

WESTCHESTER LIBRARY SYSTEM
Annual & Trustee Meeting
November 18, 2025 – Approved January 27, 2026

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Westchester Library System was called to order by Nishat Hydari, President, at 6:36 p.m. The quorum requirement was met with the following people in attendance:

Board Members present: Anthony Amiano, Andrea Bober, Robert Cartolano, Nishat Hydari, Wes Iwanski, Karen Kelley, Maureen LeBlanc, Julie Mills-Worthey, Susan Morduch, David Mener, Patricia Phelan, Barbara Tepper, Diane Tabakman, Karen Zevin

Board Members absent: Alice Joselow

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

Public Library Directors Association (PLDA) Representative: Erik Carlson, Director, Dobbs Ferry Public Library

Dr. Kirchner welcomed all who attended. In 2025, the Westchester Library System (WLS) navigated a changing federal landscape by focusing on strategic initiatives including promoting equity and access, expanding community engagement, and improving infrastructure. Key achievements included transporting nearly 1.5 million items, a 14% increase in digital content usage, growth in the HSE Connect! literacy program, and being recommended for a \$750,000 Digital Navigators grant. The system also launched a small business resources website, led the Disconnect 2 Reconnect youth initiative, received a grant for sustainable libraries programs, enhanced network security, assisted with a culinary career program, established procedures for identifying questionable materials, and expanded its data analysis project (SCALE).

The business portion of the Annual Meeting was called to order at 6:52 p.m. by Ms. Hydari, who introduced each of the WLS Trustees and the Districts they represent.

ELECTION OF NEW TRUSTEES: Karen Kelly, Chair of the WLS Nominating & Board Development Committee, presented the following slate of trustees who were nominated by their represented libraries and are willing to serve:

District X: [Port Chester, Rye Brook, Rye Town]
Andrea Zuckerman Bober (To a full term ending December 31, 2030)

District XIII: [Mount Vernon]
Hudson Trader (To a full term ending December 31, 2030)

There being no nominations from the floor, the above Trustees were elected to the WLS Board of Trustees on a motion by Ms. Mills-Worthey and seconded by Ms. Morduch. The motion passed unanimously.

Having completed its agenda, the Board adjourned the business portion of the meeting at 6:55 p.m. on a motion by Ms. LeBlanc and seconded by Ms. Zevin. The motion passed unanimously.

REGULAR MEETING

The Regular Meeting of the Westchester Library System was called to order by Nishat Hydari, President, at 6:56 p.m. The quorum requirement was met with the following people in attendance:

Board Members present: Anthony Amiano, Andrea Bober, Robert Cartolano, Nishat Hydari, Wes Iwanski, Karen Kelley, Maureen LeBlanc, Susan Morduch, David Mener, Julie Mills-Worthey, Patricia Phelan, Barbara Tepper, Diane Tabakman, Karen Zevin

Board Members absent: Alice Joselow

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

Public Library Directors Association (PLDA) Representative: Erik Carlson, Director, Dobbs Ferry Public Library

MINUTES

The minutes of the October 28, 2025 meeting were approved as submitted on a motion by Ms. Zevin and seconded by Mr. Iwanski. The motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

The financial report through October 2025 was presented by Mr. Caluori and reviewed by the Board in detail. Payment registers for October 2025 were also distributed. The Board accepted the October 2025 finances on a motion by Ms. LeBlanc and seconded by Ms. Bober. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

WLS 2026 Operating Budget: The Proposed WLS 2026 Operating Budget was approved by the board as submitted (see attached) on a motion by Ms. Leblanc and seconded by Ms. Tepper. The budget was presented and discussed at the October 2025 Board meeting as well as to the Budget and Finance Committee over three meetings in September and October 2025. Mr. Caluori noted that no additional questions had been raised since the presentation to the Board and no questions were raised prior to the vote on the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution to Authorize Valley National Bank: Westchester Library System (WLS) selected Valley National Bank (Valley) following the results of its 2025 banking services request for proposal. The WLS Board approved Valley as a designated bank for deposit at their October 28, 2025 meeting. The Board approved the attached resolution on a motion by Mr. Iwanski and seconded by Ms. Morduch. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution to Authorize ICS Deposit Placement: Valley offers access to the IntraFi Cash Service (ICS) to protect deposited funds in excess of \$250,000. ICS will automatically place excess funds within its network of banks to ensure no more than \$250,000 are placed within any one bank, protecting all deposited funds with FDIC insurance. The Board approved the agreement and authorized its execution by the Executive Director on a motion made by Mr. Cartolano and seconded by Mr. Amiano. The motion passed unanimously.

2024 Annual Report Variance for Bedford Hills Free Library: As of November 18, 2025, the Bedford Hills Free Library was the sole WLS member library not in full compliance with the New York State Library's Minimum Standards, specifically Standard #2 concerning a board-approved, community-based long-range plan. The library has submitted a Variance Request Form with a plan to meet this standard. The Board approved the Variance Request Form on a motion made by Mr. Cartolano and seconded by Karen Zevin. The motion passed unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Hydari thanked Ms. Mills-Worthey for her contributions to the Board for the past ten years. She thanked Mr. Amiano for his service on the Board for the past two years, and Ms. Bober for renewing for a full term ending December 31, 2030. She also thanked the rest of the Board and the WLS staff for all their hard work.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Kirchner asked trustees to reach out to County Legislators as citizens and as trustees to request additional funding for WLS to support our countywide services.

PLDA LIASON'S REPORT

Mr. Carlson had nothing to report to the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

Having completed its agenda, the Board adjourned its meeting at 7:34 p.m. on a motion by Ms. Bober and seconded by Ms. Morduch that passed unanimously. The next regular meeting of the WLS Board of Trustees will take place on January 27, 2026, at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane H. Tabakman

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Secretary