

Westchester Library System
Annual Meeting
November 14, 2012 – Approved November 14, 2013

The 53rd Annual Meeting of the Westchester Library System (WLS) was held on Wednesday, November 14, 2012, at the Historic Hudson Valley Library & Headquarters in Pocantico Hills.

There were 50 directors, trustees, and guests representing WLS and 32 of its member libraries.

WLS President Dave Donelson thanked Peter Pockriss, Development Director, and Waddell Stillman, President, of the Historic Hudson Valley for hosting our event and introduced Karen Walton Morse, Manager of Library & Archival Services, who gave a brief overview of Historic Hudson Valley's services. Ms. Morse welcomed all to their new building, home to their Headquarters and Library that features 4,000 linear feet of storage to accommodate their research collection which documents 400 years of history.

CALL TO ORDER: President Dave Donelson called the Business Meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and introduced the WLS Trustees who were in attendance. Mr. Donelson also introduced Amanda Goodman, Representative for District X [Port Chester, Rye Brook, Rye City, Rye Town], who was recently appointed to fill an unexpired term.

MINUTES OF THE 2011 ANNUAL MEETING: The minutes of the 2011 Annual Meeting were approved unanimously on a motion by Sue Neale and seconded by Patricia Fontanella.

ELECTION OF NEW TRUSTEES: Sue Neale, Chair of the WLS Nominating Committee, proposed the following slate of trustees who were nominated by their represented libraries and are willing to serve:

District XII [Peekskill]

Norman Jacknis (to a full term ending December 31, 2017)

District II [Briarcliff Manor, Ossining, Tarrytown]

Barbara Hickernell (to a full term ending December 31, 2017)

District IX [Bronxville, Eastchester, Pelham, Tuckahoe]

To be designated (to a full term ending December 31, 2017)

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 John Sorice.

The business portion of the meeting completed at 7:25 p.m. by consensus, and Mr. Donelson thanked all trustees who serve the library community and turned the podium over to Terry Kirchner, WLS Executive Director.

In looking back at the activities from the past 12 months, Dr. Kirchner noted that WLS has been in the process of learning as the world transitions to changing means of communication and technology. To strengthen WLS's place in social media, a new logo was created which will be introduced throughout the following months and fully operational in 2013. An annual report was

compiled and will be distributed to showcase WLS's cost effective services and partnerships that empower libraries and empower communities. There has been much progress toward meeting the goals of incorporating new technologies and making them a part of service enhancement; finding ways to make the general public more aware of libraries and helping them understand how libraries can help; and highlighting the role of libraries in workforce development, which will be the main focus of the coming year. In addition, WLS will look to promote literacy—not just in the traditional way—but also digital literacy, financial literacy, and early childhood literacy. Specific ways in which WLS has addressed and will continue to address these goals including the following: implementation of Bookmyne, an App to search the WLS catalog via an iPhone; enhancing the digital collection; improved discoverability of downloadable items through the loading of MARC records into the WLS Catalog; provision of training for library leaders; development of the One Stop Partnership; and expansion of the WEBS career seminars and services in more libraries.

WLS is here to help and has been encouraging others to help us help each other. Programs such as GED Connect! and Senior Benefit Information Centers (SBIC) have become more sustainable through the tireless efforts of our volunteers. Innovative programming for seniors such as Creative Aging has been sponsored by Lifetime Arts. WLS will continue to find ways to engage with others through our new website look and blog, Facebook and Twitter.

Pat Braja, Director of Development, spoke about the new development initiative begun this year at WLS to help highlight the library services that make Westchester a great place to live. Ever thankful to our regular sources of income and long-term supporters, WLS needs to diversify. New revenue support is being explored, and a number of grants have been received—including one from IBM to evaluate the WLS website and another from Bristol Assisted Living to support Creative Aging activities. The WLS special events are also being reviewed. A Business Advisory Committee was formed in 2012 consisting of Jim Lothrop, Dan Langin, Judy Matson, Sandra Miller, Mark Rollins, Richard Thomas, and Bill Mooney. This Committee's work will continue in 2013 to gain more insight on ways that libraries can better work with businesses to further our role in workforce development.

Dr. Kirchner welcomed featured speaker Maureen Sullivan, President of the American Library Association. Ms. Sullivan noted that libraries are at the cutting edge of the changes happening in our world and are uniquely positioned with talented staff to help their communities embrace those changes, just as the libraries of WLS are currently doing. Libraries are among the most trusted agencies, and they need to continue to value collaboration. The promise of libraries to transform communities requires not civic engagement but community engagement. One of Ms. Sullivan's initiatives is focusing on training for library leaders as effective conveners—helping them to identify the needs of their communities and to step out to meet those needs in a meaningful way. A brief question & answer period followed.

Dr. Kirchner thanked Ms. Sullivan for his presentation and everyone for coming.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Hansen
Secretary