

Item: WLS Bylaws Revision

Background: The Westchester Library System (WLS) Bylaws include the WLS mission and vision statements in the Statement of Purpose. As part of the development of the 2022-2026 Plan of Service required by New York State Library Division of Library Development, the Strategy Committee was asked to review this document.

The main work of the Committee focused on the statements created for WLS’s mission, vision, and a general overview of services. The revised statements emphasized the role of disseminating new ideas to strengthen libraries to provide a welcoming environment and of assisting with discovery of materials to promote a love of learning. The 2022-2026 Plan of Service was approved by the WLS Board in September 2021.

Status: The Governance Committee met on March 15th to begin their annual review of WLS policies. The revised mission and vision statements in the 2022-2026 Plan of Service were incorporated into the WLS Bylaws’ Statement of Purpose as shown below with the old text in ~~strikeout~~ and the new text in ***bold italic***. No other changes to the Bylaws are required at this time.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

WLS is a cooperative public library service agency having as members the 38 public libraries in Westchester County. The mission of WLS is to ~~ensure that all residents have seamless access to excellent library service throughout Westchester County~~ ***empower lives and communities by connecting people in Westchester County with the resources, services and programs available through WLS and the member libraries.*** WLS ~~shall~~ ***will*** serve as a center of innovation for the Westchester County library community. ~~WLS shall~~ ***It will*** provide model programs, affordable and easy-to-use information technology, and support services that enable libraries to continuously improve service to their communities.

Per regular procedure, these revisions are being presented one meeting in advance as an Information Item with official approval to be sought at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting, which will be held in April 2022.

March 29, 2022