

April 26, 2011

Dear Mid-Hudson Library Board of Trustees,

I am writing this letter to express my interest in serving on the Board of Trustees for the Mid-Hudson Library System.

I am a current resident of Philmont, NY in Columbia County, having lived here from birth until I graduated from college (1971 – 1993) and then relocating back to the area to be closer to family and friends (2005 – Present) with my wife and two young children.

Libraries have always played a vital role in my life and the communities where I've lived. I have served on the Philmont Public Library Board of Trustees since 2006 and as Library Board President for the past 3 years. In 2007, I was recognized as a Trustee Success Story by the Mid-Hudson Library System for my contributions to the Philmont Public Library. During my tenure as trustee and library volunteer we have increased our circulation and attendance at programs, enhanced our technology and public access computers, and completed construction on an addition to our library that is heavily utilized for library and community programs.

During these tumultuous economic times, libraries are being challenged with dwindling funding at the state and local level and reduced donations, all while demands from the public for our services have increased. The emerging libraries will need to get more creative in how we fund our operations and continue to innovate and meet the needs of our communities. As a Mid-Hudson Library Board member, I feel I can make significant contributions towards advocating for funding of library services and continuing to improve library performance through cost-cutting, intelligent spending and sharing of services; using every dollar to its best ability.

Thank you for considering me as an appointee to the Mid-Hudson Library Board of Trustees. I look forward to working with the Board, local community leaders, businesses, and fellow patrons to further the role of libraries in our community.

Sincerely,

Matthew Perry