

Westchester Library System
Annual Meeting
November 17, 2016 – Approved November 16, 2017

The 57th Annual Meeting of the Westchester Library System (WLS) was held on Thursday, November 17, 2016, at WLS's new Headquarters at 570 Taxter Road, Elmsford, NY.

There were 71 directors, trustees, and guests representing WLS and 32 of its member libraries. Executive Director Terry Kirchner welcomed all and introduced Peter Howard and Dan Richards from Keystone Property Group and Dennis Noskin and Amanda O'Leary from Dennis Noskin Architects, members of the relocation team, and publicly thanked them and the other members of the WLS relocation team for the wonderful work they did in making our new space a reality. In addition, WLS Staff were thanked for their efforts in limiting service disruptions to the libraries and the public during the move. It was a tremendous effort.

Dr. Kirchner recalled the various service accomplishments from 2016. Thanks to additional support from the NYS Legislature, increased Library Construction Aid allowed 19 library applications—the most ever. WLS Minigrants continued to give libraries new opportunities to try new program offerings and gain valuable knowledge from their experience. WLS also served as a champion for new library products, such as TotalBoox, helping to create new models of library service. The WEBS program, Westchester Seniors Out Speaking (WSOS), TASC Connect!, Family & Early Literacy, Westchester Connections and their transformative interactions are challenging the ways of measuring value and have shown WLS how to tell our story in different ways instead of with the usual quantitative data. With help from a Westchester Community Foundation grant, WLS's April Celebrating Westchester Libraries' Event focused on *Telling our Stories* with the creation of full-page patron stories from the member libraries. NYS Assemblyman Thomas Abinanti [91st District] gave a few remarks and thanked the libraries for being today's community centers.

WLS President Cathy Draper welcomed all and opened the WLS Business portion of the Meeting.

CALL TO ORDER: President Cathy Draper called the Business Meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.; introduced the WLS Trustees who were in attendance; and thanked the outgoing WLS Trustees Naseem Jamali, Deborah Fay and Luke Vander Linden for their dedicated service.

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 I [Croton, Montrose, Yorktown]

Karen Zevin (to a full term ending December 31, 2021)

District VI [Ardsley, Dobbs Ferry, Greenburgh, Hastings-on-Hudson, Irvington]

Susan Morduch (to a full term ending December 31, 2021)

District III [Bedford Hills, Chappaqua, Katonah, Mount Kisco]

Vacant (to a full term ending December 31, 2021)

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

MINUTES OF THE 2015 ANNUAL MEETING: The minutes of the 2015 Annual Meeting were approved on a motion made by Sue Neale and seconded by Dave Donelson. The motion passed unanimously.

The business portion of the meeting was adjourned at 10:13 a.m. on a motion made by Sean Ryan and seconded by Edris Scherer. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Draper introduced Alison Macrina, the featured speaker. Ms. Macrina is a librarian, privacy activist and founder and director of the Library Freedom Project, who shared a great deal of information regarding surveillance and its threats to privacy, which has always been one of the library communities' core values. The post Edward Snowden era raised questions from the public about privacy like never before. In an attempt to answer those questions, Ms. Macrina started the Library Freedom Project; and she has made it her mission to share best practices, guidelines, strategies and tools for surveillance self defense. She also spoke about the Tor browser as well as other privacy tools and steps needed to take back digital privacy in the age of big data.

Dr. Kirchner thanked all for coming and for their support of WLS over the past year.

Respectfully submitted,

Elise Burke
Recording Secretary