

Westchester Library System
Annual Meeting
November 1, 2011 – Approved November 14, 2012

The 52nd Annual Meeting of the Westchester Library System (WLS) was held on Tuesday, November 1, 2011, at the White Plains Public Library.

There were 50 directors, trustees, and guests representing WLS and 28 of its member libraries.

White Plains Public Library Trustee Paul Schwarz welcomed all to the library. Mr. Schwarz introduced their newly appointed Director Brian Kenney and thanked retiring Director Sandra Miranda for her many years of dedicated service. New York State Assemblyman Robert Castelli [89th District] was also recognized.

Terry Kirchner, WLS Executive Director, thanked the White Plains Public Library for hosting this event. He acknowledged the WLS Staff present and introduced Patricia Dohrenwend, WLS Board President, to preside over the business portion of the evening. Dr. Kirchner thanked the WLS staff and trustees for their hard work, dedication and ongoing support, especially that of Ms. Dohrenwend over the past two years as WLS President.

CALL TO ORDER: President Patricia Dohrenwend called the Business Meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE 2010 ANNUAL MEETING: The minutes of the 2010 Annual Meeting were approved unanimously on a motion by Sue Neale and seconded by Naseem Jamali.

ELECTION OF NEW TRUSTEES: Patricia Fontanella, Chair of the WLS Nominating Committee, proposed the following slate of officers who had been nominated by their represented libraries and are willing to serve:

District I [Croton, Montrose, Yorktown]
Deborah Fay (to a full term ending December 31, 2016)

District III [Bedford Hills, Chappaqua, Katonah, Mount Kisco]
John S. Sorice (to a full term ending December 31, 2016)

District VI [Ardsley, Dobbs Ferry, Greenburgh, Hastings, Irvington]
Naseem Jamali (to a full term ending December 31, 2016)

There being no nominations from the floor, the above Trustees were elected unanimously to the WLS Board of Trustees on a motion by Deborah Fay, which was seconded by Dave Donelson.

The business portion of the meeting completed at 7:25 p.m. by consensus, and Ms. Dohrenwend thanked all trustees who serve the library community and turned the podium over to Dr. Kirchner.

Just as many libraries have faced financial hardships, WLS has also experienced a 30% reduction in its workforce over the last 3 years. However, this has resulted in an increased focus and stronger commitment to the member libraries.

WLS continues its traditional services which include: maintenance of the 1,000 workstations and wireless network connections at the 44 library locations in the county; building a systemwide collection of over 10,000 downloadable e-book and audiobook titles; hosting the shared online catalog and delivery service that allows for successful sharing between member libraries; providing Spanish language outreach and collection development assistance; and offering professional development support for all library staff and trustees. Dr. Kirchner also highlighted several innovative programs and partnerships with our member libraries and local organizations including: Senior Benefits Information Centers; GED Connect! Project; Academic Help; and the Westchester-Putnam One Stop Employment Center partnership. WLS also hired Patricia Braja as its first Director of Development to address the need to create more diversity in our revenue options. Many new beginnings and successes were realized in 2011; and through these continued partnerships, great things can be achieved together in 2012.

Dr. Kirchner welcomed featured speaker David Weinberger. Dr. Weinberger has had an interesting and varied career. Dr. Weinberger has been an Internet advisor for two presidential candidates, a frequent commentator on NPR's "All Things Considered;" author of critically acclaimed books including *The Cluetrain Manifesto* and *Everything is Miscellaneous*; is the Co-Director of the Harvard Library Innovation Lab at Harvard Law School; and currently is a major player in the development of the proposed Digital Public Library of America.

Dr. Weinberger spoke about his latest book, *Too Big to Know*, which explores new strategies for understanding a world that is overstuffed with information. In the past, our sense of knowledge was shaped by paper, which is a limiting and disconnected medium. Digital information as found on the Internet is a more connective media, but it also challenges accepted thinking about the order of the universe and creates a sense of everything falling apart. Four characteristics of digital knowledge were discussed:

- It's big – much bigger than our heads; but there is no such thing as information overload only filter failure.
- It's messy – includes everything; not tied to a physical location; creates difficulty when something doesn't fit into one category;
- It includes linked difference – reveals a long hidden truth that we don't agree about anything; however, it creates an echo chamber where we only hear our own viewpoints;
- It's unchained information – doesn't only go from point A to point Z; reinvents discovery and becomes a web of discussion with much richer understanding.

Books are not going away; but the chaos of digital information needs to be embraced. Librarians can play an important role of in guiding people to information that's trustworthy and outside of one's normal way of thinking.

After a brief Question & Answer period, Dr. Kirchner thanked Dr. Weinberger for his presentation and everyone for coming.

Respectfully submitted,

Naseem Jamali
Secretary