

WESTCHESTER LIBRARY SYSTEM
Trustee Meeting
February 24, 2009 – Approved March 31, 2009

The Regular Meeting of the Westchester Library System was called to order by Patricia Fontanella, President, at 6:00 p.m. at WLS Headquarters. The quorum requirement was met with the following people in attendance:

Board Members present: Patricia Dohrenwend, Dave Donelson, Deborah Fay, Patricia Fontanella, Mary Ellen Forte, Barbara Hickernell, Lawrence Lehman, Marie Grace Mutino, John Sorice

Absent: Mary Amato, Hope Furth, LaRuth Gray, Norman Jacknis, Naseem Jamali, Sue Neale

Also present from WLS were: Terry Kirchner, John Smith, Elaine Sozzi, Marcia Grubel

Public Library Directors Association (PLDA) Representative: Jill Davis, Director, Hendrick Hudson Free Library (Montrose)

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of January 27, 2009, were approved as submitted on a motion by Ms. Dohrenwend and seconded by Ms. Hickernell. The motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

The financial reports through January 2009 were approved as presented on a motion by Mr. Donelson and seconded by Mr. Sorice. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Smith noted that the auditors have been completing their field work and will meet with the Audit Committee prior to the WLS March Board Meeting to review their report.

PRESENTATION

Marcia Grubel, WEBS Counselor, gave an overview on the latest career workshop series entitled, "Career Mindset: Managing Change in the Marketplace." This workshop focuses on one's mindset to see and do things differently and is made up of three sessions: Re-imagining Career & Lifestyle; Developing & Managing Your Brand; and Strategizing Personal & Business Management. The series was already held at the White Plains Public Library and is currently being held at Chappaqua Library.

ACTION ITEMS***Library Services & Technology Act (LSTA) Mini Grants for 2009 Summer Reading Program:***

The New York State Library allocated a total of \$228,000 in LSTA funds to support the 2009 Mini Grants for Summer Reading Programs. Of that total, \$12,000 is allocated to WLS. *Be Creative @ Your Library* is the theme for children and *Express Yourself @ Your Library* is the theme for teens for the 2009 New York Statewide Summer Reading Program.

The WLS project will include allocation of competitive mini grants to our member libraries for special summer programming, kickoff events, and reading support in their libraries for the Summer Reading Program 2009. Several teen projects will also be considered as WLS supports summer reading activities for teens. WLS will also provide the 38 member libraries with professionally prepared reading lists to be given to the children participating in the summer reading programs to encourage reading.

The Board approved WLS's LSTA Mini Grants for 2009 Summer Reading Program on a motion by Mr. Donelson and seconded by Dr. Mutino. The motion passed unanimously.

Acceptance of the 2008 WLS System Annual Report to New York State: An Annual Report for Library Systems must be submitted each year to New York State's Division of Library Development. The report covers operational and financial statistics and includes a section to document the accomplishments made throughout the year, many of which were highlighted.

It was suggested to have an Executive Summary prepared of this report and the WLS Accomplishments to use as a promotional piece for the press as well as other interested stakeholders.

The Board reviewed and accepted the WLS System Annual Report on a motion by Ms. Hickernell and seconded by Ms. Dohrenwend. The motion passed unanimously.

Westchester Community Foundation Invitational Grant: WLS was presented with an opportunity to join with the arts troupe, Singing Harp, to present quality programming to a number of member libraries who expressed interest in participating. The primary purpose of this grant is to cultivate a greater awareness and appreciation of Grimm's Fairy tales through high-quality artistic performances. The amount requested is \$20,000 for 2009-2010.

This grant proposal includes 24 free performances of Grimm's fairy tales provided and administered by Singing Harp at ten participating libraries: Croton Free Library; Ossining Public Library; The Field Library (Peekskill); The Warner Library (Tarrytown); Katonah Village Library; New Rochelle Public Library; Bronxville Public Library; Mount Kisco Public Library; Somers Public Library; Yonkers Public Library. In addition, pre-performance workshops for both adults and children (held separately) will be offered where facilities permit. All performances will conclude with a post-performance question and answer period.

The Board approved the Westchester Community Foundation Invitational Grant as presented on a motion by Ms. Hickernell and seconded by Ms. Forte. The motion passed unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Fontanella spoke with Dr. Jacknis, chair of the Governance Committee regarding Trustee Orientation; and it was agreed to start a mentoring program for new trustees. Mr. Jamali has agreed to mentor Mr. Lehman, the latest WLS Trustee.

New York State Association of Library Boards (NYSALB) is holding their annual Trustee Institute on May 1-2, 2009, in Syracuse. WLS Trustees were invited to attend, and WLS will reimburse expenses.

The WLS Executive Committee will be meeting on a more regular basis. At their last meeting, they discussed the suggestion regarding a strategic plan and library agenda.

The WLS Book & Author Luncheon is scheduled for Thursday, April 16, 2009, at Tappan Hill. Trustees were encouraged to invite their member libraries' Board Presidents and Directors to this event and also let them know about other 50th Year Anniversary events as well.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

WLS Events Committee: Dr. Mutino reported on the Events Committee meeting that was held prior to the Board Meeting.

The journal centerfold for the Book & Author Luncheon will include the list of member libraries ordered by the date they received their library charter.

A meeting will be held with WLS Youth Services Coordinator Judith Rovenger to further discuss ideas for the Party-in-a-Box idea.

The applications for the three service awards (Service, Support and Innovation) are still being formulated. Further discussion on the culminating event venue took place. The grant application to Entergy to support these festivities should be decided upon shortly.

The next Events Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, March 31st, at 4:30 p.m.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

Dr. Kirchner reported that Library Lobby Day will be held on Tuesday, March 10th, in Albany. We have had 18 responses thus far for the bus that will once again be coordinated with the Mid-Hudson and Ramapo Catskill Library Systems. In addition, a postcard campaign will be held at the member libraries for one week prior to Lobby Day; and the cards will be brought up to the respective legislators for each library on March 10th.

Dr. Kirchner noted that Assemblywoman Amy Paulin (88th District), Chair of the Library and Technologies Education Committee, is presenting a letter of support to restore the 18% cut in

Library Aid to the Democratic Convention. Ms. Fontanella shared the response she received from Assemblyman Adam Bradley that he will join Ms. Paulin in support of this restoration.

This year's Book & Author Luncheon will have a mystery/intrigue theme; and the following authors have been set: Dave Donelson, *Heart of Diamonds*; Hallie Ephron, *Never Tell A Lie*; Marek Fuchs, *A Cold-Blooded Business*; and Laura Lippman, *Life Sentences*. There will be a 50-50 Raffle this year in honor of our 50 years.

Dr. Kirchner has already met or will meet 21 out of the 38 member libraries. He has also created a survey for the directors to rank their top five service priorities; assess current WLS services; and name the greatest advantage of belonging to WLS in order to get a snapshot of satisfaction and to create a dialog.

Dr. Kirchner has also met with other WLS partners including Lois Steinberg of the Medicare Rights Center regarding the Health Advocacy Resource Centers and Maura O'Malley of Lifetime Arts regarding the Creative Aging Grants.

PLDA REPRESENTATIVE

Ms. Davis reported that PLDA met in February. Judith Rovenger and Robin Osborne from WLS gave a presentation on unattended children policies, which was extremely informative. John Sexton spoke about the WLS Learns program, where 41 participants completed online sessions geared toward learning about Web 2.0 tools including blogging, wikis, Facebook, etc. There are currently three vacancies for library director positions at Bronxville Public Library, Scarsdale Public Library, and The Warner Library (Tarrytown).

ADJOURNMENT

Having completed its agenda, the Board adjourned its meeting by consensus at 7:15 p.m. The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on Tuesday, March 31, 2009, at 6 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elise Burke, Recording Secretary