

WESTCHESTER LIBRARY SYSTEM
Trustee Meeting
October 25, 2011 – Approved November 29, 2011

The Regular Meeting of the Westchester Library System (WLS) was called to order by Patricia Dohrenwend, President, at 6:10 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 (late), Patricia Fontanella, Chris Hansen, Barbara Hickernell, Norman Jacknis, Naseem Jamali, Lawrence Lehman, Sue Neale, Alvin Reiss

Board Members absent: Mary Amato, Hope Furth, LaRuth Gray, John Sorice

Also present from WLS were: Terry Kirchner, Francine Feuerman, Patricia Braja

Public Library Directors Association (PLDA) Representative: Maureen Petry, Director, The Warner Library (Tarrytown)

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of September 27, 2011, were approved with one correction on Page 2 to change Fontanella to Hansen as the second vote against the Greenburgh Public Library's Variance Request Form on a motion by Mr. Jamali and seconded by Mr. Reiss. The motion passed with 10 votes in favor. [Ms. Fay not present for vote.]

TREASURER'S REPORT

The financial reports through September 2011 were presented and reviewed by Mr. Donelson. Dr. Kirchner and Ms. Feuerman are working with the WLS auditors to more accurately reflect how the State revenues are presented on the financial reports. The Treasurer's Report for the month of September 2011 was accepted as submitted on a motion by Ms. Hickernell and seconded by Mr. Jamali. The motion passed unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Dohrenwend thanked the WLS Committees who have met and encouraged all to come to the WLS Annual Meeting on November 1st. Ms. Dohrenwend reminded the trustees that the next regular WLS Board Meeting will be on November 29th, at which time the WLS FY2012 budget will be presented for acceptance.

WLS COMMITTEE REPORTS

Special Committee re Benefits: Mr. Jamali reported that this Committee has been meeting on a regular basis. The Committee came to agreement on the recommended revisions for the *WLS Employee Handbook*, which were sent to the WLS attorney for review. The Committee will meet again in November to go over the attorney's comments and finalize revisions.

Governance Committee: The Governance Committee has reviewed the revised version of the WLS Free Direct Access Plan and recommends that it be brought before PLDA. If approved by the PLDA General Membership, the Free Direct Access Plan will be brought before all of the member library boards for their approval before it comes back to the WLS Board for its final vote.

Nominating Committee: Ms. Fontanella, Chair, reported that the three trustees whose terms are expiring have agreed to serve another term: John Sorice [District III – Bedford Hills, Chappaqua, Katonah, Mount Kisco]; Naseem Jamali [District VI – Ardsley, Dobbs Ferry, Greenburgh, Hastings, Irvington]; and Deborah Fay [District I – Croton, Montrose, Yorktown]. These renewals will be voted on at the WLS Annual Meeting.

Development Committee: Mr. Donelson, Chair, noted that the new WLS Director of Development Pat Braja would like to meet and share her thoughts with the Committee; and the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 15th, at 5:30 pm at WLS.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

Dr. Kirchner reported on a number of professional training events taking place at WLS. A webinar entitled, *Confronting the Future: Strategic Visions for the 21st Century Public Library*, will be held on October 27th. Referencing the recent report generated by the American Library Association Office for Information Technology Policy (OITP), this session will address how the digital transformation of all media affects resources, services, staff and programs. Presenters include the author of the report Dr. Robert Levien, OITP Fellow; Marc Gartler of Madison Public Library; and Maxine Bleiweis of Westport Public Library.

Michael Borges, Executive Director of the New York Library Association (NYLA), will be at WLS to address the 2% Tax Cap and how it relates to libraries on November 9th. In conjunction with NYLA and the Metropolitan New York Library Council (METRO), WLS will present its first joint training session on *Raising the Bar on Customer Service* here at WLS on Friday, November 18th. Over 25 people have already registered for both events.

Dr. Kirchner attended METRO's Annual Meeting on October 17th. Dr. Jacknis, METRO's Board President, did an excellent job as master of ceremonies. Jason Kucsma, METRO's new Executive Director, was introduced; New York State Senator Suzi Oppenheimer and New York City Chief Digital Officer Rachel Sterne were recognized; and Maureen Sullivan, President-Elect of the American Library Association, was the keynote speaker.

A copy of the *2011 Voter's Guide: The Library Advocate's Guide to the Voting Records of the New York State Legislature* released by the New Yorkers for Better Libraries PAC was distributed.

PLDA REPRESENTATIVE

Ms. Petry reported on the PLDA October meeting. Rob Caluori reported on the WLS IT Model, and a task force was created to explore systemwide services that could be supported through Central Library Development funds. The 2012 slate of officers was also approved as follows:

President: Susan Riley, Director, Mount Kisco Public Library; Vice President: Maureen Petry, Director, The Warner Library (Tarrytown); 2nd Vice President: Cindy Rubino, Director, Lewisboro Library (South Salem); Secretary: Tracy Wright, Director, Eastchester Public Library; and Treasurer: Jeff Ault, Director, Dobbs Ferry Public Library. Ms. Petry also noted that Debbie Coppola, Director of the Tuckahoe Public Library, announced her retirement as of December 2011; and there are still vacant director positions at Larchmont Public Library, Mamaroneck Public Library District and Purchase Free Library. Brian Kenney has been appointed as the new Director of the White Plains Public Library, and Kathleen Degyansky has been named their new Assistant Director.

OTHER

Ms. Fontanella reminded trustees to mention to their represented libraries to link to the Library Trustees Association of New York State's newly revised website.

Dr. Jacknis informed trustees about the website <http://dp.la> regarding the Digital Public Library of America. Dr. Jacknis also mentioned that the New York State Economic Development Council recognized the libraries' role in supporting entrepreneurs.

ADJOURNMENT

Having completed all other business, the Board adjourned its meeting at 6:40 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Reiss and seconded by Mr. Hansen. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Handwritten signature of Naseem Jamali in cursive script, with the initials 'eb' written at the bottom right of the signature.

Naseem Jamali, Secretary