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# BOT Meeting Minutes

March 19, 2026

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## Call to Order

The monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees for the Working Men's Institute was held on March 19, 2026. Attendees included Secretary Christine Crews, Treasurer Tamara Allison, Trustee Connie Weinzapfel, Director Ryan Rokicki, and Circulation Specialist Shannon DeLap. Those not in attendance included President Fred Frayser and Vice-President Nathan Maudlin.

## Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the February 19, 2026, meeting were sent electronically. Tamara Allison moved to accept the minutes as presented, which Connie Weinzapfel seconded. The motion carried.

## Treasurer's Report

Tamara Allison then presented the Treasurer's Report. Tamara Allison moved to accept and hold for audit, which Connie Weinzapfel seconded. The motion carried.

## Friends of the WMI

Christine Crews reminded the board of the upcoming lecture on May 14<sup>th</sup> featuring Kelly Reid of Wild Birds Unlimited, the June Book Sale, and the Independence Day Keynote Speaker, Ryan Rokicki.

## Old Business

### Archive Expansion Update

On Monday, February 23, and Tuesday, March 24, Ryan led two groups on an archive/museum tour in the Louisville, Kentucky area. The facilities visited included the Howard Steamboat Museum, the Mitch McConnell Archives at the University of Louisville, the Kentucky Derby Museum, the Frazier History Museum, and the Printing House for the Blind. Several of these institutions faced storage issues similar to ours. Ryan submitted the final report to Leah Seigel of the Lilly Endowment yesterday, a few weeks ahead of schedule. Our next possible step is to ask the Lilly Endowment if they would be interested in supporting our proposal to move forward with a feasibility study. It was decided that Ryan should call a meeting of the project committee for the purpose of determining the next steps.

### Owen/Maclure 200th

Dr. Gerald Gutek will present *Maclure's Design for American Education: Integrating the Boatload of Knowledge with Pestalozzian Pedagogy* on Saturday, April 11, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. Other events are being added to the calendar as the planning continues.

## **Audio/Visual Equipment Update**

Midwest Systems is currently awaiting back-ordered parts before proceeding with the equipment update. Ryan hopes to hear something during the first week of April.

## **New Business**

The lighting on the front steps remains inadequate and needs improvement. Ryan will continue talks with electrician Josh Lamb to ensure this happens.

## **Director's Report**

### **Program Highlights**

- On Thursday, February 27, at 6:30 p.m., the Kiwanis Story Time Event took place, where Tamara Allison read *Owl Moon* by Jane Yolen to a group of eight children.
- Peggy Taylor's Nature Journal class began on March 5 and will conclude on March 26. These classes have approximately fifteen students who have been attending. The Indiana Arts Commission makes these classes possible.
- Marco Grillo and Erin Bode held a concert at the WMI on Friday, March 6, at 6:30 p.m. Fifty-eight patrons attended.
- Last night, Dr. Greg Brown presented on William Maclure, Robert Owen's partner, as an influential international patron for science and education, exemplifying the spirit of equality and progress in the early United States. Maclure brought scientists and educators to New Harmony on the "Boatload of Knowledge" and remained actively involved in education and science throughout his life, as well as in his will. Forty-seven patrons were in attendance.

### **Facilities and Maintenance**

- HF Refrigeration was here and repaired a malfunctioning boiler and installed new pipes.

### **Staff and Administration**

- The State Library reports that the technical issues with the Annual Report have been resolved, allowing us to access the report. The due date has been extended to May 4.
- State Rep. Wendy McNamara recently made an inquiry to the libraries in the 76th District regarding budgets, etc.
- Andre Zhang Sonera, Deputy Director of the Indiana Arts Commission, visited last Friday and showed continued interest in our events and programs. He

encouraged the WMI to continue submitting grant applications for our various arts projects.

- I have submitted the PCCF Women's Fund Grant application. I asked for \$1500 to help fund our Library of Things.

## Upcoming Events

- March 19 & 26- 4:30 p.m. -7:00 p.m.- Peggy Taylor's Nature Journal Class
- March 26-6:30 p.m.-Kiwanis Storytime- Ann Huelsmann will read *Grumpy Monkey* by Suzanne Lang.
- March 28- 1:00 p.m.- 3:00 p.m.-DAR program
- April 1-8:30 a.m.-NHBA/1NH meeting
- April 11-Dr. Gutek- Maclure's Design for American Education: Integrating the Boatload of Knowledge with Pestalozzian Pedagogy.
- April 16-BOT Meeting
- April 21-Membership Meeting

Mr. Rokicki presented the claims. Connie Weinzapfel moved to accept the claims, and Tamara Allison seconded. The motion carried.

## **Adjournment**

Connie Weinzapfel made the motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Tamara Allison. The motion carried.