-Chang, Lisa Dettling, Eleanor Friedman, Daniel Glauber, Dana Hysell-Alongi, Diana Lennon, Kathy Palovick, Tracey Wong

The meeting was called to order at 9:32 am. Giovanna Fiorino-Iannace made a motion to accept the minutes of the September 3rd, 2021 special meeting as read; Mayra Cabrera seconded. The motion was passed and the minutes were approved.

The members of the Anne Izard Award Committee were invited to provide the board with an overview of the award process.

- The award is named after Mount Vernon librarian, Anne Izard Storytellers' Choice Award and is recognized by publishers and authors all over the world
- Criteria for the award are posted on the WLA website.
- The award has a 2 year cycle and for the first time, the award will be presented at the WLA Spring Conference (2022).
- In the past, it was presented at a separate, standalone presentation but its inclusion as part of the Spring conference will benefit both WLA and the Anne Izard award.

Treasurer's Report:

- Written treasurer's report was emailed to the board prior to the meeting
- All funds were moved from Savings to Checking in anticipation of moving funds to NYLA. A decision needs to be made as to whether to continue with the savings account.
- A new accounting software (MoneyMinder) is being tested using a 30-day free trial and is proving to be more helpful than using Excel
- The software is easy to use, affordable, and can be integrated with a member database for an extra fee.
- The cost is \$159 plus \$39 to integrate with the bank account for a total of \$198
- Elaine makes a motion to purchase MoneyMinder software. Giovanna seconded. Motion approved.
- The integration with membership can be added later for an additional \$200 a year and this will be explored and discussed with the membership committee at a later date. The membership database is a separate company that integrates with Money Minder.
- Currently working on finalizing the budget.

Old Business

- The board was invited to ask any questions in regards to the decision to not move forward with becoming a NYLA Roundtable.

- When asked for clarification as to the reason for the board's decision, it was due to a decreased level of confidence in joining NYLA while they are in such a major state of transition. Currently, NYLA's Executive Director has resigned, along with four members of the executive board of NYLA Council and they do not currently have an Interim Executive Director.
- In addition, WLA did not have any written agreement with NYLA and only a verbal agreement with the previous Executive Director, in regards to finances and the use of WLA funds.
- Concerns on how membership will be managed now that NYLA will not be handling membership were discussed and tabled for a later meeting with the membership committee.
- WLA will revisit the idea of joining NYLA at a later date once NYLA has stabilized, perhaps in a year.
- It was recommended that we send out an e-mail to WLA membership in the next 2 weeks, rather than wait for the newsletter for purposes of transparency and to minimize confusion. It was agreed to wait a few days for a response from NYLA.
- A list of WLA members who registered for membership through NYLA is needed.
- Memberships paid through NYLA will be honored by WLA.
- Further discussion on how to address NYLA/WLA memberships was tabled for the Executive Board meeting.

President's Report:

- Bylaws Committee will meet on Sept. 23rd. By-laws need to be finalized in order to be approved in NY as a non-profit.
- A small committee met to discuss the career forum on Library Career Paths
- The topics have been finalized. Currently in the process of finalizing the panelists
- Information on the next meeting will be sent out to the board

Mid-Winter Conference:

- The Conference Committee met on Sept. 9th and has selected February 2nd, 2022, 9:30 am-noon as the date and time for this year's Mid-Winter Conference. Recommended a registration fee of \$10 per person.
- 4 possible topics were mentioned including the future of libraries, the electronic frontier, and libraries and the law. It was recommended to send out a Google Form like last year so that everyone can participate in the topic selection.
- Looking at Zoom but hoping to be able to offer it in person. Will ask Ossining Public Library to hold the date.
- In regards to the Bonnie Katz Award, working on finalizing the criteria and the award amount in time for February's conference.

Newsletter Committee:

- Will include updates on the NYLA situation, highlights from the 2021 Annual Conference, and President's Message
- Professional Development Award information
- Will go out in mid-October. Please send the committee any upcoming events that should be included.

Archives Committee

- There are new committee members due to the resignation of CR. The committee is looking to scan records rather than pay for binding
- Recommend working with the Historical Society and/or Westchester County Archives

Youth Services Section:

- Representatives are not present. LD is on maternity leave until early December. WLA will send a gift

Reference Section:

- Microphone unavailable. Nothing to report.

Support Staff Section:

- Nothing to report

Academic and Special Libraries Committee:

- WCC is being cautious in its reopening with 30% currently back to in-person classes, with the hope to increase to 60% in the spring.
- Students are allowed in the library but hours have been reduced and there is a vaccination requirement to access the building.
- Hoping WCC can be a viable location for the Spring Annual Conference if it is held in person.

Professional Development Committee:

- The committee is looking for new ideas and feedback and is happy to assist with the Career Path panel.
- Possible October “Tech” program, perhaps on video editing or other topics to help with hybrid library programming.
- Discussed the possibility of a “Photo Headshot Day”- a service for WLA members and/or library school students to get a professional headshot. Can look into having it hosted at WLS, by appointment. Board members will reach out to professional photographer contacts and will research costs involved.
- Anthony made a motion to increase the Professional Development Award from \$500 to \$1000. Maxine seconded the motion. Motion passed with one nay, who recommended the award increase to \$750.
- There have not been many applicants with the current award amount and the hope is the larger award amount will increase interest. It was noted that many years ago, the award amount was \$1000. Criteria for the award will remain the same and previous winners are eligible to reapply after 3 years.

Legislation Committee:

- Representative not present. Nothing to report.

Public Relations Committee:

- Provided a quick report.

Website Committee:

- Representative not present. Nothing to report.

Membership Committee:

- Any changes and updates to the membership process will be discussed in a future meeting with the new chair in light of the decision for WLA to not join NYLA as a roundtable.

Outreach Committee:

- Committee will meet soon to brainstorm for the conference

WALDO:

- SM needed to leave the meeting early. Will send an update to the WLA President on WALDO's current period of transition.

BOCES:

_____ Representatives were unavailable. Nothing to report.

New Business:

- October Meet & Unwind will be on Sunday, October 24th at Boscobel. No rain date or formal time. Bring a picnic and use the library's museum pass program for admission.
- Recommended a future event at Hudson River Museum in Yonkers. Perhaps indoors this winter.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:51 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Victoria

Next Board Meeting:

Wednesday, October 13th, 2021