

Working Men's Institute Members Meeting~ January 17, 2023

Dan Busler called the Membership Meeting to order. Twenty-one (21) active members answered roll call. Others in Attendance were Director Ryan Rokicki, Circulation Specialist Shannon DeLap, and Friends President Jeanne Maudlin.

Minutes of the October 18, 2022 meeting were distributed prior to this evening's meeting. Tamara Allison moved to suspend the reading of the minutes and accept them as presented. Jan Kahle Seconded. Approved

Fred Frayser highlighted Trustees' minutes.

Fred Frayser presented the Treasurer's Report. Nathan Maudlin moved to approve the Treasurer's Report and hold for Audit. Linda Warrum seconded. Approved.

Secretary's Report~ None

Personnel Report~ None

Long Range Planning~ None

Special Projects~ None

Membership~ The nominating committee members are Tom Stahl, Mike Axton, and Jan Kahle. Andy Batt was nominated for Membership. Mr. Batt was nominated by Linda Warrum. He was then elected to the Working Men's Institute.

FWMI Report was given by Jeanne Maudlin. There will be a meeting next week and more to report at the April meeting.

Old Business~ None

New Business~ None

Director's Report~

- Bill Elliott, Professor of Geology at USI, was here October 21, 2022 and led a tour for the Indiana Geological and Water Survey.
- Peggy Fisherkeller as well as Randy and Deb Patrick were here October 30th -November 6th continuing the State Museum's Curatorial Outreach.
- I attended the Indiana Library Federation conference held in November. Some of the sessions I attended were: The online place to be: How Libraries can use videos and Social Media to Promote your local history, Cataloging of special and unique materials, Great Expectations: what patrons expect from their libraries during the digital age, Digital Indy: the good the bad and the searching, to Dewey or not to Dewey: rethinking collection organization, Play and Practice: using play in the library and its effects on early literacy. The author that gave Tuesday keynote lecture was children and teen author Rob Harrell.

- The final FWMI lecture of 2022 was held Thursday November 3, 2022. Forty patrons attended Peggy Taylor's "Craftsmanship, Excellence, Past and Present."
- Dr. Beth Macke and Phillip Werry Presented "Having the Last Word" Tuesday November 16, 2022. There were 18 Patrons in attendance.
- In November 2022, Melora and I attended the History Celebration at the Evansville Museum.
- Kiwanis Story Time was held October 27, 2022. Tamara Allison read *Creepy Carrots*. Sixteen (16) children were present for this event. A big thank you to Ms. Allison and the Kiwanis for offering this program to our community.
- Norbert Krapft gave a poetry reading on November 17, 2022. Nineteen (19) patrons were in attendance. Thank you to Ken Meyer for facilitating and scheduling this event with the WMI.
- Janey Frayser and I went to North Posey Elementary in October and read *In a Dark, Dark, Wood* to the pre-school class.
- The sidewalk repair and replacements were completed in November.
- Last month (December) we closed out the roof restoration project.
- Peggy Taylor held a short weaving demonstration for 15 McGary Elementary School Students on Tuesday November 29, 2022.
- The New Harmony Clay Project held two artist lectures here on Friday December 2, 2022. There were 15 patrons in attendance.
- Our Christmas Open-House was a huge success. This year we scheduled to correspond with Christmas in New Harmony. We had approximately 50 patrons attend.
- We hosted Santa Claus during the Saturday December 3, 2022 Christmas in New Harmony Festivities again this year. 250 children came in to see Santa. These counts were provided by NHBA festival volunteer, Katie Kimball. The library count was 145 adults 147 children. There were crafts and games available on the lawn.
- Wednesday December 28 through Friday December 30 Peggy Taylor hosted "Weaving Camp." She had 12 students registered for the event.
- Kiwanis Story Time was held Thursday December 22, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. Sarah Janik read *Little Red Sleigh* by Erin Guendelsberger. We had 17 children in attendance.
- Josh Lamb completed the installation of our surge protection in December.
- Pre-School Story Time with Peggy Meyer is going strong! We started with 2 children in attendance and have grown to 5 children in attendance.
- In the new year we will be working with Steven Stump to revise and reinvent our website and social media outlets. Two weeks ago, we met with some professors from USI. They will be leading their students in developing this project. They will get the website up and running and later on it will take it over professionally.
- We do have a final report from Steven Stump on the Long-Range Plan.
- Shannon and I continue to work with Mary Beth Guard and Kari Mobley as co-creators of the community calendar.
- Tonight at 6:30 Nathan Maudlin will present "Hope for the future."

- Kathy Kirschman will be holding a book folding class. The date for this event has not been set.
- The First Monday's Writer's will hold a poetry reading on April 27.
- The State Board of Accounts as well as the State Library Report is currently being filled out. These reports are due on March 1, 2023.

With no further business, Ted Moore made a motion to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned.

Working Men's Institute Members Meeting~ April 18, 2023

Dan Busler called the Membership Meeting to order. Fourteen (14) active members answered roll call. Others in Attendance were Director Ryan Rokicki, Circulation Specialist Shannon DeLap, and Friends President Jeanne Maudlin.

Minutes of the January 17, 2023 meeting were distributed prior to this evening's meeting. Tamara Allison moved to suspend the reading of the minutes and accept them as presented. Jan Kahle Seconded. Approved

Fred Frayser highlighted the Trustees' minutes.

Connie Weinzapfel presented the Treasurer's Report. Tom Cochran moved to approve the Treasurer's Report and hold it for Audit. Mike Axton seconded. Approved.

Secretary's Report~ None

FWMI Report-Shelly Batt has joined our board. We had more than forty-five attendees at our first lectures. Membership dues are due on June 1st. We want to thank Fred Frayser for putting the book sale on the list of committees. Our annual meeting will be held in May. Our July 4th presentation will be back at the Atheneum this year. Kimberly Davis Nightingale will be our keynote speaker.

Personnel Report~ None

Long-Range Planning~ The STEM sub-committee met and produced some great ideas. We are now just looking for funding.

Special Projects~ None

Membership~ After 50 years, Ted Moore would like to be permitted to become an Associate Member. Tom Cochran made the motion to accept Mr. Moore's associate membership. Tom Stahl seconded. Approved. Nathan Maudlin then proposed a resolution for his 50 years of service to the WMI Membership.

Old Business~ None

New Business~ None

Director's Report~

- Shannon and I have completed the State Library Report, the State Board of Accounts Annual Financial Reports, and the Business Entity Reports.
- We are still meeting monthly with the USI students that are recreating our website. Last month they submitted a "wireframe." This is a prototype of what our new website will look like.
- Kiwanis Story Time is still going strong. We had fifteen children in January, 16 in February, and 18 in March. There are twenty-four registered for April. Thank you to Kiwanis and the Efroymsen Family for making this event a success.

- Ariannah Kubli, last year's recipient of the Lena Feiner Research Grant, was conducting research in March. She will return later to present her lecture.
- Shortly after Christmas, Melora discovered one of the rafters in the attic was severely cracked. I took pictures and sent them to architect Adam Green. Adam and Architectural Engineer Hieronymus Mitchell were here and thoroughly inspected the damage, which was determined to be several years old. The decision was made to open the Rafter Repair to bids. There are two bids, Happe and Koester. We made the decision to use Happe as they were a little more budget-friendly and could complete the job much quicker than Koester.
- The tree Tom Guggenheim was doing an assessment on required a larger auger. He has received the device and has determined that the tree is healthy and does not need to be removed.
- The new lighting has been installed in the room for the dissemination of useful knowledge. There are still some minor adjustments that will need to be made as well as the installation of dimmer switches.
- Kathy Kirschman held a class on the art of book folding on March 4, 2023. She had eight students.
- Nathan Maudlin presented "Hope for the Future" on February 16, 2023. Thirty-five patrons were in attendance.
- Sophie Kloppenburg presented "7 Lynched Men and a Fight for Unattainable Justice" on Thursday, March 16, 2023. Forty-six patrons were in attendance.
- We would like to continue our Member Lecture series. So far, Lynn Clark and Tom Stahl have agreed to have a lecture.
- Erik Janik has begun the spring clean-up. He will be doing the mowing and landscaping of the WMI yard. He is awaiting the arrival of the mulch the New Harmony Garden Club provided.
- The WMI was featured on WEVV 44 (CBS affiliate) Tri-State Treasures Segment on Monday.
- HF Refrigeration was here and turned on the air conditioning today.
- We are bringing back the WMI Volunteer Picnic! May 27th or 28th would be prospective dates but other dates will be considered.

On behalf of the Garden Club of New Harmon, Tamara Allison presented the WMI with a book titled *Only a Tree Knows How to Be a Tree* in recognition of Earth Day.

With no further business, Charles Huck made a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned.

Working Men's Institute Members Meeting~ July 18, 2023

Dan Busler called the Membership Meeting to order. Sixteen (16) active members answered roll call. Others in attendance were Director Ryan Rokicki, Circulation Specialist Shannon DeLap, and Friends President Jeanne Maudlin.

Minutes of the April 18, 2023 meeting were distributed prior to this evening's meeting. Rick Johnson moved to suspend the reading of the minutes and accept them as presented. Tamara Allison Seconded. Approved

Fred Frayser highlighted the Trustees' minutes.

Fred Frayser presented the Treasurer's Report. Nathan Maudlin moved to approve the Treasurer's Report and hold it for Audit. Tamara Allison seconded. Approved.

Secretary's Report~ None

- FWMI Report- Our book sale held during the Antique Festival in June brought 227 people on Saturday and 35 on Sunday. We made a profit of \$664. \$499 of the profit was from books, \$150 was from tote bags and \$15 was from donor contributions to our organization. Through the utilization of the press belonging to Laura Foster Nicholson, Chuck Minnette fabricated the tote bags. A big thank you to Chuck and his wife Bonnie for donating printing services.
- The Independence Day celebration went very well. Our keynote speaker, Kimberly Davis Nightengale, was introduced by her mother Diana Davis. During the Independence Day festivities, Rose and Ken Back were voted Volunteers of the Year.
- Our next FWMI Lecture will be September 12th at 6:30 p.m. Dona Bone will be giving a presentation on "The Five Historic Factories That Helped Build Evansville." Our last lecture in the series will be November 7th. Bishop Mumford will be presenting "Farming in the 21st Century here in Posey County: Precision, Sustainability, Profitability and Where We Fit In."
- We are thinking about changing our by-law verbiage to reflect that the Friends of the WMI is not a membership. It is an organizational support system for the WMI.

Personnel Report~ None

Long-Range Planning~ None

Special Projects~ The Membership Participation Committee was created to look at membership participation and find ways to enhance membership experiences. These include the following:

- At each meeting, one member will give a 10–15-minute presentation on a chosen topic.
- Members should respond to rollcall with a book title or what they are currently reading instead of "present."
- A staff member or volunteer will present an artifact from the WMI collection at each membership meeting. It is not mandatory for the artifact to be sourced from the archives' collection of artifacts.

- The minutes from three previous trustee's meetings will be attached to the emailed meeting notice.
- We have devised a new systematic approach for introducing new members to our organization. Ryan will prepare a set of expectations for members to receive upon election. Additionally, the individual who nominated the new member will guide them on a tour of WMI and discuss potential committees for them to join.

Membership~ Tom Stahl nominated Micheal Guard for Membership. He was then elected by unanimous vote to the Working Men's Institute.

Old Business~ None

New Business~ None

Director's Report~

- April was National Poetry Month. The First Mondays Writers Group held a poetry reading on Thursday, April 27 with twenty-four patrons in attendance. Linda Neal Reising, Mark Williams, Victoria Woolf Bailey, and Jessica D. Thompson all read their published work with a Q & A following the reading.
- Kiwanis Story Time is still going strong. We had 18 Children in attendance in April, 17 in May, and 12 in June. Our next Kiwanis Story Time will be July 27th. Jean Kares is reading *Beautiful Oops!* By Barney Saltzberg. We have fifteen children registered.
- Peggy Fisherkeller as well as Randy and Deb Patrick were here May 30th -June 9th continuing the State Museum's Curatorial Outreach. Randy and Deb will be returning in November.
- Our Volunteer Picnic held on June 4 was a success! A big thank you to Harold DeLap and Taylor Rokicki for all their help.
- The WMI and the Feiner Grant Search Committee are happy to announce this year's grant recipients. We would like to congratulate Dr. Eleanor Rust and Dr. Tristra Newyear Yeager - *Francis Wright: America's Forgotten Radical (A Podcast)* and Rebecca May Hope - *Women of Paradise: Contributions of Female Boat Loaders to New Harmony*.
- Posey Invasive Partnership and The Garden Club of New Harmony will present *Invasive Plants in Your Backyard* on Wednesday, June 21, at 5:00 P.M. Conservation professional, Will Drews, will cover local invasive plants, control methods, and landscape alternatives. Registration is required for this event.
- Our six-week summer reading program began Thursday, June 22nd. We have had on average ten children over the last four weeks. The last day of Summer Reading will be Thursday, July 27th.
- We submitted our final grant report to the Indiana Arts Commission. I am proud to announce that we have been awarded \$ 3,840.00 for Peggy Taylor's next weaving class *Textiles Thru Time*.
- The Indiana Library and Historical Board found the WMI in compliance with library standards for 2022.
- Tamara Allison and I will meet later this month to review an application for a grant through the Posey County Community Foundation for the STEM area.

- Ken Back presented *Twenty Cows: Milk Sickness in Father Rapp's New Harmonie* on Wednesday, June 28, at 6:30 P.M. Ken shared his research on the illness that claimed 79 Harmonists in the summer and fall of 1814. 20 Patrons attended the event.
- We have been in contact with Allen Howe of Idealogy.biz about rebuilding and redesigning our website.

With no further business, Charles Huck made a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned.

Working Men's Institute Members Meeting~ October 17, 2023

Fred Frayser called the budget adoption meeting to order. Tom Cochran made the motion to approve the budget. Dan Busler seconded. Approved. The budget adoption meeting was then adjourned.

Dan Busler called the Membership Meeting to order. Twnty (20) active members answered roll call. Others in attendance were Director Ryan Rokicki, Circulation Specialist Shannon DeLap, and Friends President Jeanne Maudlin.

Minutes of the July 18, 2023 meeting were distributed prior to this evening's meeting. Mike Axton moved to suspend the reading of the minutes and accept them as presented. Christine Crews Seconded. Approved

Fred Frayser highlighted the Trustees' minutes.

Connie Weinzapfel presented the Treasurer's Report. Dan Busler moved to approve the Treasurer's Report and hold it for Audit. Tom Cullum seconded. Approved.

Secretary's Report~ None

FWMI Report-

- At the Kunstfest Book Sale we made \$700. We would like to thank Shannon DeLap for hauling the book cart out every Saturday during the Farmers Market.
- Our 2024 lecture series is currently in the planning stage.
- We will have a meeting tomorrow in which we will be revising our by-laws. We will be changing our fiscal year from May 31-June 1 to January 1-December 31. We will also be moving our annaul meeting to the fourth quarter.
- On Tuesday, November 7, 2023, Bishop Mumford will present "Farming in the 21st Century here in Posey County: Precision, Sustainability, Profitability and Where We Fit In" This will be the final FWMI presentation of 2023.

Personnel Report~ None

Long-Range Planning~ None

Special Projects~ None

Membership~ There is one opening in Membership.

- Trustees that have been re-elected for new terms are: Fred Frayser, President (3 year), Christine Crews (1 year), Connie Weinzapfel (1 year), and Rick Johnson, Speaker. Nathan Maudlin made the motion the nominations be closed. Ann Angle-Garrett Seconded. The membership accepted the the slate of officer as presented by the moninating commitee.
- Trustees with terms that are not up for election are Nathan Maudlin, Vice President, and Tamara Allison.

Old Business~ None

New Business~ None

Director's Report~

- Kiwanis Story Time is still going strong. On June 22 Ann Rains read *Spring After Spring* by Stephanie Ruth Sisson with 12 children in attendance. July 27th. Jean Karas is read *Beautiful Oops!* By Barney Saltzberg with 13 children attending. On August 27th Tamara Allison read The book *Waiting for Wings* by Lois Ehlert. 16 children attended the event. September 28th Andria Barthlow read *Dragons Love Tacos* by Adam Rubin. There were 6 children in attendance. The next story time will be October 26th. Katie Kimball will read *Hallo-Weiner* by Dav Pilkey.
- The Summer Reading program concluded on July 27 with a total of nine children participating. Alyssa Scott emerged as the grand prize winner. We express our heartfelt gratitude to all the volunteers whose invaluable assistance contributed to the overwhelming success of this year's program.
- The New Harmony Music Festival pop-up concert held July 14 at the WMI had 50 patrons in attendance.
- On Tuesday, August 8, Arrianah Kubli, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of North Carolina and the 2022 recipient of the Lena Feiner Memorial Research Grant, presented her lecture titled "New Harmony's Working-Class Readership of Women's Writing: A Study of Marginalia." 23 individuals attended the lecture.
- The WMI hosted Geology Merit Badge Day on Saturday, August 19th. 26 registered Boy Scouts were here for the event. Dr. Bill Elliot was on hand to teach an informative class.
- Blaffer Foundation Creative-in-Residence Maria Clara Morales, a talented young Colombian architect, shared her perspective of New Harmony's rich history on September 7th from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. 37 Patrons attended.
- On September 12, 2023, at 6:30 p.m., Dona Bone gave a presentation on "The Five Historic Factories That Helped Build Evansville." The lecture was part of the FWMI Lecture series. 36 patrons attended.
- The Indiana Arts Commission grant that will provide \$3800 in funding for Peggy Taylor's next round of weaving classes titled "Weaving Through Time" has been approved. The classes begin tonight. The classes as well as the waiting list are full.
- The Communal Studies Association (CSA) and Historic New Harmony held a Conference October 5-7 in New Harmony. The theme for the 2023 Conference is "Communal Theory, Practice, and Impact" to recognize the 50th anniversary of the CSA.
- The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology (DHPA) has announced the recipients of the Indiana Archaeology Award and Indiana Historic Preservation Award. These awards are given in recognition of exceptional accomplishments in the fields of archaeology and historic preservation. One of the recipients is the WMI.
- We submitted the grant application for the STEM area to the Posey County Community Foundation on July 28, 2023. I spoke with the someone from the Foundation last week and the final decision has been and we should be hearing from them soon.

- The rafter repair is nearly complete. Happe will be in at later date to put the finishing touches on the repair. A big thank you to Andy Batt and Dan Busler for helping to move furniture and assist in some clean-up.
- The WMI phone has been out for over a month. We are trying our best to resolve this issue without losing our current number.
- We have been in contact with Allen Howe of Idealogy.biz about rebuilding and redesigning our website.
- Purdue Graduate Student Alexandra Adams will introduce using Cropscape, a free visual tool for High-resolution landcover data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture on Wednesday October 25, at 6:30 p.m.
- The “Meet the Candidates” for the New Harmony Town Council event is scheduled for Wednesday, November 1, at 6:30 p.m. It is open to the public. No political debates or campaign materials are permitted at this gathering.
- Indiana Poet Laureate, Matthew Graham, will hold a lecture at the WMI on Thursday, November 16 at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Graham is a highly regarded literary figure with an impressive list of accomplishments, including four published books of poetry, an Academy of American Poets Award, a Pushcart Prize, two Indiana Arts Commission Master Fellowships, and a Vermont Studio Center Fellowship.

With no further business, Charles Huck made a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned.