

## **Friends of WMRLS**

### **Meeting Minutes from Friday, January 26, 2007 Whately, MA**

**Members present:** Laurie Risler, Lisa Downing, Sue Crowther, Louise Kanus, Dick Floyd, Rebecca Frank Judd, Mary King, John Ramsay, Lynn Coakley, and Sara Woodbury.

#### **1. Approval of the minutes from the November 17, 2006 meeting.**

Dick Floyd made a motion to accept the minutes as written, Laurie Risler seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **2. Next meeting**

The next meeting was scheduled for March 23, 2007 at WMRLS Headquarters in Whately, MA.

#### **3. News from WMRLS**

##### **John Ramsay:**

- John Ramsay shared the good news that the small libraries grant was viewed as an exemplary grant and a model of national importance by the MBLC. They currently have two letters of intent filed with the MBLC for IMLS grants.
- He also announced that of the approximately fifty participants for the upcoming library leadership conference statewide, thirteen are from the western region.
- John happily reported that Gov. Patrick had overturned Gov. Romney's cuts.
- He also explained that the MBLC has changed their legislative agenda. John then left to make copies of the new agenda for the board to share with those planning the upcoming legislative breakfasts.

##### **Mary King:**

- Mary again reiterated the fact that the small libraries report stresses the need for the bookmobile and its services. This year we have \$25,000 in state aid for the bookmobile but next year's budget only includes \$5,000. The standing book and CD order is approximately \$39,000.

#### **4. Presidents Report**

Lisa Downing thanked the sub-committee members for all the 'amazing' work they had done. Specifically Lynn and Sara for all the work in planning the legislative breakfasts. In addition, she thanked Rebecca and Dick for completing all the official paperwork for the organization.

## **5. Treasurer's Report**

- Dick Floyd gave members a report showing a balance of \$7389.37 as of 1/18/07. That does not include any legislative breakfast money, which, as it comes in, will be tracked separately.
- Dick Floyd also reported that all the non-profit paperwork has been updated and filed and the bank signatures have been changed.
- Laurie Risler asked if it was a good time to send another \$5,000 to the bookmobile but it was decided to wait until after the legislative breakfasts and bus.

## **6. Membership Report**

- Rebecca Frank Judd reported that in 2006 Friends of WMRLS had 226 members, including 31 new members, representing 82 towns.
- She sent sixty-five renewal postcards in December. The appeal to former members will go out in January.
- For 2007, she reported 48 members have already renewed and we have received three new memberships.
- Rebecca then showed the group the new slip she designed to fit in the pocket of bookmobile books to promote membership. The group made a number of suggestions and Rebecca will be sending out a PDF file for the group to review and approve.

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## **Continuation of Minutes – Friends of WMRLS Meeting, January 26, 2007**

The next meeting of this group will be on March 23 at 10:00 am at WMRLS Headquarters.

If anyone wishes to post a message to the entire Board, the email address is: [Friends@lists.wmrls.org](mailto:Friends@lists.wmrls.org).

John announced that, according to a new ruling by the Mass. Board of Library Commissioners, amounts of money donated by libraries to WMRLS for bookmobile materials can now be counted on those libraries' State Aid applications as meeting part of their materials requirement (e.g, part of their 20% materials requirement). He distributed a letter from Dianne Carty of the MBLC to this effect. It is also true even if the money is

donated by the libraries' Friends groups on behalf of their libraries, such as was the case with Sandisfield recently.

A new line item on the MBLC's budget this year is the Public Library Fund. This program is funded for \$250,000 for the current fiscal year. Its purpose is to encourage public libraries to raise money on their own to supplement public monies. Libraries must raise at least \$2000 to become eligible for this grant program, which will then provide a certain amount as matching funds. (See Legislative Agenda for 2008.)

Lynn reported for the Advocacy committee on plans for the upcoming Legislative Breakfasts. Five are planned, starting in March, and each library host will received \$150 for expenses from Friends of WMRLS. Each breakfast will be attended by at least one volunteer representative from the Board. The places, dates and volunteers are as follows:

East Longmeadow – 3/1	Lynn	Westfield -- 3/9	Lynn
West Springfield - 3/2	Rebecca	Sunderland –3/15	Rebecca, Lisa
Monson - 3/2	Lynn, Dick		

Also on 3/2, the Berkshire Legislative Committee will be doing a countywide breakfast, which will be hosted by the Sheffield library. While the Berkshire group does its own fundraising, the Friends of WMRLS will also donate \$50 toward their efforts.

Members of the Friends of WMRLS executive board are encouraged to attend at least one of the breakfasts and volunteer to pass out our brochures and flyers about the chartered bus for Legislative Day. We should request a little space at the breakfast to distribute and display our handout materials. If possible, a few moments of speaking time on the program should also be requested.

Sarah reported on the bus arrangements for Legislative Day at the State House in Boston. The date this year is Thursday, April 5. The flyers distributed have a sign-up slip. A somewhat smaller bus than last year was hired, she reported, since last year the large bus was not filled. This year's bus costs \$825 and holds 48 seats. Serving both Central and Western Regions, the bus will stop at 3 locations: West Springfield (at Town & Country Liquors), Palmer Public Library, and Shrewsbury (at CMRLS Headquarters). On April 5, the Legislative Day program at the State House will take place in the morning, and the April MBLC meeting will take place in the afternoon.

Lisa noted that Friends of WMRLS would like to hold a Staff Appreciation event for the staff of WMRLS to honor their dedicated service to the libraries of Western Mass. Mary King thanked the Board for its kind intentions, but said the staff would be pleased if the money would instead be used as a contribution toward the bookmobile's needs. Nevertheless, the Board said it would like to provide some special refreshments for the staff at its next full staff meeting on February 7. There was complete consensus on this point. Next, Dick moved, and it was seconded, that the Board donate \$100 to the

bookmobile in honor and recognition of the WMRLS staff. This was voted unanimous approval.

Janet Eckert reported on the progress of the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Great Bay State Library Fundraiser event, which will be held this year in April during National Library Week. In this project, vouchers are distributed by libraries to patrons, who will use them on the designated days – April 20 and 21 -- to purchase books at Barnes & Noble stores statewide. B & N will then donate a certain percentage of the sale of each book (15% this year) to be used by Massachusetts libraries. The six regional systems and MLA have been meeting with B & N representatives to work out details. This year, stores in Conn., RI and NH will be included. Still under discussion is how best to use the money to benefit all patrons statewide.

Vouchers may be given out in the stores this year on condition that a program(s) is going on in the store. Various program ideas are being considered, including a Performers' Showcase, which will not only attract and entertain shoppers but also give librarians a chance to view the talents of potential library program performers. Another idea is: the library whose patrons use the most vouchers to purchase B & N books may also be eligible for a \$500 gift certificate. A further suggestion was that of having a wish list for the bookmobile at B & N if shoppers would like to purchase and donate one of the books on the list. Last year's Great Bay State Fundraiser gathered in \$51,168, of which the Western Region received \$12,000. However, B & N donated 25% of the sales last year; this year it will be only 15%.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 pm. Following this, most of the Board members stayed on to stuff envelopes for the 2007 membership campaign, enjoying pizza and other tasty morsels as they did so.

LK  
1/26/07