

**MID-HUDSON LIBRARY SYSTEM
MINUTES
of the
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Friday, October 27, 2017**

President von Bergen called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M., in the Henry A. Wallace Center of the FDR Presidential Library and Home, Hyde Park, New York.

1. ROLL CALL AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Trustees Present: Stuart Auchincloss, John Bickford, Lisa Baker Brill, Robert Culp, Kenneth Goldberg, Michele Ment, Barry Ramage, Lynne Ridgeway, Richard Swierat, Camilla W. von Bergen

Trustees Absent: John Dax (e), Sharon Davis (e), Debra Klein (e), Mary Linda Todd (e), Mark Wilson (e)

Staff Present: Merribeth Advocate, Joan Kay, Tom Sloan, Tara Stohr, Linda Vittone, Peggy Winn

Others Present: *List Attached to File*

2. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

At 9:00 AM, President von Bergen convened the 58th Annual Membership Meeting of the Board of Trustees, and introduced Kevin Thomas, Events Coordinator, at the Roosevelt site, who welcomed attendees and encouraged them to visit the Presidential Library and Museum's special exhibition, "*Images of Internment: The incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II*".

President opens meeting

3. INTRODUCTION OF MHLS BOARD MEMBERS AND LIAISONS

President von Bergen introduced System Board representatives and 2017 Board Liaisons, and turned the meeting over to Mr. Sloan who introduced staff, library trustees, library directors and special guests.

Introductions

LEGISLATORS RECOGNIZED

Mr. Sloan stressed the important role our elected state legislators play in advocating for funding for MHLS and all public library systems, state aid to public libraries, and public library construction projects. He thanked legislators for the increase in funding for NYS Construction Grant Projects and for Special Legislative Grants for member libraries. Senator Sue Serino (*Senate District 41*) was introduced and invited to address the audience.

Legislators recognized

Senator Serino spoke briefly of her appreciation for libraries and recognized the important role libraries play in communities; stated that the distribution of \$200,000 in Bullet Aid to libraries in the Senate District 41 was a top priority

Senator Serino speaks

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for her; and, pledged to continue to advocate for increased funding to support library services.

4. ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS

President von Bergen introduced Lisa Baker Brill, Chair of the Nominations and Elections Committee, who conducted the election of four trustees to the MHLS Board. *Elections of trustees*

From Dutchess County:

Rajene Hardman was nominated for a first five-year term by Stephanie Harrison, Director of the Millbrook Public Library/Chair Dutchess County Directors Association, and seconded by Gloria Goverman, Director of the East Fishkill Public Library. *Dutchess candidate nominated*

From Putnam County:

Robert Culp was nominated for a four-year term by Michele Capozzella, Director of the Mahopac Library/Chair Putnam County Directors Association, and seconded by Patti Haar, Director of the Patterson Library. *Putnam candidates nominated*

Ms. Priscilla Goldfarb (*not in attendance*) was nominated for a five-year term by Michele Capozzella, Chair Putnam County Directors Association, and seconded by Jen McCreery, Director of the Desmond Fish Library.

From Ulster County:

Lynne Ridgeway was nominated for a second five-year term by Margie Menard, Director of the Kingston Library/Chair of the Ulster County Directors Association, and seconded by John Georghiou, Director of the Plattekill Library. *Ulster candidate nominated*

Ms. Brill welcomed the candidates, asked them to introduce themselves and invited them to address the audience briefly regarding their qualifications and interest in serving as Mid-Hudson trustees. *Candidates speak*

There being no additional candidates nominated, Ms. Brill, Chair of the Nominations and Elections Committee, declared the election of Rajene Hardeman for a 5-year term, Robert Culp for a 4-year term, Priscilla Goldfarb for a 5-year term, and Lynne Ridgeway for a 5-year term, commencing January 1, 2018. *Four candidates elected*

5. REPORT OF THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Board President, von Bergen, summarized issues essential to System operations that have been addressed by the MHLS Board in 2017 (*report appended to file*), and thanked and recognized library trustees and System staff for helping to insure the well-being of the System and its member libraries. *President's report presented*

LEGISLATOR SPEAKS

Upon the arrival of Assemblymember Didi Barrett, Mr. Sloan welcomed her to the meeting and invited her to address the audience. Assemblymember *Assemblymember Barrett speaks*

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Barrett (*Assembly District 106*), informed the audience that her appointment as the new Chair of the New York Assembly’s Committee on Libraries and Technology will afford her an excellent opportunity to advocate and lobby on behalf of libraries; thanked MHLS for continuing to work collaboratively with herself and her staff on the “Women’s History Project; and, emphasized that libraries are an integral part of a communities infrastructure and provide invaluable services to their patrons.

6. REPORT OF BOARD TREASURER

Board Treasurer, Ramage, reported on the success of the audit of the MHLS’ 2016 financial statements, performed by RBT, C.P.A.s, LLP, Certified Public Accountants, and briefly highlighted the System’s total revenues and expenses (*report appended to file*).

Treasurer’s report presented

7. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Executive Director gave a Power Point review of System services highlighting staff positions in the areas of: Delivery; Professional Development and Continuing Education; and, Consulting and Development (*appended to file*). System staff was recognized for their dedication and service and the member libraries for their ongoing cooperative efforts. An At-a-Glance report providing service data, and a crossword puzzle on famous library quotes were provided to attendees as a program insert.

E.D. report presented

8. SPOTLIGHT PANEL ON CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Ms. Advocate, Assistant Director, facilitated a panel discussion on libraries supporting civic engagement. Thea Schoep, Director Claverack Library, Julie Span, Director Blodgett Memorial Library (Fishkill), and Margie Menard, Director Kingston Library, shared information about the civic engagement projects initiated by their libraries including voter registration drives, community partnerships that support civic responsibility, and promoting the library as an open and nonpartisan forum. The Directors described the keys to the success of their projects and the importance of continuing to foster civic engagement activities. A brief question and answer period followed.

Civic engagement panel

9. ADJOURNMENT OF ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

At 10:20 a.m., President von Bergen adjourned the Business portion of the 58th Annual Membership Meeting.

Business meeting closed

10. KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Mr. Sloan introduced Paul Grondahl, Director, New York State Writers Institute at the University at Albany. Mr. Grondahl’s presentation, titled “***News Literacy, Fake News and the Job of an Informed Citizenry***” addressed the need for the public to discern fact from fiction when dealing with information disseminated in today’s climate of unvetted social media, and the financial problems faced by the news industry and professional journalists. Librarians and libraries were recognized as being essential to having a well-informed citizenry. A lively question and answer session followed the presentation.

Keynote address presented

