

Working Men's Institute Members Meeting~ January 23, 2024

Rick Johnson called the Membership Meeting to order. Seventeen (17) 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 17, 2023 meeting were distributed prior to this evening's meeting. Jan Kahle moved to suspend the reading of the minutes and accept them as presented. Diana Davis seconded. Approved

Connie Weinzapfel moved to suspend the reading of the Trustee's minutes and accept them as presented. Ann Angle-Garrett seconded. Approved.

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

Secretary's Report~ None

FWMI Report-

- Everyone at this evening's meeting should have received a schedule for the 2024 FWMI Lecture Series. Attached to the schedule is a letter explaining some changes to our organization's policies.

Personnel Report~ None

Long-Range Planning~ None

Special Projects~

- We are in preliminary talks with the Lilly Endowment about archive expansion.
- The library has received a grant from the Posey County Community Foundation to develop a STEM area. Although we did not receive the full amount, we are grateful for a generous donation from Tom Cochran that will allow us to purchase the necessary items to build the area. The STEM section will be in the southwest corner of the library, and we are planning to hold a dedication ceremony during the first weekend of March. Additionally, we will be introducing two new children's programs in March. On the first Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m., either Tamara Allison or Jean Kares will lead STEM Story Time, which will include a STEM story and a related craft or game. On the second Thursday of each month, we will host Meet a STEM Career, where someone with a STEM career will give a brief lecture about their career path.

Membership~ There is a potential opening in Membership due to tonight's absences.

Old Business~ None

New Business~ None

Director's Report~

- Peggy Taylor's weaving classes titled "Weaving Through Time" took place October 19 and 26 as well as November 2, 9, and 16. Her weaving camp began December 27th, and ran until Friday, December 29th. There were approximately eighteen attendees each day. This grant funded two separate classes. We will be applying for additional funding for future events.
- Purdue Graduate Student Alexandra Adams introduced 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. She had ten patrons attend.
- On Tuesday, November 7, 2023, Bishop Mumford presented "Farming in the 21st Century here in Posey County: Precision, Sustainability, Profitability and Where We Fit In." This was the last FWMI presentation of 2023. This program highlighted agriculture in Posey County in the 21st century. There were forty-seven patrons in attendance.
- Thanks to Chuck Minette for his printing services for FWMI material.
- Linda Volz, in collaboration with Hoosier Salon, hosted an artist workshop on November 8th. There with sixteen people in attendance.
- On Sunday, November 12, the *Daughters of the American Revolution* (DAR) held their annual awards ceremony at the WMI. They presented the WMI with a book titled "Vietnam War 50th Commemoration-A Time to Honor." Katie Reineke accepted the book on behalf of the WMI.
- Indiana Poet Laureate, Matthew Graham, held a lecture at the WMI on November 16, at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Graham, a highly regarded literary figure with an impressive list of accomplishments, brought in about thirty people.
- The Kiwanis Story Time event took place on October 26, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. The book *Hallo-Weiner* by Dav Pilkey was read by Katie and Willow Kimball. Sixteen children attended the event. Shannon DeLap read *How to Catch a Snowman* by Adam Wallace on December 28th at 6 p.m. Ten children attended the event. The next Kiwanis Story Time will be on January 25. Ann Rains will be reading her book *Millie's Missing Egg*.
- Tamara Allison started Pre-School Story Time on Thursday mornings at 10:30 a.m. This event is a little different than Peggy Meyers. You must register for this event which will be held on the following dates: January 11,18,25 and February 1,15,22,29.
- We would like to thank Jeane Maudlin, the Janiks and Janey Frashier for their help with the Christmas decorations.
- The Christmas open house was a tremendous success! We had seventy attendees, and we deeply appreciate everyone who made the event spectacular.
- On Saturday, December 2nd, Santa and Candyland brought four hundred patrons to the WMI.
- Our "12 Holiday Stories" Facebook event was a success! Peggy Meyer had the most views with 421, Anthony Rideout was second with 215 views, and Diane Sanders was third with 188 views. A big thank you to all this year's participants.
- Gary Barnes and Rod Clark undecorating
- Nov 19 Arts and History celebration
- Allen Howey from ideology.biz was here last Thursday to shoot video footage for the new website. He will be back Thursday evening to shoot Children's program footage.

- Gabby Knight from ATA was here in December to show the new treasurer, Tamara Allison, our accounting practices. Our new secretary, Christine Crews, and I were also there to learn more about those practices as well.
- All necessary repairs have been completed on the damaged rafter. However, there have been recommended repairs in a few other areas, which shall be undertaken as a separate project. I have requested Happe provide an estimate for these repairs.
- Andy Batt will host "How to Photograph and Enjoy the Solar Eclipse" at the WMI on Wednesday, March 13 at 6:30 p.m. He will provide tips for capturing shots of the eclipse using iPhones, Androids, and professional gear. Examples will be provided.

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

Working Men's Institute Members Meeting~ April 16, 2024

Rick Johnson called the Membership Meeting to order. Fourteen (14) active members answered roll call. Others in attendance were Director Ryan Rokicki and Circulation Specialist Shannon DeLap.

Jan Kahle, Diana Davis, and Christine Crews gave a presentation about the Oral History Project of New Harmony.

Minutes of the January 23, 2024 meeting were distributed prior to this evening's meeting. Jan Kahle moved to suspend the reading of the minutes and accept them as presented. Ann Angle-Garrett seconded. Approved

Mike Axton moved to suspend the reading of the Trustee's minutes and accept them as presented. Diana Davis seconded. Approved.

Tamara Allison presented the Treasurer's Report. Dan Busler moved to approve the Treasurer's Report and hold it for Audit. Linda Warrum seconded. Approved.

Secretary's Report~ None

FWMI Report was given by Christine Crews.

- Erik Janik has completed the concrete pad to the right of the elevator door. This pad is for the trash bin.

Committee Reports-

- Personnel Report~ None
- Long-Range Planning~ None
- Special Projects~ The STEM area is complete. We have two STEM related programs. The STEM Story Time has been well attended but our Meet a STEM career has not had much interest from local teens/pre-teens. We have decided to suspend this program temporarily.
- Membership~ There will be two openings in Membership after the approval of Tom Cullum's resignation letter during tonight's new business.

Old Business~ None

New Business~ Mike Axton made a motion to accept Tom Cullum's resignation. Jan Kahle seconded the motion. Approved.

Director's Report~

- New website updates were shown on the projector screen. It highlighted how much more functional the new site is to the consumer. There are some other small improvements needed before the website goes live. Allen Howie from idealogy.com came and filmed the updated video content on January 25. These included videos of Kiwanis Story Time, Patty Beagles yoga classes and some other young adults.
- Our STEM programming attendance has been low. We have decided to put the “Meet a STEM career” on hold but continue with the STEM Story Time.
- Pre-school story time is doing well. We started with just two children and now have five children attending this program.
- Kiwanis Story Time is still doing quite well. We are averaging 10-20 children in attendance.
- Eykamp String Quartet held a concert at the WMI on February 8. Over 100 patrons were in attendance.
- Andy Batt hosted "How to Photograph and Enjoy the Solar Eclipse" at the WMI on Wednesday, March 13 at 6:30 p.m. He provided tips for capturing shots of the eclipse using iPhones, Androids, and professional gear. Examples were provided. Thirty-five patrons were in attendance.
- The FWMI lecture held on Wednesday, March 27th, had the Director of Science Experiences at the Evansville Museum, Carlisle Wishard, educate the public in preparation for the 2024 total solar eclipse. Her talk focused on the geometry of the total solar eclipse, the path of totality, and eclipse safety. There were forty patrons in attendance.
- Monday, April 8th brought 50 people to the WMI. Many just visited but we did have a few that stayed and experienced the Total Solar Eclipse on the lawn with the staff. We would like to thank Charles Huck for offering his driveway for additional parking for the WMI staff.
- The New Harmony Clay Project held an artist lecture titled “Narrative Form” at the WMI on Tuesday, March 26th at 6:00 p.m. This lecture featured Artists in Residence Autumn McKay, Alex Lewis, and Greg Van Dusseldorp. Fifty-two patrons attended.
- Tristra Newyear, an author of historical fantasies and scientific romances, held a book signing and discussion on April 4th at 6:30 p.m. There were approximately twenty people in attendance.
- A big thank you to the Posey County Community Foundation and Tom Cochran for the funding for our new STEM area in the library. We would also like to thank Dan Busler, Gary Barnes and Mike Axton for helping assemble the furniture for the area.
- Our Annual Finance Report and the State Library Report have been completed.
- Thank you to our accounting firm Alexander Thompson and Arnold for helping us with our compliance review.
- A huge thank you to Barb McConnell and Connie Weinzapfel for picking out the new couch and chairs for the library room.

- I attended the Southwest Indiana Regional Directors Round Table at the Fort Branch library on Friday March 15. The WMI will host the next one in May.
- Glen Kalley from Patterson-Pope was here February 8. He is excited about our archive expansion project and is committed to helping with this expansion.
- Heritage Artisans Days is next week. We have enough staff and volunteers for this event.
- We have lost a few of the slate roof tiles. I have been in contact with Russ Love from Smither Roofing. When the roof was completed, we were informed that this could happen.
- Our electrician, Josh Lamb, has repaired the lights in the library. We had several that were not working.
- It is with deep sadness that we inform you of the passing of our esteemed volunteer, Helen Smith. The WMI is grateful for the time and effort she put into her volunteer work.
- At the previous Trustees' meeting, we discussed the restoration of the Harry Hawkins mural in the Room for the Dissemination of Useful Knowledge. I have been in contact with art conservator, Andrea Chevalier. She is planning to visit the WMI in September to make an assessment.

Ryan gave a presentation about the Battle of Atlanta lithograph.

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

Working Men's Institute Members Meeting – July 16, 2024.

Rick Johnson called the Membership Meeting to order. A quorum was not present. The meeting was then adjourned.

Working Men's Institute Members Meeting ~ October 15, 2024

Fred Frayser called the budget adoption meeting to order. Linda Warrum made the motion to approve the budget. Jan Kahle seconded. Approved. The budget adoption meeting was then adjourned.

Rick Johnson called the Membership Meeting to order. Seventeen (17) active members answered the roll call. Director Ryan Rokicki and Circulation Specialist Shannon DeLap were also in attendance.

Linda Warrum gave a presentation about the Archive Update.

Ryan Rokicki gave a presentation about the coffee roaster from the museum collection.

Minutes of the July 16, 2024 meeting were distributed prior to this evening's meeting. Mike Axton moved to suspend the reading of the minutes and accept them as presented. Phil Werry seconded. Approved.

Connie Weinzapfel moved to suspend the reading of the Trustee's minutes and accept them as presented. Linda Warrum seconded. Approved.

Tamara Allison presented the Treasurer's Report. Nathan Maudlin moved to approve the Treasurer's Report and hold it for Audit. Ann Angle-Garrett seconded. Approved.

Secretary's Report~ None

FWMI Report was given by Jeanne Maudlin.

- The annual Kunstfest book sale brought in \$1,098.75. The June book sale brought in \$1,094. The total for both events was \$2,192.75
- October 28th will be the FWMI budget meeting.
- The Annual Meeting will be held before the final lecture on November 14, 2024.

Committee Reports-

- Personnel Report~ None
- Long-Range Planning~ None
- Special Projects~ None
- Membership~ There are five openings in Membership with two nominations. Tom Armstrong was nominated by Charles Huck and Gary Barnes was nominated by Linda Warrum. They were both then elected to the Working Men's Institute.
- Nathan Maudlin and Christine Crews have each agreed to another term as Trustees.

Old Business~ None

New Business~

Director's Report~

- The final day of the summer reading program was July 25th. Alyssa Scott was the top reader, while Troy and Ophelia Swift's Flat Stanley traveled the farthest. They all received prizes for their accomplishments.

Kiwanis Story Time took place on Thursday, July 25, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. Anthony Rideout read *Jazz on a Saturday Night* by Leo and Diane Dillon and played his bass for the activity. Eight children attended. August 22nd at 6:30 p.m. Tamara Allison read *Be a Tree* by Maria Gianferrari. Twelve children attended. September 26, 2024, Tracee Foley read *Pete the Cat: Rocking in my School Shoes* by James Dean. Nine children attended. Ann Huelsman will read *The Book Tree* by Paul Czajak on October 24, at 6:30 p.m.

- Pre-School Story Time began its fall sessions on August 22, 2024, at 10:30 a.m. and concluded on October 3, 2024. The second fall session begins on October 24, 2024. We have had approximately six children each week. This session will conclude on December 19, 2024.
- STEM story time was held Thursday, August 1, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. There were three children in attendance. Due to some scheduling conflicts, it was decided that the event needed to be changed to the second Thursday of the month. Our October session had three attendees.
- Peggy Taylor began free weaving classes at the Working Men's Institute sponsored by the Indiana Arts Commission on Thursday, September 19, 2024. Woven by Hand and Heart will meet each Thursday evening from 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The fall session concludes on October 17. There will be another session in December. The winter classes will be December 26-28 from 10:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. There will be another round late winter or early spring of 2025.
- Mike Linderman presented a lecture on Angel Mound's historical sites on August 21st at 6:30 p.m. There were forty-two attendees.
- The New Harmony Garden Club hosted an Invasive Plant Lecture and Golf Cart tour on August 28th at 5:00 p.m. There were twenty-seven patrons in attendance.
- Joni Mayhan was here on September 4th promoting her new book *New Harmony Ghost Stories*. There were thirty-seven patrons in attendance.
- Elenor Rust and Tristra New Year held their lecture about their podcast *Frances Wright: America's Forgotten Radical* on Thursday, September 5th at 6:30 p.m. There were forty-two attendees.
- Rebecca May Hope, a recipient of the Lena Feiner Grant in 2023, was unable to do her lecture in 2024. The committee has agreed to let her do her lecture in the first quarter of 2025.
- Jennifer Green held a lecture on September 18, 2024, about vintage clothing. Six patrons attended the event.

- Mike Braun used the WMI for Mobile office hours on August 28th from 10:00 a.m. to noon.
- The Volunteer Appreciation Picnic was held on Sunday, September 8, 2024, at 4:30 p.m. A big thank you to everyone who attended.
- Indiana State Library has found us in compliance.
- The State Board of Accounts Exit Interview will be next week.
- We lost a tree between the WMI and Murphy Auditorium. Jim Brown has removed the tree.
- Happe construction has completed phase one of the rafter repair in the attic.
- On September 9th I attended the American Association of State and Local History conference in Mobile, Alabama.
- Paul Plaschke will begin working on the Harry Hawkins mural on Thursday, October 17, 2024.
- Wednesday, October 23rd at 6:30 p.m. Ben Nicholson, the author of *Clockwork Basilisk: The Early Revolvers of Elisha Collier & Artemas Wheeler*, will chat about America's first revolver.
- NHBA/1NH will hold their annual "Trick or Treat on Main Street" on Saturday, October 26, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
- The WMI is excited to host the Local Loco Model Train Club for the October 26-27 weekend. Local Loco is a group of model railroad enthusiasts from Evansville and the surrounding communities in southwestern Indiana. This FREE event will showcase various model railroad layouts. The club members will be running trains for everyone to enjoy. The event hours are Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.
- David Angel is scheduled to deliver a presentation titled "Mastering Difficult Conversations" on October 29, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. This event will be the inaugural session of the "Conflict Resolution 101" series, taking place this fall at WMI.
- We need volunteers to come in and help move some items for the Mural Restoration on Thursday morning. There is also a need for some extra ladders.

Charles Huck made a motion to adjourn. Andy Batt seconded the motion. The meeting was then adjourned.