

**MID-HUDSON LIBRARY SYSTEM  
MINUTES  
of the  
ANNUAL MEETING  
Friday, October 6, 2006**

Camilla von Bergen, President, convened the 47th Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees at 9:45 a.m. in the Danny Kaye Theater, the Culinary Institute of America, Hyde Park, New York.

**I. ROLL CALL**

Trustees Present: Peter Hoffmann, Jennifer Lange; Patricia Miller, Ronald Oppen, Roland Patterson; Caroline Benton Pflieger; Janet Schnitzer; Camilla von Bergen

Trustees Absent: Steve Benson; Bill Conine; Margaret Feldman; Kitty Orth; Marie Smith; Jim Tuttle

Liaisons: Tom Lawrence, Director Poughkeepsie Public Library District; Gloria Goverman, Director East Fishkill Library

Staff Present: List attached to official file

Others Present: List attached to official file

**II. WELCOME**

President von Bergen welcomed attendees to the 47th Annual Meeting of the Mid-Hudson Library System, and introduced MHLS Board members, System staff and special guest, Rachel Baum, President Elect of the New York Library Association (NYLA) to the meeting.

*President  
opens meeting*

**III. ELECTION OF TRUSTEES**

At this point, President von Bergen turned the meeting over to Ronald Oppen, Chair of the Elections and Nominating Committee, who conducted the election of four trustees to the MHLS Board.

*Oppen  
conducts  
election*

**From Greene County:**

Geralynn Demarest was nominated to a first five-year term by Stewart Dutfield, Catskill Public Library trustee, and seconded by Caroline Benten Pflieger, MHLS and Cairo Library trustee.

*Demarest  
nominated*

**From Putnam County:**

Patricia Miller was nominated for a second five-year term by and Donald Haney, Kent Public Library trustee, and seconded by Frederick Voss, Brewster Public Library trustee.

*Patricia  
Miller  
nominated*

## Minutes, MHLS Board of Trustees Annual Meeting, Friday, October 6, 2006 p.2

Martin Miller was nominated to fill a two-year remainder term by Charles Cook, Patterson Library trustee, and seconded by Otto Romanino, Kent Public Library trustee.

*Martin Miller  
nominated*

### From Ulster County:

Michael Minor was nominated for a first five-year term by Earl Johnson, Town of Esopus trustee, and seconded by James Hoover, Stone Ridge Library trustee.

*Minor  
nominated*

There being no additional candidates for any of the four positions, Mr. Oppen called for a motion to direct the secretary to cast a single ballot. Mr. Oppen moved and Ms. von Bergen seconded THAT A SINGLE BALLOT BE CAST FOR EACH OF THE FOUR POSITIONS. **The motion carried.**

*Single Ballot  
cast for four  
positions*

## **IV. PRESENTATION OF SERVICE AWARDS**

### **A. STAFF AWARDS**

The Executive Director presented employee service awards to the following employees - *Not in attendance*: Kerstin Cruger (5 yrs.) Thomas Finnigan (15 yrs.) *In attendance*: John Plambeck (15 yrs.); Mohamed Toufali (15 yrs.).

*Service  
awards  
presented*

### **B. RECOGNITION OF BARBARA LINDSLEY**

The Executive Director presented retiring Health Information Project Consultant, Barbara Lindsley, with a special recognition award for 33 years of service and dedication to libraries and the Mid-Hudson Library System. Barbara served as Board President of the System from 1987-1989.

*Lindsley  
recognized*

## **V. RECOGNITION OF RETIRING BOARD MEMBERS**

President von Bergen presented retiring Mid-Hudson trustee, Ronald Oppen, with a parting gift. She thanked him for his valuable service to the Board.

*Oppen  
recognized*

## **VI. DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS**

### **A. THE FUTURE OF THE SYSTEM**

The Executive Director spoke briefly about the new Plan of Service and the direction the System will be going over the next five years. He stated that emphasis will be put on increasing marketing and staff training efforts. Mr. Cohen noted the rising importance of small community libraries and the need for these libraries to have well-trained staff, solid budgets and clear policies. As the goal of the System is to ensure the best possible level of services to all constituents in its five county service area, the System will be looking at how to put together a diverse team to evaluate the effectiveness of its libraries.

*Future of  
System  
funding*

### **B. RECOGNITION OF DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION STEERING COMMITTEE AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Mr. Cohen introduced and thanked the Steering Committee and Advisory Committee Chairs of the Directors Association for their dedication and

*D.A. leaders  
recognized*

accomplishments in 2006. Certificates of appreciation will be sent to members of **the Steering Committee**: Sally Alderdice, Chair; Bruce George, Vice Chair; Gloria Goverman, Secretary, and to **Advisory Committee Chairs**: Patti Haar, Central Library/Collection Development; Linda Deubert, Continuing Education/Professional Development; Midge Quick/Anne Jordan, Marketing and Program; Julie Kelsall/Resource Sharing.

**VII. COUNTY SUCCESS STORY AWARDS**

*Trustees honored*

Patricia Miller, member of the Trustee Services Committee, presented certificates to the Trustee Success Story winners and commended them for their dedication and service to their libraries.

The following six trustees were presented \$200 checks for their libraries:

**Columbia County:**

*Soto honored*

**Robert Soto**, trustee, Hudson Area Library

Bob is an active member of the Hudson Area Library Board. He is extremely enthusiastic and upbeat and sets a good example for present and future board members. His contributions to the library include:

- Working on the history room to increase its usefulness to patrons;
- Providing draperies for the children's/history and circulation rooms;
- Establishing and maintaining planters in front of the library;
- Promoting the library in the media;
- Getting cash donations from local merchants.

*Bickford honored*

**Dutchess County:**

**John Bickford**, Board President, Hyde Park Library

John has been a vital and energetic member of the Hyde Park Library Board. His advocacy efforts on the library's behalf include:

- Promoting ongoing trustee education and ensuring that all board members take advantage of as many training opportunities as possible;
- Arranging in-house training sessions with Mid-Hudson staff;
- Promoting community outreach, by speaking at town meetings, zoning committee meetings (when the library was seeking to acquire and renovate what is now the Library Annex building, and in the media);
- Working extensively with other board members (his own colleagues and representatives from neighboring Staatsburg) in successfully planning and campaigning for the creation of two special districts in the town of Hyde Park.

*Palmer honored*

**Greene County:**

**Suzanne Palmer**, trustee D.R. Evarts Library (Athens)

Suzanne, as a member of the Finance Committee helped to simplify the library's accounts; as Chair of the Children's Committee, she used her artistic talent to design T-shirts for those completing the Summer Reading Program; as an active member of the Centennial Committee (formed to organize the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the library in 2007), she designed banners for the building and created computer images of the

designed banners for the building and created computer images of the suggested look for a photo of the library. In addition to designing the banners, Sue has raised funds to pay for them and contributed ideas for the Centennial including a family program to begin in December of this year featuring Victorian Christmas ornaments and a hayride. For this event, Sue has volunteered to conduct the Victorian Ornament Making workshop.

Her recent efforts include:

- setting up a Computer Workshop for Seniors held weekly during May before the library opens, recruitment of four volunteers to run the program and finding appropriate books and instructional software for the students;
- creating posters for various library programs; and, overseeing the construction of a bike rack in front of the library.

**Putnam County:**

**Donald Haney**, trustee Kent Public Library

Don has been on the Kent Library Board since 2002 and President since 2003. He played a pivotal role in seeing the library's building project to completion. His persistence and engineering expertise were invaluable. On behalf of the library, Don attends a fair number of town board meetings. He keeps abreast of decisions and action items at the town board level, to ensure that the library's interests are represented. He has done a great deal to foster a high level of trust between the library board and library staff.

*Haney  
honored*

**Ulster County:**

**Judy Casimir, Thomas Heffernan, Janice Heffernan, Joanne Martignoni**, trustees West Hurley Library

These four trustees were instrumental in overseeing the entire renovation and expansion project of the West Hurley library. The six-year project involved: hiring an architect, developing a plan to meet the needs of the community, organizing fundraisers, conducting two successful public bond votes, overcoming strict zoning regulations, arranging for a temporary location, moving the contents of the library; furnishing the new library in a cost effective manner, and overseeing moving the contents of the library into the newly renovated and expanded building.

*Casimir,  
Heffernans,  
Martignoni  
honored*

Throughout this long process each of these trustees gave countless hours of personal time and effort to ensure that the residents of West Hurley have a library that meets their needs.

**SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS**

A. NYLA President Elect, Rachel Baum

Mr. Cohen reintroduced, Rachel Baum, President Elect of the New York Library Association (NYLA) who spoke briefly. She encouraged attendees to join or maintain their memberships in NYLA and continue to support the organization's legislative initiative on behalf of libraries.

*Business  
meeting  
adjourned*

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT OF BUSINESS MEETING**

At 10:30 a.m. President von Bergen adjourned the business meeting.







