

WLS Board Overview: Mission, Vision, Values & Bylaws

January 26, 2016

Mission

To ensure that all residents have seamless access to excellent library service throughout Westchester County.

Vision

WLS will serve as a center of innovation for the Westchester County library community.

We will provide model programs, affordable and easy-to-use information technology, and support services that enable libraries to continuously improve service to their communities.

Core Values

Policy and operating decisions on the following set of core values:

- Advocacy
- Diversity
- Value
- Innovation
- Cooperation
- Education

Trustee Obligations

- Duty of Care
- Duty of Loyalty
- Duty of Obedience

Duty of Care

- Use best judgment
- Actively participate and pay attention
- Ask pertinent questions

Duty of Loyalty

- Avoid conflicts of interest
- Put aside personal and professional interests

Duty of Obedience

- Stay true to the organization's mission
- Obey the law – both public and organizational

Bylaws – Statement of Purpose

[http://www.westchesterlibraries.org/wp-content/files/wls-board/WLS Board Bylaws.pdf](http://www.westchesterlibraries.org/wp-content/files/wls-board/WLS_Board_Bylaws.pdf)

- Enhance the quality of public library service in Westchester County through services provided to its member public libraries and the County's residents,
- The promotion of cooperation among its member libraries,
- The maintenance of a union catalog of the holdings of all of the member libraries, and
- The provision of interlibrary loan service

Bylaws – Principal Responsibilities

- Appoint an Executive Director
- Discharge fiscal responsibility for the System, and
- Promote public library service in Westchester County

Bylaws – Trustees as Liaisons

- Act as liaisons between the System and member library districts
- Become well-informed about the issues and concerns of member libraries by remaining in contact with the local Board(s) of Trustees and Director(s)

Bylaws – Executive Director’s Roles

- Overall responsibility for and supervision of the Library System
- Perform duties usually required of Library System Directors under State law and regulation, within the framework of the policies and objectives established by the Board
- Other duties as the Board may direct

Bylaws – Regular Meetings

- Regular meetings are held on the last Tuesday of each month (Jan-June, Sept-Nov)
- A quorum consists of a majority of the Board members entitled to vote (8 trustees)

Bylaws – Special Meetings

Special meetings of the Board may be called by the President, or upon request of five Trustees, for the transaction of such business as may be stated in the call to meeting

Bylaws – Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the System, time and place to be determined by the Board, shall be for the purpose of:

- Re-electing or electing new Board members,
- Reviewing the minutes of the previous year's annual meeting of the System,
- Receiving the annual report of the Executive Director, and
- Considering any other business that may properly come before an annual meeting of the System.

Bylaws – Standing Committees

- Audit
- Budget
- Development [Events & Funding]
- Governance
- Nominating.

Bylaws - Amendments

Alterations, amendments or additions to these Bylaws, or the repeal of any thereof, may be made by majority vote of the Board at a regular or annual meeting, provided the changes shall have been submitted at an earlier regular meeting of the Board and a copy of the proposed changes mailed to each Board member at least ten days prior to the meeting at which the vote is to be taken.

Bylaws last revised on December 9, 2008