
Membership Meeting Minutes

Call to order

The quarterly meeting of the Membership for the Working Men's Institute was held on January 28, 2025. Fifteen members were in attendance. In addition, Director Ryan Rokicki and Circulation Specialist Shannon DeLap were present at the meeting.

Special Presentations

Ryan Rokicki gave a presentation about the Marquis de Lafayette Chest.

Fred Frayser presented "Tales from the Classroom."

Linda Warrum gave a short archive update.

Approval of minutes

The minutes from the membership meeting on October 15, 2024, were sent out electronically. Jan Kahle made a motion to suspend the reading of the minutes and accept them as presented, which Linda Warrum seconded. The motion carried.

Charles Huck made a motion to suspend the reading of the Board of Trustees minutes and accept them as presented, which Jan Kahle seconded. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Michael Guard moved to accept and hold the Treasurer's Report as presented for audit, Christine Crews seconded, and the motion carried.

Secretary's Report

No Report

Friends of the WMI

Friends President Jeanne Maudlin reported that at their last meeting, the new officers were elected. President Jeanne Maudlin, Vice President Ann Angle-Garrett, Secretary Christine Crews, and Treasurer Shelly Batt. In addition, Laura Lyon was added to the board.

The 2025 lecture series presenters will be Kelley Morgan, Dr. Matt Rebeck, Andrew Wilson, Amy Koch, and Brandi Perry.

The FWMI will be selling the WMI Christmas Ornament. These will be available to purchase at the WMI.

Committee Reports

Personnel: No Report

Long-range Planning: No Report

Special Projects: No Report

Membership: There are three openings with three nominations. Charles Bandy was nominated by Mike Axton, Mike Jerrels by Linda Warrum, and Stanley Campbell by Fred Frayser. All three were then elected to the Working Men's Institute.

Old Business

No Old Business

New Business

The Bylaws Committee shall be composed of the following members: Ann Angle-Garrett, Mike Axton, Rick Johnson, Nathan Maudlin, and Michael Guard.

Directors' Report Presented by Ryan Rokicki

The Pre-School Story Time program commenced its fall session on October 24, 2024, and concluded on December 19, 2024. During this period, we had an average attendance of approximately six children each week. The subsequent winter session began on January 16, 2025, and is scheduled to conclude on February 27, 2025.

Peggy Taylor has launched another free weaving class at the Working Men's Institute, with the support of the Indiana Arts Commission. "Woven by Hand and Heart" began on Thursday, September 19, 2024, and took place every Thursday evening from 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., concluding on October 17. To continue fostering this creative initiative, an additional session is planned for December 26 to December 28, with classes running daily from 10:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Looking ahead, a second round of winter weaving classes is set for February 1, 8, and 15, where participants will gather from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. After the conclusion of these enriching classes, the looms will be vacated from the study room, ensuring that this space can be utilized for future endeavors.

On Wednesday, October 23rd at 6:30 p.m., Ben Nicholson, the author of "Clockwork Basilisk: The Early Revolvers of Elisha Collier & Artemas Wheeler," gave a lecture about America's first revolver. Fifteen people attended the event.

The WMI had the privilege of hosting the Local Loco Model Train Club on October 26-27. Local Loco is comprised of model railroad enthusiasts from Evansville and the

surrounding areas in southwestern Indiana. This complimentary event featured a diverse array of model railroad layouts and successfully attracted a total of 137 attendees over two days.

David Angel conducted a comprehensive three-session presentation entitled "Mastering Difficult Conversations," which commenced on October 29, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. The series aimed to equip participants with essential skills for navigating challenging discussions in both professional and personal contexts. A total of 31 participants attended the sessions, reflecting a strong interest in developing effective communication strategies. Each session included interactive components, case studies, and practical exercises to foster engagement and facilitate skill acquisition.

On Wednesday, November 6, 2024, at 6:30 p.m., Bill McKenzie hosted a presentation titled "Grief and the Holidays." The atmosphere was both reflective and supportive as ten individuals gathered to engage with the topic, sharing their experiences and emotions related to navigating grief during the festive season.

The WMI hosted "Candy Land" on Saturday, December 7, as part of the Christmas in New Harmony celebration. On this day, attendance at the WMI reached approximately 650 adults and 350 children, excluding individuals participating in outdoor activities. In contrast, attendance on Sunday, December 8, saw a significant decline, with only about 25 adults and 11 children present.

We are pleased to report a successful turnout for our Christmas Open House, which welcomed 55 attendees. We wish to express our sincere appreciation to the Janik Family for their assistance in decorating for the holiday season.

Kiwanis Story Time was held on Thursday, December 26, at 6:30 p.m. Tamara Allison read *The Days After Christmas* by Maggie C. Rudd. Seven Children were in attendance. January 23 Donna Creek will read *Revolutionary Friends: General George Washington and the Marquis de Lafayette* by Selene Castorvilla.

A group from Indiana University visited and toured the WMI on October 25th.

The Posey County Historical Society visited the WMI on November 16th for a tour.

We are still in the process of digitizing the *Disseminator*, using the equipment at Rice Library. Thanks to Jennifer Greene for facilitating this project.

Peggy Fisherkeller, accompanied by Randy and Deb Patrick, engaged in the ongoing Curatorial Outreach program of the Indiana State Museum.

Paul Plaschke has completed the restoration of the Harry Hawkins Mural.

Melora has created interpretive labels for framed artwork and is currently developing interpretive panels for the Hawkins Mural.

Tom Lonnberg, representing the Evansville Museum, is in the process of developing an exhibit focused on the Tri-State Tornado. We have supplied him with both information and photographs from our archives to support this initiative.

The WMI has acquired some of the Town Records from the Town Hall.

In November, I gave a presentation during the Mt. Vernon Kiwanis meeting.

I attended the Indiana Library Federation conference on November 18-19 in Indianapolis.

The rafter repairs in the attic have been completed by Happe and Sons.

HF Refrigeration has transitioned the system to heat in preparation for the winter season. The pump required for the heating and cooling system has been ordered. Additionally, certain pipes will be replaced during the installation of the new pump.

The WMI would like to thank the members and volunteers who have helped clean the microfilm room to prepare it for usage again.

A big thank you to all who volunteered to get the Christmas decorations taken down and put back in storage.

We have purchased more furniture for the Maclure Room. We would like to thank Connie Weinzapfel for her impeccable taste in interior design and for taking the time to visit Alles Brothers Furniture in Mt. Vernon to see the available options and make the final purchase.

Mary Beth Guard donated eleven Generation Genius science kits. Tamara Allison and I will determine how best to incorporate these kits into our STEM programming.

Upcoming Goals Include:

- **Completing Annual Financial Report and State Library Report**
- **Continuing the digitization of the Disseminator**
- **Repairing and updating Electrical and Lighting**
- **Weeding and Cataloguing of Library Materials**

Adjournment

Charles Huck made the motion to adjourn the meeting, which Andy Batt seconded. The Motion Carried. The Meeting was then adjourned