

WESTCHESTER LIBRARY SYSTEM
Trustee Meeting
January 27, 2026 – Approval Pending

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

The Annual Organizational Meeting of the Westchester Library System was called to order by Nishat Hydari, President, at 6:08 p.m. and held in-person at the WLS Headquarters in Elmsford. The quorum requirement was met with the following people in attendance:

Board Members present: Andrea Bober, Robert Cartolano, Ralph Esposito, Nishat Hydari, Wes Iwanski, Maureen LeBlanc, David Mener, Susan Morduch, Diane Tabakman, Hudson Trader

Board Members absent: Alice Joselow, Karen Kelley, Patricia Phelan, Barbara Tepper, Karen Zevin

Also present from WLS: Terry Kirchner, Rob Caluori, Patricia Brigham, Wilson Arana, Allison Midgley, Kate Meyer

ACTION ITEM

Election of WLS Officers: Ms. Hydari introduced the following slate of executive officers for 2026:

President – Nishat Hydari

Vice President – Andrea Zuckerman Bober

Secretary – Diane Tabakman

The term of office of all elected officers shall be one year and no member of the Board may serve as President for more than two consecutive years. Article III of the WLS Bylaws contains the Duties of Officers. The office of Treasurer has been appointed, and Maureen LeBlanc has agreed to serve as Treasurer. The Board approved the slate of executive officers for 2026 on a motion by Wes Iwanski and seconded by Ms. Bober. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Hydari introduced Ralph Esposito to the Board. Mr. Esposito has agreed to fill the vacancy for District V [Armonk, Bedford Village, Mount Pleasant, Pound Ridge]. The Board approved the appointment of Mr. Esposito on a motion by Ms. Bober and seconded by Ms. Morduch. The motion passed unanimously.

Additionally, The Oath of Office required by New York State for public library system trustees was administered to re-elected trustee Andrea Zuckerman Bober, and elected trustees Ralph Esposito and Hudson Trader.

There being no further business, the organizational meeting adjourned at 6:13 p.m. on a motion by Ms. Bober and seconded by Ms. Morduch. The motion was approved unanimously.

REGULAR MEETING

The Regular Meeting of the Westchester Library System was called to order by Nishat Hydari at 6:13 p.m.

The quorum requirement was met with the following people in attendance:

Board Members present: Andrea Bober, Robert Cartolano, Raph Esposito, Nishat Hydari, Wes Iwanski, Maureen LeBlanc, David Mener, Susan Morduch, Diane Tabakman, Hudson Trader

Board Members absent: Alice Joselow, Karen Kelley, Patricia Phelan, Barbara Tepper, Karen Zevin

MINUTES

The minutes of the Annual Meeting and Regular Meeting Minutes of November 18, 2025 were approved as amended [name change on second page] on a motion by Mr. Trader and seconded by Ms. Bober. The motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Mr. Caluori presented the check registers for November and December 2025. Mr. Caluori presented the financial statements highlighting positive and negative variances. He also presented the statement of Temporarily Restricted Net Assets, provided an update on the year-end closing process and discussed the upcoming audit for FY2025. The financial reports for November and December 2025 were approved on a motion by Ms. LeBlanc and seconded by Ms. Morduch. The motion passed unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Hydari thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve as Board president once again. Ms. Hydari noted that there were 2 items for the Board to complete: acknowledge the Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest Policy and the Board Committee sign-up sheet. She welcomed Ms. Brigham, who spoke about the upcoming conference entitled "The Transformative Power of Play: Combating Depression, Anxiety and Isolation in the Digital Age" on April 27, 2026. Ms. Brigham encouraged the Board to purchase a ticket for a professional librarian to attend. She also thanked the Board for their year-end contributions.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Audit/Finance Committee: Mr. Caluori reported that the auditors will begin receiving information as requested beginning in the coming week and will be on site during the week of February 23, 2026, for their field work. Ms. LeBlanc encouraged other Board members to join the Budget and Finance Committee, and to attend the scheduled meetings, the first of 2026 to be held on February 24th at 5 pm.

Governance: Ms. Bober, Chair, noted the Committee will begin meetings in March 2026 to review the following:

- Bylaws - Articles III and IV
- Employee Handbook
- Policy (due to 5 years): Code of Ethics #7, Health Emergency Plan #19, and Remote Work #20

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

A copy of the Executive Director’s Report was mailed in advance of the meeting.

- WLS is working in conjunction with the Ramapo Catskill to provide transportation up to Albany for Library Advocacy Day on Tuesday, February 3rd, 2026. Dr. Kirchner stressed the importance of reaching out to local legislators to advocate for funding.
- Dr. Kirchner spoke about the New York State Budget and working with Member libraries to be prepared.
- Dr. Kirchner reminded the board that WLS will be lowering the maximum system-wide checkouts for hoopla and Kanopy effective February 1, 2026, in response to the current and anticipated budget reductions from Westchester County and New York State.

The new system-wide maximum checkout threshold for hoopla will be 3 downloads per month (from 5 downloads per month). On a monthly basis, 64% of hoopla patrons used between 1-3 downloads per month. Individual libraries are currently able to provide additional checkouts beyond the system-wide threshold. Library patrons are also able to utilize hoopla’s Bonus Borrow options for access to “free” titles provided throughout the year.

The system-wide maximum checkout for Kanopy will be 5 tickets per month (from 30 tickets per month). Over the one-year period of November 1, 2024, to October 31, 2025, 92% of Kanopy patrons used between 0-4 tickets per month on average. WLS is working with Kanopy to offer interested member libraries the option of providing additional tickets for their library patrons. Ideally this option would be available by July 1st and WLS will share updates on this option as they become available. In addition to the movies accessed via tickets, all system-wide users have unlimited access to Kanopy’s subscription movie services. The Kanopy Subscription Services include over 2,280 films.

- There are several state budget forums taking place, and Dr. Kirchner will be advocating for libraries and 211 at these forums, as he currently serves on 211’s State Board of Trustees and is the chair of the 211 Hudson Valley Policy Board. These forums will be held Friday, January 30th, 2026 (virtual), and Wednesday, February 18th (in-person at Greenburgh Town Hall). The Executive Director of the United Way, which runs 211, will also be advocating for library funding. Dr. Kirchner noted how the two groups, 211 and libraries, acknowledge their mutual goals and benefits to the community as well as the added value of working together.
- There are vacancies at the following libraries: Katonah Village Library (Director), Purchase Free Library (Library Administrator), and Port Chester/Rye Brook Public Library (Director).
- Mid-Hudson Library System will be hosting two book club series in 2026. The first, entitled “2026 Trustee Handbook Book Club Series” has 5 sessions and help trustees meet their 2-hour requirement for trustee education this year. The second, entitled “Director Handbook Book Club Series” has 4 sessions and is geared toward Director roles and responsibilities.
- Dr. Kirchner will be meeting with the Mount Vernon Public Library Board of Trustees to discuss meeting minimum standards on January 28, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT

Having completed its agenda, the Board adjourned its meeting at 7:26 p.m. on a motion by Ms. Morduch and seconded by Ms. Tabakman that passed unanimously.

Respectively submitted,

Diane H. Tabakman
Secretary

DRAFT