
Membership Meeting Minutes

Call to order

The quarterly meeting of the Membership for the Working Men's Institute was held on April 21, 2026. Nineteen members were in attendance. Additionally, Director Ryan Rokicki, Circulation Specialist Shannon DeLap, and Friends of the Working Men's President Jeanne Maudlin were present at the meeting. There was a short update given on President Fred Frayser's health.

Special Presentations

Ryan Rokicki, Stanley Campbell, Michael Guard, and Chuck Minnette gave a brief presentation about their trip to Louisville to research archives at several museums.

Ryan gave a brief presentation on a World War I Brodie helmet.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the January 20, 2025, membership meeting 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.

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

Treasurer's Report

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

Secretary's Report

No Report

Friends of the WMI (Given by Jeanne Maudlin)

Jeanne discussed the upcoming lectures

Upcoming FWMI Events:

May 14- Kelly Reid of Wild Birds Unlimited

June 13-14-FWMI Book Sale

July 4- Independence Day Celebration at the Murphy Auditorium with Ryan Rokicki as the Keynote Speaker. Karen Moser is reading the Declaration of Independence.

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: Update on Audio/Visual upgrade.

Membership: There is one opening in the membership.

Nominations: Tim Siefert was nominated by Andy Batt. He was then elected as a new member.

By-laws: 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." A motion was made to approve this amendment. The motion carried.

Old Business-NONE,

New Business-NONE

Directors' Report Presented by Ryan Rokicki
Director's Report

Program Highlights

- Kiwanis Story Time 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. Grace Davis read *Snowflake Bentley* by Jacqueline Briggs Martin on January 22 to seven children. On February 27, Tamara Allison read *Owl Moon* by Jane Yolen to a group of eight children. On March 26, Ann Huelsman read *Grumpy Monkey* by Suzanne Lang to a group of nine children.
- On January 14, Ben Angel conducted a presentation on Natural Gardening with a focus on Hügelskultur, attracting an audience of twenty-five attendees.
- On February 4, Karen Moser conducted a presentation on her recent trip to Kenya to sixty-eight people.
- On February 11, Rod Clark conducted a presentation titled *Formation of a Vision: The Development of Robert Owen and the How and Why of his Experiment in America* to sixty-eight people.
- The Mahjong group is now meeting twice a week, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

- Peggy Taylor's Nature Journal class began on March 5 and concluded on March 26. These classes had approximately fifteen students who attended. 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.
- The Sierra Club Hoosier Chapter's Southwestern Indiana Network held a screening of the documentary *Reinventing Power* at the WMI on Wednesday, April 1, at 5:00 p.m. Eight patrons attended.
- On April 11, at 2:00 p.m., Dr. Gerald Gutek presented Maclure's Design for American Education: Integrating the Boatload of Knowledge with Pestalozzian Pedagogy to fifty patrons.
- The evening of Friday, April 17, UE faculty clarinetist Charles du Preez presented *An Evening of Sound and Shadow* to thirteen patrons.

Facilities and Maintenance

- 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.
- HF Refrigeration was here in March and repaired a malfunctioning boiler and installed new pipes. They returned in April and switched us from heat to Air Conditioning.
- The Electricians from Josh Lamb were here and replaced the lights in the library.

Staff and Administration

- Shannon is currently conducting a winter weeding of our DVD collection. We will be removing 75% of the titles to create space for our new "Library of Stuff." This adjustment is aimed at better aligning our offerings with the evolving needs of our patrons.
- Steven Stump has announced an adjustment to his pricing for recording events, with an increase of \$100 to his fee for filming each lecture. This increase still fits within our budget.
- I am working with our accountants at ATA on finishing the annual finance report.

- The Indiana State Library Report had some technical issues but is now up and running. The Report is due May 4.
- The circulation desk computer ethernet port has malfunctioned. Automated Office Solutions was here in March and replaced the computer.
- On March 3, Linda Warrum and Shannon DeLap attended USI's Department of History, Arts, Culture, & Community Services Career Fair.
- 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 in March 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 requested \$ 1,500 to help fund our Library of Things. Susan Rice followed up with a site visit and interview regarding the grant. The winners will receive written notification by the end of April.
- Last Friday, I attended the Indiana Library Federation Conference at the Floyd County Library.
- Mike Axton, Marlene Huffaker, and Margaret Bandy have graciously volunteered their assistance for Heritage Artisans Days, in addition to the support of the entire staff.
- The Lena Feiner Grant is now open for submissions. We have received one submission so far.
- I have received an invitation to join the Indiana State Museum Project Team to discuss upcoming plans related to the Eli Lilly Funds. I have accepted this opportunity.

Upcoming Events

- Tristra Newyear- Yeager and Eleanor Rust will be here the week of April 21 to discuss the images they want to include in their new book.
- April 20-24-First Brush of Spring Paint out
- April 23 & 24- Heritage Artisans Days
- April 24-3:00 p.m.-Blaffer Foundation-Presentation by Alistair Baldwin: The Rapp Memorial Garden/Poets House Final Design
- April 25-1:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m.- *Basics of Woody Plants* with Bill McKnight-
- April 30-6:30 p.m.-Kiwanis Storytime- Shannon DeLap will read *If You Give A Mouse A Cookie* by Laura Numeroff.
- May 1-Feiner Grant- Summary of Proposals Due FINAL PROPOSAL DUE MAY

- May 12-6:30 p.m.- Hope McLeod-2025 Feiner Grant Recipient Lecture.
- May 14-FWMI Lecture-6:30 p.m.-Kelly Reid of Wild Birds Unlimited
- May 20-6:30 p.m.-Owen Maclure Lecture- Bill Bartelt

It is with great sadness that we have lost two of our associate members. Tom Straw and Darwin Barnes.

Adjournment

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