

Southern Adirondack Library System
Annual Meeting

May 19, 2008
At the Holiday Inn, Saratoga Springs, New York

Minutes

The 50th Anniversary Annual Meeting of the Southern Adirondack Library System was held on Monday, May 19, 2008 at the Holiday Inn in Saratoga Springs, New York, and brought to order at 7:03 p.m. with President Bob Jeffords presiding.

Mr. Jeffords welcomed all those present and 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, Julia Helms---Hamilton County, Judy Hoover---Washington County and Easton Library, Paul Mays---Washington County, Dick Merrill---Warren County and Crandall Public Library, Joyce Smith---Warren County. Mr. Jeffords represents Washington County.

SALS Trustees not present were: Cheryl Gold---Saratoga County, Meade Hutchins---Hamilton County, Jim Mosher---Saratoga County, and Jerry Pepper---Hamilton County.

Mr. Jeffords noted that the 2007 Treasurer's Report, 2007 SALS Highlights, and 2008-2009 Continuing Education Workshops, Events & Programs Calendar were distributed to each table. More copies are available on the front table.

Mr. Jeffords then welcomed member library trustees, and asked SALS retirees, and former SALS board members to stand and be recognized.

Mr. Jeffords welcomed SALS staff present, and asked that they stand and be recognized:

Elaine Baker---Assistant Director & Outreach
Nancy Bowen---Secretary/Receptionist
Sara Dallas---SALS Director
Laura Dolan---JA/Applications Analyst
Candyce Donovan---Acquisitions/Technical Services
Jennifer Ferriss---Bibliographic Database Specialist
Michele Largeteau---JA Project Manager
Jill Martz---Administration & Finance Manager
Chris Mundell---JA/Systems Administrator
Diane Robinson---JA/Computer Systems Manager
Jill Ryder---General Services Librarian
Jason Thomson---JA/Web Specialist

and guests:

Florence Harshé---SALS Founding Director

Mike O'Connor---SALS Former Director
Miriam Meier---SALS Former Director

Michael Mansion---representing Senator Hugh Farley
Mike Miller---representing Assemblyman James Tedisco

Mr. Jeffords asked Mssrs. Mansion and Miller if they would like to say a few words. Mssrs. Mansion and Miller presented SALS with a joint resolution honoring SALS on the Anniversary of continuous service (copy attached to the Official Minutes).

Mr. Jeffords recognized SALS board members for service:

Meade Hutchins---10 years---Hamilton County representative (2 terms)
Tonie Franz---7 years---Warren County representative (1 full term and a partial term)
Paul Mays---elected in October 2007 to complete Richard Ring's term---Washington County

SALS Staff present recognized for service:

Candye Donovan---10 years---Acquisitions

Staff not present:

Linda DeMayo---10 years---Acquisitions
Mary Hanley---10 years---JA/Computer Services System Specialist
Bill Rougier---10 years---Custodian/Maintenance

Mr. Jeffords then announced that the business meeting would pause for dinner.

After dinner, Mr. Jeffords announced the Election of Trustees to fill vacancies for Hamilton, Warren and Washington Counties and since Jim Mosher, Chair of the Trustee Nominating Committee was unable to be present at this meeting, he would give the report.

The Trustee Nominating Committee consisted of Dick Lasher of the Town of Inlet Public Library, representing Hamilton County, Jack Ditch of the Schuylerville Public Library, representing Saratoga County, John Plantier of the Hadley-Luzerne Public Library, representing Warren County, and Clem Crowe of the Cambridge Public Library, representing Washington County. An April 12th "Notice of Annual Business Meeting" informed every member library trustee of the Trustee Nominating Committee's choice of candidates. Mr. Jeffords thanked the Trustee Nominating Committee for their work and submitted the following names for five year terms to expire in 2013:

Hamilton County---Russell DeFonce
Warren County---Sandi Payne
Washington County---Paul K. Mays

Brief biographical information about these nominees was provided in the April 12th notice. Mr. Jeffords asked if there were any nominations from the floor.

Hearing none, Mr. Jeffords 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. Julia Helms, member of the Library Services Committee, was asked to present the Library Program of the Year Awards. Mrs. Helms briefly reviewed the winning programs and spoke of the community involvement and creativity of the programs. The Library Services Committee chose:

Only the Message Mattered from the Greenwich Free Library

To raise awareness of local history, the Greenwich Free Library commissioned local musician/songwriter/performer Bob Warren to compose a song cycle based on Susan B. Anthony's formative years living in Battenville in the 1820s until the 1840s. The songs and narratives in the work he created, *Only the Message Mattered*, are based on materials held in the library's Gill Room historical collection. The songs reveal how her every-day life in the small hamlet of Battenville shaped her thoughts and the eventual path she would follow as a crusader for the rights of women.

On September 15, 2007, the song cycle was performed as part of a weekend of events, *Steal Away to Freedom V*, sponsored by the NorthStar Historical Project, Greenwich Free Library, Greenwich Historical Association, Greenwich Central School, and Hubbard Hall. The performance was held in Hubbard Hall in Cambridge, NY, the site of one of Susan B. Anthony's speeches. Singers at the performance (Brittany Rivers, Barbara Skiff, Audrey Fischer, Rebecca Rogers, Mariah Smith, and Victoria Hitchcock) represented Susan, members of her family and colleagues. Accompanists were Monica Roach on cello and Bob Warren on piano. Over 90 persons attended the event and a lively discussion followed the performance. The event was photographed by Clifford Oliver Mealy.

Strengthening Families from the Saratoga Springs Public Library

The parenting program, *Strengthening Families*, was presented at the Saratoga Springs Public Library in the fall of 2007. The program is an innovative community partnership developed between Laura Clark, Parenting Librarian, and Cathy Geniti of the Saratoga Center for the Family. This program complements the library's many other parenting programs. It serves the needs of a diverse cross-generational audience—parents/caregivers and their children ages 10-14 years. The eight-week program helps parents show love and set limits. It helps youth develop skills in handling peer pressure and building a positive future. It helps families communicate and have fun together. During the first hour of each session, parents and youth meet separately. In the second hour they come together to share what they've learned and enjoy a light meal. Demand for participation has been so strong the library will offer another session in the spring of 2008. This partnership has truly made a difference to families who participated in this nurturing program.

Miss Judy Hoover, as Chair of the Personnel Committee, was asked to present the Library Trustee of the Year Awards:

Cynthia Fosberry from the Hadley-Luzerne Public Library

In recognition of her hard work, dedication and endless contributions in the name of the Library. Cynthia's involvement with the library spans three decades. As a member of the volunteer committee formed to establish a library in Lake Luzerne, Cynthia was instrumental in the library achieving its

provisional charter in 1969. She helped open the library to the community, serving as librarian from 1970-1971. Through her involvement, both officially and informally, she helped the library obtain its Absolute Charter, install a handicap ramp, expand its collections, and expand and renovate the library building. Since 1995 Cynthia has been an active member of the board of Trustees, holding the offices of Secretary, Vice-President, and, from 2001-2005, President. The Board nominated Cynthia because she is “a truly remarkable community-spirited, giving person.”

Joseph E. Mastrianni from the Bolton Free Library

In recognition of and appreciation for his transformative leadership, professionalism and vision. Bolton Free Library dedicated its 2008-2018 Plan of Service to Joseph E. Mastrianni. The library was his first love, and through his vision, the library offers the community “education, motivation, humor, courage, significance, friendship, the breadth of human experience.” His accomplishments include the 24/7 WiFi Program, the creation of a Children’s Corner, the development of a Plan of Service to serve as a strategic roadmap for the next 10 years, a parking and landscaping plan, and the expansion of programs and services through the Friends of the Library. His son Jim calls Joe “Dynamic...a remarkably kind, generous and optimistic man whose favorite expressions were ‘take the high road’ and ‘aren’t we lucky.’” The Bolton Library says, “He and his talents took that road for us; as a result of his leadership, we are lucky.” In memory of his outstanding service, this award is presented posthumously to his family.

Miss Hoover then presented a Staff Award to Candyce Donovan, Acquisitions, for her 10 years of service.

Annette Parrott from the Whitehall Free Library was asked to come to the podium. Ms. Parrott then presented a Certificate of Appreciation from Whitehall Free Library to Frank Kingsley for his 40 years of service.

Mr. Jeffords asked Christine McDonald, Director at Crandall Public Library, for the Central Library Report. Ms. McDonald presented a Resolution of Congratulations to Mr. Jeffords on the occasion of SALS 50th Anniversary, then gave the Central Library Report (copies attached to the Official Minutes).

Mrs. Sara Dallas, SALS Director, thanked everyone for joining SALS to celebrate our 50th Anniversary. SALS was the first Public Library System in New York State! And to celebrate, we are celebrating the book and reading. As a gift of celebration to our member libraries, Storyteller programs Notice our new logo; it is up for an award. There are pens and sticky note pads on the tables so you can take notes during Nancy Pearl’s speech. Please take a look at our highlights from 2007, and the list of Continuing Education Workshops and Programs. We hope you can join us.

Mr. Jeffords asked the audience if there were any questions for the Board or Director. Hearing none, Mr. Jeffords introduced Nancy Pearl who will speak about “The Pleasures and Perils of a Life of Reading.” Mrs. Pearl is a best selling author, book reviewer, and model for a librarian action figure. The New York Times calls Nancy the talk of librarian circles, and her appearances at libraries and bookstores draw standing room only crowds. She is the former Executive Director of the Washington Center for the Book at the Seattle Public Library and can be heard on WAMC Roundtable at 11 a.m. This is your opportunity to meet Nancy and to ask your questions about books, reading recommendations, and her career as a lifelong book lover. Mrs. Pearl-----

Mr. Jeffords thanked everyone for coming and joining in celebrating SALS 50th Anniversary. He said that this would be his last public function as SALS Board President, and thanked Sara Dallas, Jill Martz, Nancy Bowen, and the rest of SALS Board for helping to make his job easier. He hoped people enjoyed themselves, and asked that nametags be returned on the way out.

Meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.