

**Friends of WMRLS
Executive Board Meeting Minutes
Friday, January 11, 2008
WMRLS Headquarters**

Present: Sara Woodbury, Mary King, Lisa Downing, Lisa Wenner, John Ramsay, Dick Floyd, Lynn Coakley, Louise Kanus

Absent: Toni Golinski-Foisy, Sue Crowther

The minutes of the November 16, 2008 meeting were moved, seconded and approved without correction.

Regional Administrator's Report: John Ramsay reported the following information:

- Becky Marconi, former director of the Easthampton Public Library, has been hired by WMRLS as the coordinator for the 2-year LSTA grant project "Together We Thrive." Now the Region is looking to fill the positions of "circuit riders" for the project. Simmons College library school interns have been suggested as possible candidates for these jobs.
- The Massachusetts Library Association (MLA) has announced it will not be doing a Ways and Means Day in Boston this year. Instead, they will conduct a letter- and email-writing campaign to urge members, Friends groups and users to contact legislators, asking them to put libraries on their priority list for funding. Details will be available later in January. The Governor's budget is expected to be made public on January 23.
- At WMRLS Annual Meeting, MBLC Director Rob Maier reported that cherry sheet figures for the cities and towns have increased this year – except for libraries' allotments. All other municipal departments' amounts have gone up since 2000. Bonnie Isman (Jones Library, Amherst) has developed a graph for Amherst demonstrating this inequity. It will be posted online and other libraries may use it as a model to do the same for their own towns.
- MLA has several individuals under consideration for 2008's "Library Advocate of the Year." They are Lt. Gov. Tim Murray, John Arnold and Edward Bertorelli. The latter two are former chairs of the Mass. Board of Library Commissioners and have been particularly involved and devoted over the years to the cause of libraries in Massachusetts.
- A capital bond bill has been filed at the State House in Boston with \$100 million included for library construction. This is hopeful news for the 30 or so libraries on the MBLC's waiting list.

- Finally, it has been suggested that at the upcoming legislative breakfasts, it would be helpful to include, in addition to the usual speakers, some library users who have been the recipients of various library services, e.g., literacy, homeschooling, seniors services, etc.
- John passed out the MBLC's legislative agenda. The Regional Systems/LLR target amount for FY2009 is \$22,558,661. (This is the previous high from 2002 plus 1.5% inflation.) He also reported that a new library portal website will go up very soon focused on the needs of end users. This is part of the 3-year public relations initiative of the MBLC. The web address is Mass.gov/libraries. It will be widely advertised to the general public on TV and elsewhere.

President's Report: Sara Woodbury introduced the subject of our organization's getting its own stationery with a different letterhead than the one presently used, which is very nearly the same as WMRLS' stationery. Lisa Downing, appointed as a committee of one, had looked into cost at Paradise Copies in Northampton. One thousand sheets would cost \$87. She will check further with other copy stores. The question arose as to whether we should also have our own post office box, not use WMRLS'. Mary King expressed concern about putting too much additional work on the WMRLS driver who picks up the mail. After further discussion as to the flow of mail, how it gets to us from WMRLS, cost of a box, etc., the Board decided to leave things as they are for now.

Treasurer's Report: Dick Floyd stated that we are in good shape financially. He met with Ann Thibault at to review our organization's relationship with WMRLS in terms of our financial records and reported that it is solid and well-functioning. Dick noted the importance of tracking monies coming in for different purposes and keeping them separate. He inquired at a local bank about separating monies in our account somehow, but the bank indicated their system would be too complex. Dick reported the projected balance on January 11, 2008 to be \$12,036.86.

Fundraising Committee: Louise Kanus reported that with Mary's help the packets to library directors describing the "Honor Someone Special" bookmobile project had all gone out to every public library in Western Massachusetts in November. On December 7 the Springfield newspaper, *The Republican*, printed an excellent article as a result of the press release, which drew immediate response from the public. Libraries apparently utilized the pink donation forms as requested and many of these came back with checks. The Friends of the East Longmeadow Public Library donated \$260, and an anonymous donor sent \$200! People from towns which do not receive bookmobile service at all were often generous contributors. Louise said she hoped more of the towns that *do* receive the service would be represented. Plans are in the works to have a reminder article in the next issue of *WRapper* and on the Western Region's listserv.

Sara and Louise set up a display table, including donation forms, for the project in the Hatfield Branch of The Bank of Western Massachusetts at their invitation (after the marketing manager read the newspaper article). It remained there for two weeks.

Sue Crowther has been receiving the donation forms and checks, deposits the checks and forwards the forms to Louise. Sara has contributed helpful ideas on preparing bookplates for the new acquisitions. And, as always, Mary and Janet Eckert have been most helpful in getting things done. As of this meeting, the amount collected for this project is about \$2400. It was moved, seconded and approved that Friends of WMRLS donate \$2000 to WMRLS for children's books for the bookmobile.

Legislative Breakfast Bus: Sara reported that she had called the TravelKuz Co. in Gill and got an estimate of \$900 for the hire of a bus for the Legislative Day event in Boston. The Strong Co. price was \$950 for a 47-seat vehicle and more for a 56-seat bus. They have been used previously. Both would pick up in the area. Sara will continue to call and compare.

Legislative Breakfasts Update: Lynn Coakley volunteered to be the bus contact. Lisa Wenner volunteered to be the person on the bus here at the WMRLS pickup stop. Lynn reported that letters went out to Friends groups, tactfully suggesting we would be happy to receive some donations to help support the breakfasts. The Breakfast on Breakfasts held for new and former hosts had a good turnout. Hosts were reminded to contact their legislators and issue invitations and also contact other libraries in their legislator's district. There was some concern about the Hampden breakfast because the director had left. Hampden trustees, however, had no such concern and said the breakfast would go on as planned.

All 5 breakfasts are on Fridays and begin at 7:30 a.m. except for Holyoke (8:30 am.) and Hampden (8:00 a.m.) Sara asked for volunteers to attend each of the breakfasts. They are as follows:

Feb. 29 Holyoke P.L. –	Lisa Wenner
Mar. 7 Hampden P.L. –	Toni Golinski-Foisy ??
Mar. 14 Chicopee Comp. H.S.	Sara Woodbury
Mar. 14 Palmer P.L.	Louise Kanus
Mar. 21 Jones Lib., Amherst	Lisa Downing

The volunteers are asked to speak briefly at the breakfast. A talk given by Rebecca Frank last year was passed out as a guide. Updates to that indicated that \$32,000 is the latest figure for the bookmobile fundraising since our organization began. Other points to mention include the bus, support for the breakfasts, the Honor Someone Special (bring some donation forms) and bring our brochures.

The meeting was concluded at 12:20 p.m., followed by a busy session of stuffing envelopes for our next mailing.

Respectfully submitted,
Louise Kanus