

Southern Adirondack Library System Annual Meeting

May 21, 2007

At Longfellows Restaurant, Saratoga Springs, New York

Minutes

The 49th Annual Meeting of the Southern Adirondack Library System was held on Monday, May 21, 2007 at the Longfellows Restaurant in Saratoga Springs, New York, and brought to order at 6:06 p.m. with Vice-President Julia Hoover presiding.

Ms. Hoover explained that the agenda for the meeting was being rearranged, and introduced Polly Alida Farrington to present her program *Library 2.0: Meeting Community Needs*. Polly is President of PA Farrington Associates, a consulting firm specializing in technology training, website development and project management, working with library systems in NY and CT. Recent classes have focused on the use of web 2.0 technologies in libraries. Before forming her own training and consulting firm in 1997, Polly was a librarian at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Polly has an undergraduate degree in archeology from the University of Buffalo, and an MLS from the State University of New York at Albany.

After dinner, the meeting was brought back to order at 7:47 p.m. Ms. Hoover asked SALS Board members present to stand and be recognized as they were introduced:

Arnie Elman—Saratoga County and Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library, Tonie Franz--Warren County, Dick Merrill---Warren County and Crandall Public Library in Glens Falls, Jim Mosher---Saratoga County, Richard Ring---Washington County and Cambridge Public Library, Joyce Smith---Warren County. Ms. Hoover represents Washington County.

SALS Trustees not present were: Cheryl Gold---Saratoga County, Julia Helms---Hamilton County, Meade Hutchins---Hamilton County and the Town of Indian Lake Public Library, Robert Jeffords---Washington County, and Jerold Pepper---Hamilton County.

Ms. Hoover announced that the Treasurer's Reports were on the table in the back; if you haven't already, please pick one up.

Ms. Hoover then welcomed member library trustees, and then gave some Interesting Statistics about tonight's meeting. (Copy attached to the Official Minutes)

Ms. Hoover again welcomed those special guests (as mentioned in the Interesting Statistics) Florence Harshe, SALS Founding Director, Shirley Needham, representing Assembly Minority Leader James Tedisco, and Alexander Gabriels, Supervisor from the

Town of Bolton, Warren County. Mr. Gabriels mother was on SALS Board several years ago. Mr. Gabriels addressed the group, complimenting everyone on what they are doing for the public, and encouraging them to continue.

SALS Staff present were introduced and recognized:

Elaine Baker---Assistant Director & Outreach
Nancy Bowen---Secretary/Receptionist
Sara Dallas---Director
Laura Dolan---JA/Applications Analyst
Jennifer Ferriss---Bibliographic Database Specialist
Mary Hanley---JA/Systems Services Specialist
Michele Largeteau---JA Project Manager
Jill Martz---Administrative Assistant/Financial Officer
Chris Mundell---JA/Systems Administrator
Diane Robinson---JA/Computer Systems Manager
Jason Thomson---JA/Web Specialist

Ms. Hoover recognized SALS Board Members for service:

Julia Helms---5 years---Hamilton County representative (1 term).
Robert Jeffords---5 years---Washington County representative (1 term).
Cheryl Gold---partial term to complete Allan Carter's term

Ms. Hoover announced the Election of Trustees to fill the vacancies for Hamilton, Saratoga and Washington County, and asked Joyce Smith, Chairperson of the Trustee Nominating Committee, to give the Committee's report.

Mrs. Smith thanked the trustees that served on the Trustee Nominating Committee with her Susan DeMarsh (Hamilton County), Saverio Carabis (Saratoga County), Betty-Jean Morehouse (Warren County), and Arlene Baker (Washington County). The Committee submits the following names for five year terms to expire in 2012:

Julia Helms, Hamilton County (second five year term)
Robert Jeffords, Washington County (second five year term)
Cheryl Gold, Saratoga County (first full term)

Mrs. Smith asked if there are nominations from the floor.

Hearing none, Mrs. Smith 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. Smith, as Chair of the Library Services Committee, was asked to present the Library Program of the Year Awards. Mrs. Smith briefly reviewed the nominated programs and spoke of the community involvement and creativity of each program. The Library Services Committee, comprised of Cheryl Gold, Julia Helms, Jerry Pepper, and herself, chose:

- ***Irish Voices in Story and Song*** from the Easton Library--- “Irish Voices in Story and Song,” a program of the Easton Library, was developed in partnership with the Easton Neighbor to Neighbor Organization, Easton Youth Commission, The Friends of the Easton Library, and representatives from the town government. The three-part program consisted of a storytelling workshop and two concerts. *Irish Voices* achieved the library’s goal of increasing the size and diversity of participants in community cultural events. On May 6, County Clare native and storyteller Bairbre McCarthy led local would-be multigenerational storytellers in a workshop that kindled story rich memories and an interest in collecting and recording stories of rural life in Easton. That evening, Bairbre, joined by musicians Frank Orsini and John Cromie performed in Burton Hall in the Irish folk tradition. A second concert was held the following Saturday featuring the McKrells, an internationally recognized group of musicians who blend high lonesome bluegrass with the poignancy of the Irish spirit. The two concerts resulted in a record attendance of 400 people. The partnerships involved in developing *Irish Voices* strengthened the library’s role as a trusted facilitator for the development of community and cultural events. The quality of the program, size and diversity of the audience resulted in the Easton Town Board budgeting a significant increase in their financial contribution towards Library programming for 2007. The program was funded, in part, by the Decentralization Program of the NYS Council on the Arts.
- ***Vintage Apron Exhibit*** from Long Lake Library---In August, 2006, The Long Lake Library hosted an exhibition of vintage aprons from the late 19th and 20th centuries, collected on temporary loan from town and seasonal residents. The exhibit was embellished with old cookbooks, collected memories, and reminiscences, kitchen and laundry tools, children’s kitchen toys and aprons, and other items including table linens and tea towels. Aprons conjure up a veritable smorgasbord of memories—of loved family members, of comfort food, of kitchens, of tantalizing aromas wafting through the air, family dinners, and of quieter times in our lives when life itself seemed less complicated. Aprons speak to us, if we only take the time to listen and find the wearer’s stories tightly woven into the humble fabrics; cotton, linen and the special occasion organdy. Even if the maker or wearer is no longer known to us, we can still marvel at the mystery—Who is this woman? Was she young, middle aged or elderly? Was this her favorite apron? Did she wear this apron while serving tea to guests at a restaurant? What food made the stain? Did she embroider birds because she loved their songs? Who taught her to create the incredible, decorative, stitching? All the little stories embedded within the bigger stories. Vintage aprons are a symbolic gift, tying our collective memories to the rich family histories of our past. The exhibit was developed in partnership with the local quilting group, Northern Needles. Reproduction aprons, sewn by Northern Needles, were auctioned at the exhibit. The proceeds were donated to the library. The program was funded, in part, by the Decentralization Program of the NYS Council on the Arts.

Mrs. Tonie Franz, as chair of the Personnel Committee, was asked to present the Staff Awards:

Nancy Bowen---Secretary/Receptionist---15 years
Michele Largeteau---Joint Automation Project Manager---15 years

Christine McDonald, Director at the Crandall Public Library, was asked to give a Central Library Report. (Copy attached to the Official Minutes).

Mrs. Sara Dallas, SALS Director, thanked everyone for helping develop the SALS Plan of Service. She said that the Plan targeted four service areas: Polaris, Resource Sharing and Delivery, Acquisitions, Cataloging, and Processing of Library Materials, and Continuing Education. Therefore, in partnership with the Public Library Association and Adirondack Community College, a series of continuing education courses designed to meet the needs of library managers will be offered. The courses are practical rather than theoretical and include interactive exercises and group work. Participants who complete seven courses will receive a Certificate in Public Library Administration. Two courses will be offered per academic year, beginning in September, 2007. The SALS Board approved one scholarship per library to attend the full series.

As part of SALS Plan of Service, a survey will be sent out electronically to help us evaluate and measure what has been done to date. Please respond to this survey; we need to know how we are doing, and what your concerns are.

There will be two Construction Grants again this year.

Please also take a moment to complete the Lifelong Access Survey for Library Trustees found on all your tables.

The audience was asked if there were any questions for the Board or the Director.

Hearing none, Ms. Hoover declared the meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Bowen
Recording Secretary