
Membership Meeting Minutes

Call to order

The quarterly meeting of the Membership for the Working Men's Institute was held on October 21, 2025. Twenty-two members were in attendance. Additionally, Director Ryan Rokicki was present at the meeting.

Budget Adoption

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

Special Presentations

Linda Warrum gave a short presentation on Couch's Mill.

Artifact and Artifact Donations

Tristra Newyear Yager has donated a bust of Women's Rights Activist Francis Wright. The Bob Johnson Family has donated some documents and photographs.

Approval of minutes

The minutes from the membership meeting on July 15, 2025, were sent out electronically. Mike Axton made a motion to suspend the reading of the minutes and accept them as presented, which Charles Bandy seconded. The motion carried.

Stanley Campbell made a motion to suspend the reading of the Board of Trustees minutes and accept them as presented, which Ann Angle-Garrett seconded. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

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

Secretary's Report

No Report

Friends of the WMI

Christine Crews announced that more than \$1,000 was raised during the September book sale.

Upcoming FWMI Events:

November 5- Annual Meeting

November 5- Brandi Perry and Amy Koch -There is a Difference Between Living and Living Well.

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: Stanley Campbell made a motion to accept the revised amendment, which reads “In the event that the New Harmony Working Men’s Institute dissolves, any non-public money under the control of the Working Men’s Institute shall be donated to another charitable organization to be determined by the Board of Trustees, and then approved by the Membership of the Working Men’s Institute” as presented, which Ann Angle-Garrett seconded. The motion carried.

Nominations: The following members of the Board of Trustees have agreed to serve additional terms: Tamara Allsion for a 2-year term, Christine Crews for a 1-year term, and Connie Weinzapfel for a 1-year term. Linda Warrum proposed a motion to accept the slate of officers for the Board of Trustees as presented, which was seconded by Ann Angle-Garrett. The motion was carried.

Old Business

Jan Kahle, the project manager, gave an Archive Expansion update. The committee has been working with architects Browning Day and philanthropic consultants Johnson Grossnickle Associates to finalize proposals for the planning grant.

New Business

Charles Bandy asked the By-laws Committee to consider changing the time of the meetings due to a conflict with the Town Council meetings.

Directors' Report Presented by Ryan Rokicki

Program Highlights

Kiwanis Story Time is still going strong. It is in its fifth year. Janet Lorence read *The Very Quiet Cricket* by Eric Carle to thirteen children on August 28th. Suzy Schuette read *Corgiville Fair* by Tasha Tudor to six children on September 25th.

Ben Angel delivered an engaging composting lecture on July 23rd, which drew a crowd of forty attendees.

Stanley Campbell held two workshops at the WMI. A watercolor Workshop on July 26th and a pencil workshop on August 23rd both had eight patrons in attendance.

Bill McKenzie examined the legacy of one of the most influential intellectuals of the twentieth century in his two-part lecture series about Carl Jung. Twenty-eight patrons attended the first session, and thirty-one patrons were in attendance at the second session.

New Harmony music enthusiasts had an extraordinary experience with the performance of the celebrated singer, fiddler, and songwriter Sara Milonovich. Renowned for her enchanting fusion of indie alt-grass, folk rock, and American roots music, Milonovich graced the stage at the WMI on Saturday, September 13, at 7:00 p.m. Fifty-one people were in attendance. A special thank you to Chris Layer for facilitating this event.

Special Tours

UNIV101: Soar to Success at the University of Southern Indiana was held on Tuesday, September 9. Thank you to the Kiwanis for providing cookies to the incoming freshmen. (1350 attended)

A tour for Board Members from the Greencastle Arts Council and the Putnam County Museum occurred on September 24th. Twenty-three people were present.

Twenty members of the Perry County Public Library were at the WMI on October 13th for a staff day.

Facility

Thanks to Michael Guard and his team for painting the sidewalk lamp posts and the base of the historical marker.

Erik has repaired the Fountain.

Chris Koester will be doing some fall maintenance, such as caulking the front steps and refinishing the elevator access door. He is also doing some work on a display in the Natural History Gallery.

HF Refrigeration has replaced the pipes on the HVAC system.

We are in the process of doing some Audio/Visual updates. I have a quote from Quest-4 and will be getting an additional quote from Midwest.

Library Services

Kanopy streaming services are now available for all Libby/OverDrive users.

We have received another grant through the Indiana Arts Commission to fund Peggy Taylor's next round of classes, Peggy Taylor's *Utopian Vision: Creating a Nature Journal*. Patrons will learn to sketch flowers and plant forms while enjoying the gardens and green spaces of New Harmony.

Hope McLeod, this year's recipient of the Lena Feiner grant, is here doing research for her grant project on the Parke Quartet.

Upcoming Events Include:

October 23 – Kiwanis Story Time, with Jeanne Maudlin reading *Red Leaf, Yellow Leaf* by Lois Ehlert.

October 25-November 2, Peggy Fisherkeller and her team will be here conducting research for the Curatorial Outreach Program.

October 30-November 20-Pre-school Storytime resumes.

November 5-FWMI lecture-Amy Koch and Brandi Perry, Executive Director and Administrator from the Charles Ford Home, will present *There is a Difference Between Living and Living Well*.

November 9-11-Indiana Library Federation Conference

November 11-Ben Angel is hosting a training class for Locable.

January 2026-Owen-Maclure 200th celebration begins

Adjournment

Charles Huck made the motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was then adjourned