

# Southern Adirondack Library System Annual Meeting

May 19, 2009  
At the Queensbury Hotel, Glens Falls New York

## Minutes

The 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the Southern Adirondack Library System was held on Monday, May 18, 2009 at the Queensbury Hotel in Glens Falls, New York, and brought to order at 7:02 p.m. with President Arnie Elman presiding.

Dr. Elman welcomed all those present and asked SALS Board members present to stand and be recognized as they were introduced:

Russ DeFonce representing Hamilton County  
Bob Jeffords representing Washington County  
Paul Mays representing Washington County  
Sandi Payne representing Warren County  
Joyce Smith representing Warren County

Dr. Arnold Elman represents Saratoga County/Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library.

SALS Trustees not present were:

Cheryl Gold representing Saratoga County  
Julia Helms representing Hamilton County  
Judy Hoover representing Washington County/Easton Library  
Jim Mosher representing Saratoga County  
Jerry Pepper representing Hamilton County

Dr. Elman noted that Treasurer's Reports, SALS 2008 Highlights, Facts and Figures, and a Continuing Education Workshop, Event and Program Calendar were on the tables, available to take with you. The Central Library Report is also available for you to take with you.

Dr. Elman welcomed member library trustees, SALS retirees, and former SALS board members. SALS Staff present were then asked to stand and be recognized:

Nancy Bowen---Secretary/Receptionist  
Sara Dallas---Director  
Jennifer Ferriss---Bibliographic Database Specialist  
Mary Hanley---JA Computer Services Systems Specialist  
Jill Martz---Administration and Finance Manager  
Diane Robinson---JA/Computer Systems Manager  
Jill Ryder---General Services Librarian

and guests:

Heather Larrow---Great Meadow Correctional Facility  
Sue Hensley-Cushing---Literacy/NENY  
Paul Sausville---Town of Malta Supervisor

Paul Mays of the Library Services Committee was asked to present the 2008 Library Program of the Year Awards. Mr. Mays briefly reviewed the winning programs and commended all entrants for their creativity and community involvement. The Library Services Committee chose:

*Mechanicville Losers*---from the Mechanicville District Public Library, accepted by Laura Fisher, Director at Mechanicville District Public Library.

The goal of this program was to encourage healthy behavioral lifestyle changes for the residents of Mechanicville through educational and low cost fitness programs. The library challenged the City of Mechanicville to form teams and become “losers”. During the twelve-week program, 160 people rose to the challenge and as a result, the some Mechanicville residents are now 1,000 pounds lighter. Working with area businesses, restaurants, fitness centers, the media and Seton Health, people were encouraged to develop a healthy and active lifestyle. Aiding to the success of the participants was the team participation component, information provided by health care professionals and the many community sponsors. The library provided the space for people to meet and to hold the weekly informational programs necessary to build confidence and maintain a positive attitude.

*Living on the Edge*---from the Corinth Free Library, accepted by Becky Fasulo, Director at Corinth Free Library.

The library hosted a year-long series of ambitious programs called Living on the Edge. The logo and tagline, Life ...in the foothills ...on the banks of the Hudson...on the verge of the forest ...near the turning point of history ... set the theme for library programs in 2008. The programs highlighted the advantages of living in Corinth. Funding for the project came from a variety of resources, including Senator Farley, Library Services and Technology Act funds, SALS and the Friends of the Corinth Library. The programs included an art instruction workshop for children, an adult historical program, intergenerational concerts, a ventriloquist, a living history program, and a program on landscape archaeology. Due to the success of Living on the Edge, the library will continue to provide year long theme based quality programs for all the residents of the community.

Joyce Smith, Chair of the Personnel Committee, was asked to present the 2008 Library Trustee of the Year Awards. Mrs. Smith spoke briefly of the accomplishments of the entrants and stated that the Personnel Committee chose to honor:

*Richard “Dick” Merrill*---from the Crandall Public Library

Dick Merrill became a trustee of the Crandall Public Library in 2004 and served as President of the Board in 2006, just after the passage of the Library’s bond for the renovation and expansion of the Crandall Public Library building. Dick helped to steer the library board, staff and

community through the building process. During his tenure as Board President, he provided leadership during the design phase, the hiring of the construction manager, final design approval, the bidding process, demolition of parts of the building, helping to temporarily relocate the library in order to provide continued service to the community, assisting in raising \$6 million dollars for the project, working to pass a budget with a 20% increase while all the time keeping the lines of communication open with the press, the public, the staff and the board. Dick's advice was always "Keep it positive." For the Crandall Public Library, Dick Merrill was the right person at the right time for the Library renovation and expansion. Dick excelled in civility and he will always be a role model in our hearts for fairness, hard work and a job well done.

Christine McDonald, Director at the Crandall Public Library, accepted the Award for Mrs. Mary Merrill, who was unable to attend. Mr. Merrill died unexpectedly in March, and Mrs. Merrill appreciates the expressions of sympathy and concern sent by all. Mr. Merrill was also the President of SALS Board.

*Thomas Mellon---from Stillwater Free Library*

Tom Mellon has been a trustee at the Stillwater Free Library since 2001. He is currently serving as Treasurer and chair of the Buildings and Grounds Committee. The community of Stillwater has been home to Tom for his entire life and feels strongly that the community should have a library that is constant and professional. Tom maintains important contacts with local organizations including school board meetings and local municipal meetings and reaches out to many community members. Tom has guided the restoration of the 135 year old library building, and is the watchdog for fairness and policy at all board meetings. He ensures that the library remains as transparent as possible because he believes that library service is an important and vital aspect to community life.

Mrs. Smith then presented a Staff Award to Diane Robinson, Joint Automation Computer Systems Manager, for her 15 years of service. Also recognized, but not present, were Cindy Mirra, Inter-Library Loan/Delivery/Outreach for 25 years of service, and Chris Mundell, Joint Automation Systems Administrator, for 10 years of service.

Mrs. Smith announced the Election of Trustees.

All member libraries were notified of the search process for a trustee from Saratoga and Warren Counties, for a term specified in memos sent to each member library board president. An April 17<sup>th</sup> "Notice of Annual Business Meeting" informed every member library trustee of the Board Nominating Committee's choice of candidates.

The Board Nominating Committee offers the names of the following candidates, who have agreed to serve if nominated:

- For Saratoga County: Dr. Arnold Elman for a second five-year term to expire in 2014.
- For Warren County: Ms. Dale Nemer to complete the unexpired portion of Dick Merrill's term to expire in 2011.

Brief biographical information about these nominees was provided in the April 17<sup>th</sup> notice. Mrs. Smith asked if there were nominations from the floor. Hearing none, she instructed the secretary to cast one ballot each for the persons nominated by the Trustee Nominating Committee who are hereby elected by acclamation by the trustees of the member libraries of the Southern Adirondack Library System.

Mrs. Dallas was introduced and thanked everyone for attending and for all of the hard work over the past year for libraries. She asked if anyone had any questions for the Director or SALS Board.

Hear none, Dr. Elman introduced David Bendekovic, Vice President, Polaris Library Systems, who will speak about “*The Secret of Success: What World Class Libraries Know and Do.*”

Dr. Elman also wished to recognize Carol Sheffer, the new Director at the Women’s Round Lake Improvement Society Library in Round Lake, and who is also President of the Public Library Association. Everyone was thanked for coming and reminded to return their nametags on the way out.

Meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Bowen  
Recording Secretary