
Membership Meeting Minutes

Call to order

The quarterly meeting of the Membership for the Working Men's Institute was held on January 20, 2026. Sixteen members were in attendance. Additionally, Director Ryan Rokicki, was present at the meeting. There was a short update given on President Fred Frayser's health.

Special Presentations

Charles Bandy read original poems that he had written over the years.

Jan Kahle gave a report on the archival expansion project. The firm Johnson, Grossnickle & Associates is busy finishing up the Case for Support. A day trip to the Louisville area is being planned for the purpose of touring the collections storage areas of other museums and archives.

Ryan Rokicki gave a short presentation on the oldest volumes in the WMI's rare book collection.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the membership meeting on October 21, 2025, were sent out electronically. Mike Axton made a motion to suspend the reading of the minutes and accept them as presented, which Linda Warrum seconded. The motion carried.

Ann Angle-Garrett 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

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

Secretary's Report

No Report

Friends of the WMI (Given by Jeanne Maudlin)

Jeanne discussed the upcoming lectures and expressed gratitude to the Minnettes for their printing services.

Upcoming FWMI Events:

February 4- Karen Moser *One Planet, One Tribe*

May 14- Kelly Reid of Wild Birds Unlimited

July 4- Independence Day Celebration at the Murphy Auditorium with Ryan Rokicki as the Keynote Speaker.

September 5- Rick Johnson *Bull Island*

November 18- Garden Club of New Harmony

Committee Reports

Personnel: No Report

Long-range Planning: No Report

Special Projects: No Report

Membership: There is one opening available in the membership.

By-laws: At the October meeting, Charles Bandy asked the By-laws Committee to consider changing the time of the meetings due to a conflict with the Town Council meetings. The committee has written an amendment that reads, “The dates of the quarterly meetings for the year will be set by the Membership at each January, or otherwise first meeting of each year.” Mike Axton repeated the importance of consulting the Town Council schedule prior to setting a time for WMI membership meetings. This amendment will be voted on at the April 21, 2026, meeting.

Nominations: No Report

Old Business

Jan Kahle gave an archive expansion update. (Given earlier in the meeting.)

New Business

Chuck Minnette proposed the idea of creating a makerspace and asked if this could be done at the WMI. Mr. Minnette was going to visit the makerspace at the Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library and would share what he experienced.

Directors' Report Presented by Ryan Rokicki

Program Highlights

- Pre-School Storytime was held on December 4,11,18. The Spring session will begin in February.
- The Kiwanis Story Time Event was held on Thursday, December 18, at 6:30 p.m., featuring Jean Kares reading *The Polar Express* by Chris Van Allsburg to eight children.
- On January 14, Ben Angel conducted a presentation on Natural Gardening with a focus on Hugelkultur, attracting an audience of twenty-five attendees.

- The WMI Christmas Open House was held on December 5 with one hundred patrons attending.
- The WMI would like to express its appreciation to Paul Moser for his valuable contribution in showcasing the puppets from the production of *A Christmas Carol*.
- We are hosting several events to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Owen-Maclure here at the WMI.

Facilities and Maintenance

- Josh Lamb, our electrician, was here in November and repaired some of our outdoor electrical outlets in preparation for Christmas in New Harmony's Candy Land.
- Jim Naas visited and completed repairs on a spigot located at the back of the building.
- The staff would like to express their appreciation to the Janik family for their efforts in removing the holiday décor.
- Amy from Midwest Systems was here in December and did a system check and replaced the microphone. They confirmed that there are a couple of speakers that are not working. The new microphone has fixed some of the audio issues. They are working on a quote for a complete rebuild. We have a budget of \$34,000 for these upgrades and repairs. Thank you to Michael Guard for assisting with this project.

Library Services

- We are working on the end-of-year reports.
- Shannon is currently going through our DVD collection to weed out titles for the winter. We will be removing 75% of the DVDs to make space for our new "Library of Things." This change is intended to better serve the evolving needs of our patrons. I spoke with Laura Hoston from the Newburgh Library, and she mentioned that the most frequently checked-out items from their Library of Things are party supplies.

Upcoming Events Include:

- January 22-6:30 p.m.-Kiwaniis Storytime- Grace Davis will read *Snowflake Bentley* by Jacqueline Briggs Martin.
- January 24-2:00 p.m.- Dr. Gerald Gutek-*The Boatload of Knowledge at 200*.
- February 11-6:30 p.m.- Rod Clark-*The Places That Shaped Robert Owens' Vision*.

FWMI Treasurer Shelly Batt reminded the members that anyone interested in joining the Friends of the WMI should please fill out the membership form and submit it to her or Jeanne Maudlin.

Adjournment

Nathan Maudlin made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Mike Axton seconded, and the motion carried. The meeting was then adjourned.