

WESTCHESTER LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, April 13th, 2022
Zoom

Present:, Megan Fenton, Giovanna Fiorino-Iannace, Maxine Grandison, Dana Hysell-Alongi, Terry Kirchner, Diana Lennon, Kathy Palovick, Lynn Parliman, Elaine Provenzano, Renee Rauch, Anthony Reda, Allison Robbins, Kim Stucko, Melissa Victoria

Absent: Joy Alter, Z Baird, Mayra Cabrera, Oz Coto-Chang, Lisa Dettling, Virginia Dunnigan, Daniel Glauber, Kathryn Feeley, Krishna Horrigan, Martha Iwan, Joseph Mannozi, Christa O’Sullivan, Joanna Rooney, Tracey Wong

The meeting was called to order at 9:34 am. Motion to approve the minutes with no corrections was made by Elaine and was seconded by Diana. The motion was passed and the minutes were approved.

Treasurer’s Report:

- Report indicated some new membership payments. Expenses included payments for the professional development speaker, liability insurance and costs for website domain and hosting.
- Terry made a motion to approve the March Treasurer Report. Kim seconded the motion.
- Question was raised as to when the board should meet to discuss the next budget and whether it would be the responsibility of the current board or the incoming board.
- It was decided that it should be done in conjunction with the incoming executive board and that the meeting should be scheduled soon. Kim will send out an email to the current and incoming executive board members.
- Terry and Elaine thanked Allison for the detailed Treasurer reports and for her time as WLA Treasurer.

Annual Conference (& Vice President Report):

- The conference agenda was sent out and there were no comments submitted by the Monday deadline.
- There will be 2 speakers: Professor Simmons from WCC and Tracey Wong from Yonkers Schools. There will also be a “Diverse Voices” Panel and the presentation of the Anne Izzard awards.
- Registration costs will be the same as last year: \$30 for non-members, \$25 for members and \$20 for students/retirees.
- Working on getting the website ready- updated with registration link.
- Christa is waiting on speaker headshots and some more information before sending out information to the membership.
- Board members are encouraged to share the information and Jayne will share on social media.
- Emails went out to vendors last week to sponsor the annual conference. May not have as many sponsors as last year. WLS has agreed to sponsor. Also need to remove last year’s sponsors from the website/

President’s Report:

- Updated by-laws have been approved and paperwork has been sent to the state.
- New slate of incoming officers: Kim - Past President, Kathy - President, Lynn - Treasurer, Donna - Treasurer-Elect and Erika Heinzelman - Secretary. Vice-President and Secretary-Elect officer positions are still vacant.

- Need to reach out to board members who have not actively attended WLA meetings such as the BOCES representatives and Youth Services representatives.
- New By-laws have changed the structure of committees and a meeting should be scheduled to re-organize and re-frame the committees moving forward. Perhaps it can be done in conjunction with the budget meeting.

Legislation Committee:

- The NYS Budget was passed with a slight increase in library funding to 99.6 million and advocacy effects led to an increase to 34 million for library construction, up from the original proposal of 14 million.
- Dana has sent out invites to legislators to speak at the WLA Annual Conference and is waiting to hear back from them.

Newsletter Committee:

- Working on getting the newsletter out soon via an e-blast.
- It will include the President's Letter, the slate of incoming board members, PD Award application, Mid-winter conference recap and the Bonnie Katz Award
- Dana has written an article on Library Advocacy Day and will send it to the committee for the upcoming newsletter.

Professional Development Committee:

- Extended deadline for Professional Development Award to April 26th. Announcement will hopefully go out soon. Currently no applications have been submitted. Anthony has a student he is encouraging to apply and Jayne mentioned someone from Harrison will also be applying.
- Received a reimbursement packet from one of the 2021 winners and waited for the other packet.
- Megan and Krishna hope to record a testimonial from previous winners to play at the annual conference.

Public Relations Committee:

- Committee members were unable to attend but Christa did send an email with the following updates
- Committee is currently trying to publicize the virtual annual conference and create the newsletter.
- Emphasized the importance of sending the committee information regarding publicity as soon as possible.
- Generally, the committee likes to start publicizing events 6-8 weeks before an event but cannot if all the information is not yet ready to send out (i.e. presenter information, registration link, etc.)
- Suggestion was made for a 12 month Conference committee that would meet regularly to plan both conferences, with built in deadlines for publicity.
- Another suggestion was to host a conference every other year, which would allow a longer period of time for the committee to plan.

Membership Committee:

- No committee members present to report. President did indicate that WLA currently has a total of 86 members. Since March, 26 members have joined the organization.

Archives Committee:

- Westchester County Archives is now open M-TR from 9:30-4. Jayne plans on going there next week to go over the documents
- WLA's upcoming 85th anniversary- Can look for something in archives to celebrate (ex. photographs, 10 fun facts about WLA, etc.)
- WLS will check to see if they have any WLA historical documents.

- Maxine said Mount Vernon has in their catalog back issues of the WLA Bulletin (1975-1989) and the WLA Newsletter (1990-1997)

Reference Committee:

- No committee members present to report.

Youth Services Committee:

- No committee members present to report.

Support Staff Committee:

- No updates to report.

Academic and Special Libraries Committee:

- Dr. Simmons' headshot and bio were submitted to Christa. Anthony is sending out the Welcome invite for Dr. Simmons and will cc Kathy, Renee and Kim. He has already registered for the Zoom and received the link.

Website Committee:

- No committee members present to report. President reported that the website appears to be up to date.

Outreach Committee:

- Jayne reported that she e-mailed vendors on Friday who sponsored the annual conference last year to see if they are interested in sponsoring this year's conference.
- Many previous vendor contacts have since retired so working on making new connections/

WALDO

- Virginia Dunnigan, WALDO rep for WLA has retired, leaving Lynn Parlman as the sole WALDO representative to WLA at this time/
- WALDO is focused on the Big Summer Renewal Process and getting familiar with the new website.

BOCES:

- No representatives present to report.

New Business:

- There was a discussion about removing barriers to applying for the Professional Development Award. One suggestion was to remove the requirement to be a member of WLA to apply and to provide a membership as part of the PD award.
- Jayne suggested waiving the membership cost due to financial hardship on a case by case basis. This could also be a regular option for all potential members, not just PD applicants.
- There was a discussion about the Public Loan Forgiveness Program and librarians. Jayne knows 2 librarians whose federal student loans have been forgiven. They used a student loan consultant to assist them. A professional development workshop on this topic was suggested but would have to run over the summer since there is an October deadline for the current program.
- Jayne asked about offering the Headshots program over the summer. WLS could be a potential location.
- Allison volunteered to work as an advisor to the board on helping the board align practices to the new by-laws.
- Need to start thinking about a location for the June luncheon. A Library cafe was suggested in lieu of a restaurant.

- Library suggestions included Ossining, Harrison, Pelham and Scarsdale.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:28 AM

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Victoria

Upcoming Meeting:

WLA Annual Conference on May 6th, 2022