

WESTCHESTER LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting

Friday, February 14, 2025

Remote Meeting on Zoom – 1:30 pm

Present: Mayra Cabrera, Lisa Dettling, Giovanna Fiorino-Iannace, Daniel Frett, Martha Iwan, Deborah Nelson, Kathy Palovick, Renee Rauch, Anthony Reda, Gillian Rothchild

Not Present: Krishna Brodigan, Jen Cannell, Dan Glauber, Terry Kirchner, Joseph Mannozi, Elaine Provenzano, and Miriam Saphra

The meeting was called to order at 1:34 pm by Gillian Rothchild.

President's Report

- Gillian reported on the recent events, including a Happy Hour Meet & Greet Gaming Night at WLS and the virtual Be Your Own Valentine Self Care workshop this month. Both were well attended.
 - Renee Rauch noted that there were new and old members who joined these events. Word is getting out that WLA is building up again and offering new programs. Renee Rauch pointed out how the WLA membership rate is the best in town and offers members many great opportunities. Everyone's support is needed to keep the momentum going.
- Gillian mentioned there have been new organizational memberships received, including Harrison, Pound Ridge and Yonkers Public Libraries.
- Gillian has an appointment with library director Jessie Montero and is planning on visiting the Yonkers Public Library next month and to encourage library staff there to become WLA members.
- Gillian and Krishna met with Nate Hill, our guest speaker for the Mid-Winter Conference. He is Executive Director of METRO Council in New York. They discussed funding for programs.
- The theme for the 2025 Mid-Winter will resonate with members – “Overcoming Adversity: Taking the Lead in Libraries.”
 - There are 15 people registered as of today's meeting (2/14/2025)
 - Guest speakers will include someone from the Scarsdale Library to address the Kirk Cameron Storytime program, Melissa Iamónico from the Tuckahoe School District Library, and Anthony Reda of Westchester Community College.
- Partnering with other organizations allows WLA to stay connected with other communities. Likewise, WLA can support other associations.
 - One example is collaborating with Marjie Riordan Kemper and Fourth Fridays in Peekskill for LGBTQ+ Youth on resume workshops or another program. Questions and comments are welcome..
 - Deborah Nelson and Anthony Reda agree this is a positive partnership that also offers WLA more exposure. Joining forces gives WLA more strength and buy into our libraries.
 - Now is a good time to think about causes we would like to support.
- The event wish list has been shared with the WLA Board and Committee members.
 - Kenji Kaneshiro of Harrison Library is interested in presenting a talk on gaming programs to help people connect and communicate. The tentative date for his talk is Tuesday, March 18, at 6 pm at the Harrison Library.

- Giovanna Fiorino-Iannace wrote in the Group Chat that the Harrison Library closes at 5:30 pm on Thursday evenings. The program may need to be relocated to WLS Headquarters.
 - Gillian would like to have a skill or job-related fair or event. Maybe Mayra and Anthony can recommend someone at WCC to present the program. Anthony mentioned they have a Career Services department at WCC and several non-trade classes offered on campus as part of Continuing Education for non-traditional, older or returning students. We will need to look at the cost and details in order to go forward with this idea.
- The need to consolidate committees was addressed by Gillian. She thinks we should change the committee groups on the website and in the By Laws – Archives, Vendors, Conference and Professional Development as one group; a separate Awards Committee, including Washington Irving, Anne Izzard, Bonnie Katz Awards).
 - A vote was not taken to approve the new committee groupings.
- Hosting an annual conference was discussed. Anthony Reda has checked with Alexandra Giusto at the WCC to inquire about hosting the conference at The Gateway. The fee is the same as it was five years ago.
 - Giovanna noted in the Group Chat the following fees from 2019: “This was for 2019 at The Gateway at WCC:

SERVICE TOTAL

Gateway Davis Auditorium

Gateway Atrium and Café area

Gateway Classrooms 110, 133, 135, 137

\$800.00

\$400.00

\$400.00

Facilities Management \$560.00

Facilities Management media

(Less 15%, nonprofit)

\$200.00

- \$240.00

TOTAL \$2120.00
 - Food costs will be separate.
 - Two possible dates are Friday, June 6, and Friday, June 13.
 - A decision on the date and venue will be made after February 28.

Vice President Report - Renee Rauch

- Renee Rauch attended the two recent WLA programs and is spreading the word about WLA by leaving flyers at different libraries. She wants to build up WLA and maintain positive team spirit. She thanked everyone for supporting the association and dedicating time to making it successful.
 - Gillian seconded Renee’s thanks to everyone for their hard work.

Treasurer’s Report - Krishna Brodigan

No Report

Section/Committee Updates

Youth Services – Lisa Dettling

- Lisa Dettling reminded us that she will be taking Maternity Leave in March.

Academic & Special Libraries - Mayra Cabrera / Anthony Reda

- Anthony Reda confirmed he spoke with Alexandra Giusto for WLA's use of the Davis Auditorium. Both June dates being considered are available for use. Rooms 110, 113, and 126 are also available for us to present break-out sessions. The cafeteria will not be free on either June date, but we can use the Tech Building Student Lounge, which is nearby. Mayra agrees that it is a nice, bright space.

Archives - Giovanna Fiorino-Iannace / Elaine Provenzano

- Giovanna reported there is nothing new to report. They are exploring options for the Deed of Gift to the Westchester Historical Society.

Professional Development – Deborah Nelson / Daniel Frett (Not Present)

No report

BOCES - Joe Mannozi (Not Present)

No Report

Legislation Committee – Kathy Palovick (Sent Report)

- Kathy Palovick has invited several legislators to speak at the Mid-Winter Conference on Friday, February 28, some of whom have agreed to attend – Senator Shelley Mayer, Assemblywoman Dana Levenberg, Assemblyman Matt Slater, and Assemblywoman Amy Paulin (recording). Kathy will also reach out to Ken Jenkins about speaking at the conference.

Website - Dan Glauber

- Dan Glauber

Membership - Krishna Brodigan

- No Report

Newsletter – Elaine Provenzano / Miriam Saphra

- No Report

Vendors/Conference - Martha Iwan

- Matha Iwan reported that she has lost with past vendors since COVID and that she may not be able to convince them to support the annual conference. WLA has to make it worth their while.
 - Gillian hopes the vendors can be enticed to participate and support the conference.

- Giovanna noted in the Group Chat that we will need to select a theme and invite speakers/presenters for June.
- Martha offered to help at the Mid-Winter Conference on February 28.

New Business

- Gillian addressed some new business in her report.
- Giovanna wrote in the Group Chat that we need to select a date and venue for the Annual Conference in order to promote it.
- Martha suggested we be mindful of other conferences happening in the spring to avoid overlapping dates.
- Renee emphasized the importance of paying Chubbs for WLA's insurance coverage this year and to check on WLA's P.O. Box for any new correspondence.
 - . Gillian will check with our treasurer, Krishna Brodigan.
- Gillian noted a decision about the Annual Conference will be made the first week of March.
- Giovanna invited WLA to partner with the Harrison Public Library via the Group Chat. The library will be screening "Free for All: The Public Library" on Friday, April 11, in honor of National Library Week.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Giovanna Fiorino-Iannace

Upcoming Meetings: Friday, March 14, at 1:30 pm on Zoom
Friday, April 11, at 1:30 pm