

# Nominations & Elections Committee

September 12, 2022 | 10:00am

## 1. Roll Call

- ✓ Mark Wilson, Chair (C)
- ✓ Rebekkah Smith Aldrich (Staff Liaison)
- Kenneth Goldberg (U)
- ✓ Priscilla Goldfarb (P)
- ✓ Debra Klein (G)
- ✓ Barry Ramage (D)

## 2. Update on Board Election

- a. Reference: [Board Election Timeline and Process](#)
- b. 2023 Candidates (bios attached):
  - i. DUTCHESS: Rajene Hardeman
  - ii. PUTNAM: George Joiner
  - iii. ULSTER: Heather Blakely

## 3. Identify Slate of 2023 Board Officers

- a. Reference: [2021 Timeline and Procedures](#)
- b. Proposed Slate of 2023 Officers:
  - i. President: Barry Ramage (D)
  - ii. Vice President: Rajene Hardeman (D)
  - iii. Treasurer: Ric Sweirat (D)
  - iv. Secretary: Stuart Auchincloss (U)
  - v. Member-at-Large (in lieu of an immediate past president): Jill Leinung (C)

## 4. Other

- a. The Committee discussed future best practices that the incoming board president may want to consider including building on the new Role of the Treasurer description and creating similar documents for the role of the president, vice president, and secretary; creating a “Board Buddy” process that connects new trustees with more experienced trustees on the board; and naming an assistant treasurer from the Finance Committee to help grow confidence among trustees to take on the treasurer role in the future.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45am.

*Committee Charge:* Presents, at the September meeting, a slate of officers for the following year's board of trustees. The officers are elected at the December meeting. The Chair of this committee will also prepare and conduct the election of trustees at the annual meeting. The committee upholds the MHLS core values of equity, diversity, and inclusion in its work. The committee is preferably comprised of a representative from each county.

# 2022 Board Election | Candidate Bios

## Dutchess County: Rajene Hardman

*Ms. Hardman has been unanimously nominated by the Dutchess County Directors Association for a second five-year term (2023-2027)*

Rajene Hardman, MSLIS is a current trustee for the Mid-Hudson Library System and has served as a former trustee for the Howland Public Library. In addition, Rajene is a board member of Wikimedia New York City, and current chair of the Wikipedia and Library Users Group. She also volunteers for the Metropolitan Museum of Art Nolen Library. Her e-bulletin column, "Libraries in Motion" appears bi-monthly for NYLA Voice, the official publication of the New York Library Association. Rajene is a committed community advocate with experience serving environmental organizations, Mozilla Foundation and Tactical Technology Collective, National Alliance on Mental Illness, and numerous library associations, both at the local level and across the globe. She is founding director of DataCrafters LLC, a librarian's consultancy.

## Ulster County: Heather Blakely

*Ms. Blakely has been unanimously nominated by the Ulster County Library Association to serve a five-year term (2023-2027)*

Heather Blakely is currently the treasurer of Hurley Library. She grew up in Kinderhook NY, graduating from Ichabod Crane. She received a BS in Business Economics from SUNY Oneonta and soon moved to Hurley. She lives with her husband Dave who grew up in Hurley and daughter Paige, who is attending SUNY Binghamton.

## Putnam County: George Joiner

*Mr. Joiner has been unanimously nominated by the Putnam County Library Association to serve a five-year term (2023-2027)*

George Joiner was born and raised in the Bronx, graduating from Fordham (AB in Economics) and Wharton (MBA, Industrial Management/Operations Research). Mr. Joiner has worked for IBM, AT&T-IS, HP and Nextel. In the late 90s he pivoted from large corporations to the "dot com" world where he spent the remainder of his career in leadership positions with three small start-ups. Mr. Joiner served on the Ossining School Board for six years, three of which were as board president, and helped create and implement the "Ossining Plan" which virtually eliminated de facto segregation in the Ossining schools. He twice was elected to the Ossining Village Board and served as Deputy Mayor for two years in addition to service on the Village Zoning Board of Appeals, the Village Planning board and the Town soccer, baseball and basketball boards. Lastly, he was an adjunct professor teaching business and economics at St. Francis College in Brooklyn, The Interboro Institute in Manhattan, and Mercy College in Dobbs Ferry. In retirement, Mr. Joiner has been active in SCORE, a national 501c3 that provides free, confidential business mentoring to small businesses, not for profits, and entrepreneurs.