MID-HUDSON LIBRARY SYSTEM

MINUTES of the ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Friday, October 22, 2021 | Online

President Swierat called the meeting to order at 10:00am.

1. **ROLL CALL**
   a. Trustees Present: Stuart Auchincloss, Lisa Baker Brill, Sharon Davis, Kenneth Goldberg, Priscilla Goldfarb, Rajene Hardeman, Debra Klein, Michele Ment, Barry Ramage, Lynne Ridgeway, Janet Schnitzer, Ric Swierat, Mary Linda Todd
   b. Staff Present: Nina Acosta, Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, Kathryn Brew, Saran Camara, Kerri Carpenter, Casey Conlin, Kerstin Cruger, Tom Finnigan, Gerry Formby, Laurie Shedrick, Alexa Stroh, Kyra Walker
   c. Others Present (list attached to file)

2. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**
   Mr. Swierat welcomed attendees to the 62nd Annual Membership Meeting of the Board of Trustees and introduced the 2021 Board of the Mid-Hudson Library System and the 2021 leadership of the MHLS Directors Association.

3. **ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS**
   Mr. Wilson, Chair of the MHLS Nominations and Elections Committee conducted the election of three trustees to the MHLS Board.

   From Greene County: Dr. Alexandra L. Prince was nominated for a five-year term by Barbara Flach, Director of the Greenville Library, and seconded by Debra Kamecke, director of the Cairo Public Library. Dr. Prince's nomination was unanimously approved at the Greene County Library Association's meeting held on September 15, 2021.

   From Putnam County: Carla Taylor was nominated for a five-year term by Stephanie Harrison, director of the Patterson Library, seconded by Jeanne Buck, director of the Reed Memorial Library. Ms. Taylor's nomination was approved at the Putnam County Library Association meeting held on August 24, 2021.

   From Ulster County: Kenneth Goldberg was nominated for a second five-year term by Margie Menard, director of the Kingston Library, seconded by Gillian Murphy, director of the Elting Memorial Library. Mr. Goldberg's nomination was unanimously approved at the Ulster County Library Association meeting held on July 20, 2021.

   There being no additional candidates nominated, Mr. Wilson declared the election of Alexandra L. Prince, Carla Taylor, and Kenneth Goldberg for 5-year terms commencing on January 1, 2022.

4. **Bylaw Amendment**
   As per Article XII of the Bylaws of the Mid-Hudson Library System, member libraries were notified of a proposed change to the system's bylaws. The first amendment is to Article IV, Section IX related to Liaison Members to the board, this amendment reflects the current, actual practice of allowing a rotating list of members of the Directors Association's System Services Advisory Committee to serve as their liaison to the board in a given year. The second amendment is to Article VI, Section I related to the establishment of committees, this amendment

adds a list of standing committees of the board. The designated representatives from each member library present were eligible to vote. The motion to amend the bylaws passed unanimously.

5. **REPORT OF THE BOARD PRESIDENT**

Mr. Swierat's report provided an overview of three areas of focus in 2021 by the MHLS Board: equity, diversity, and inclusion; financial stability of the system; and outreach to the member libraries. Mr. Wilson introduced the new mission, vision and values statements approved by the board with input from members and the staff.

6. **REPORT OF THE TREASURER**

Mr. Wilson, MHLS Treasurer, provided a report on the fiscal standing of the organization including sharing the results of the 2020 audit of MHSL by RBT, CPAs, LLP. The System's board, staff and CPAs have worked together to ensure our organization is managing its revenue and expenditures well and there were no adverse findings from the 2020 audit to report. Mr. Wilson thanked the MHLS Directors Association (DA) for their cooperation and trust and noted that MHLS managed its finances well during the economic fallout and recovery from the pandemic resulting in enough stability that the organization did not need to use the funds earmarked in the Members' Capital Fund for system operations by the DA.

7. **REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Ms. Aldrich provided:

a. An introduction to the six new MHLS staff members who have joined the organization in the past year.
b. A recognition of three staff members for their service milestones:
    i. John Barath, 10 years
    ii. Kerstin Cruger, 20 years
    iii. Gerry Formby, 15 years
c. A presentation of "Outstanding Accomplishment" awards to the Brewster Public Library and LaGrange Library for the grand openings of their new facilities;
d. A review of System efforts over the course of 2021 including the work of the board and staff on the topics of equity, diversity, and inclusion; efforts to support members with COVID-19-related challenges; advocacy with state legislators for a record setting amount of legislation successfully passed and signed into law; an introduction of a new eMagazines product; the completion of the MHLS ILS Road Map 2.0; the launch of The Library of Local Project; six sessions of the Reimagining Library Services Series; introduction of the Trustee Handbook Book Club program; new partnerships such as the MetroIAF/NYSERDA funding for anchor institutions; and a record high number of libraries participating in the 2021 Turning Outward cohort.
e. A preview of 2022 areas of focus including the transition to the next generation online catalog, ILS Road Map 3.0; the introduction of a Digital Navigators program; a EDI Mini-Conference and continued work in the areas of sustainable funding, collective impact projects, and professional development for member library staff.
f. A report on the major trend of collaboration among member libraries at the county level and among smaller groups of libraries who have banded together to do online programming together.

8. **ADJOURNMENT OF ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

At 10:47am, Mr. Swierat adjourned the Business portion of the 62nd Annual Membership Meeting.

9. **KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

Ms. Aldrich introduced Patricia "Patty" Wong, 2021-2022 President of the American Library Association. Ms.

Wong provided a presentation entitled, "Race Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and Social Justice, a Library Community Approach" which focused attention on the importance of personal reflection and organizational commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion.

10. **CLOSING COMMENTS**

    Ms. Aldrich thanked Ms. Wong and the audience for participating in the 2021 Annual Membership Meeting and thanked stakeholders for their ongoing participation in the Mid-Hudson Library System.

Respectfully submitted by Stuart Auchincloss, Secretary

Stuart Auchincloss

Approved on December 15, 2021 by the MHLS Board of Trustees