

**SOUTHERN ADIRONDACK LIBRARY SYSTEM
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**ANNUAL MEETING
May 16, 2022 at 7 p.m.
Held virtually via Zoom**

MINUTES

The 64th Annual Meeting of the Southern Adirondack Library System was held on Monday, May 16, 2022 online via Zoom and brought to order at 7:01 p.m. with SALS Board Trustee, Jordan Hornstein presiding.

Mr. Hornstein welcomed the SALS Board of trustees. Those in attendance were Sue Beck (Warren County/Inlet Library), Linda Borden (Washington County/ Easton Library), Elaine Cowin (Warren County/Richards Library), Carol Kuhr (Washington County), Janet Lindner (Saratoga County/Saratoga Springs Public Library), Bob Odess (Washington County/Cambridge Public Library). Nancy Seifts (Hamilton County/Town of Lake Pleasant Public Library), Margaret Shapiro (Hamilton County/Crandall Public Library), Barbara Taylor (Warren County), and Russell Wise (Saratoga County/Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library). SALS trustee not present: Christine Connell (Saratoga County/Waterford Public Library)

Mr. Hornstein announced that the Agenda, along with the 2021 Statistical Summary and Year in Review Highlights documents were provided via email. This information is also available on the SALS website: www.sals.edu.

The Annual SALS Treasurer's Report can be found on page 23 of the Statistical Summary, and the Central Library Report from Kathy Naftaly, Director at Crandall Public Library can be found on page 24.

Mr. Hornstein welcomed member library trustees and asked Janet Lindner to take the Roll Call of member libraries and to determine the number of trustees at the meeting. Fifty-six representatives from nineteen member libraries out of thirty-four were represented.

Ballston Spa Public Library
Corinth Free Library
Fort Edward Free Library
Pember Library – Granville
Round Lake Library
Schuylerville Public Library
Whitehall Free Library

Town of Ballston Community Library
Clifton Park/Halfmoon Public Library
Galway Public Library
Hudson Falls Free Library
Saratoga Springs Public Library
Town of Lake Pleasant Public Library

Cambridge Public Library
Easton Library
Crandall Public Library
Mechanicville Dist Public Library
Stillwater Free Library
Waterford Public Library

Ms. Borden recognized JA staff member Jill Ryder, who this year celebrates fifteen years on-staff with SALS and Michelle Largeteau, who this year celebrates thirty years on-staff with SALS.

Mr. Hornstein announced the Election of Trustees to fill the vacancy for Washington and Hamilton Counties. All member libraries were notified of the search process for trustees from Washington and Hamilton Counties for a term specified in memos sent to each member library board president. The "Notice of Annual Business meeting" sent April 15th informed every member library trustee of the candidates. The following candidates have agreed to serve, if nominated, a term expiring in May 2027:

- For Washington County: Laura Goodman, for her first five-year term.
- For Hamilton County: Nancy Seifts, for her second five-year term.

Brief biographical information about these nominees was provided in the April 15th notice.

Mr. Hornstein asked if there were other nominations from the floor. Seeing no nominations Mr. Hornstein instructed the secretary to cast one ballot for the people nominated by the Trustee Nominating Committee who is hereby elected by acclamation by the trustees of the member libraries of the Southern Adirondack Library System.

Mr. Hornstein presented a Resolution of Appreciation to Mr. Robert Odess: I would like to recognize Mr. Robert "Bob" Odess, who this year is completing his second term and retiring from the Board of Trustees.

Resolution of Appreciation for Robert "Bob" Odess

Whereas, The Board of Trustees of the Southern Adirondack Library System is honoring Robert Odess upon his retirement as Board Member of ten years; and

Whereas, Mr. Odess served in leadership roles on numerous committees and standing committees including Audit & Finance, Library Services, Central Library Aid & Services and County Aid Coordinators representing Washington County; and

Whereas, Mr. Odess was always supportive of SALS services and commitments to its membership; and

Whereas, Mr. Odess was unstinting in devoting his time and in applying his experience, wisdom, and intelligence for improved public library services in the SALS service area; and

Whereas, it is fitting that we recognize Mr. Odess' dedicated years of service to the Board of Trustees, members and staff of the Southern Adirondack Library System

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that the Trustees, Membership and Staff of the Southern Adirondack Library System pause to recognize and applaud Mr. Odess' commitment, integrity, vision and hard work; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that a copy of the Resolution of Appreciation be presented to Robert "Bob" Odess along with our best wishes for a happy retirement.

Mr. Hornstein introduced Sara Dallas, SALS Director.

Mrs. Dallas began her remarks noting that "Everyone in this room can agree that libraries are essential" describes 2021. We all have invested a lot of time to libraries and library services over the past year.

To all of the trustees here tonight – Kudos. 2021 has been a difficult year – transitioning back to providing face-to-face service and the challenges of "reopening".

To all of the library staff and volunteers – congratulations navigating the trials of reinstating library services to augment your virtual services. Unfortunately, there is no book entitled The beginners guide to navigating library services through a pandemic. But we worked together and helped each other get through the worst times.

Many of you know that I believe the SALS and Joint Automation staffs are the most important SALS resource. They are dedicated to providing the best service and assistance to all member library staff and trustees.

Thanks to the SALS and JA staffs for your dedication and accomplishments.

We saw some turnover in staff in 2020-2021 – and I wish Sharon Shyne, Mary Hanley, Cindy Mirra and Dianne Winter much success in their new adventures.

We welcomed Jim Baker, Johanna Hall, Colleen Smith and Pamela DelSignore to our staff. Many of you have met them and know they are smart, caring and talented.

The SALS Board of Trustees – you are our champions and advocates. The SALS Board guided us through all of the challenges thrown at us, set our policy and approved our member driven Plan of Service.

Our board president, Jordan Hornstein will be stepping down as President - Thank you, Jordan

Due to the outstanding work being done by our libraries, we are supported by our elected officials.

The increase in state aid will allow SALS to continue to provide support to the member libraries. The increased state aid for library construction will help improve library buildings.

We know Libraries are Essential

“Studies have shown that libraries are among the most trusted institutions in our country.

Libraries took a leading role in providing accurate information to communities during the pandemic.

ALA declared that universal access to broadband is a fundamental human right, and our libraries provided 24/7 internet access to people logging on outside their buildings, even when the building was closed.

Many of our libraries extended their Wi-Fi signals beyond the parking lots – to parks and community centers to enable library users access the network.

We took part in strong advocacy efforts locally, statewide and nationally which led to federal and state funding to improve rural area access to faster bandwidth.

Our libraries and SALS offer formal or informal digital literacy programming.

Many of our libraries have dedicated digital literacy and technology programs and training staff.

Our libraries are providing classes or informational help related to coding, computer programming, robotics, or 3D printing.

And each and every one of you are Building Community by:

- Purchasing Books that reach across boundaries and build connections between readers.
- Encouraging reading books that extend beyond our own experiences to expand our worldview.

ALA President Patty Wong wrote:

“Diverse books create a better lens through which all children can see themselves in library collections”

I firmly believe:

- Censorship divides us and creates barriers.

That brings me to introduce our evenings presenter – Deborah Caldwell Stone.

Deborah is Director of the Office for Intellectual Freedom. She also serves as executive director for the Freedom to Read Foundation, an allied organization that participates in freedom of speech and freedom of the press litigation.

Deborah works closely with librarians, teachers, and library trustees on a wide range of intellectual freedom issues, including censorship of library resources, book challenges, internet filtering, and meeting room policies.

She is usually quoted in newspapers, radio, television as both an expert and advocate for intellectual freedom and censorship.

Mrs. Dallas closed by thanking the SALS board for supporting the SALS and JA staff during the course of the year.

Mrs. Dallas introduced Debra from Chicago.

Ms. Caldwell-Stone presented on ALA support available to libraries and on the importance of essential, well-crafted, written policies that support intellectual freedom and help our libraries resist censorship.

Mrs. Dallas and Mr. Hornstein invited Ms. Caldwell-Stone to address comments and questions in the chat and Ms. Caldwell-Stone responded to each.

Mr. Hornstein thanked everyone for attending and said good evening.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela DelSignore

SALS - System Services Support Assistant