

MID-HUDSON LIBRARY SYSTEM
MINUTES of the ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Friday, October 25, 2019

President Wilson called the meeting to order at 9:15 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, Lisa Baker Brill, Robert Culp, Kenneth Goldberg, Priscilla Goldfarb, Rajene Hardeman, Michele Ment, Barry Ramage, Lynne Ridgeway, Janet Schnitzer, Richard Swierat, Mark Wilson

Trustees Absent:

Sharon Davis (e), Debra Klein (e), Mary Linda Todd (e)

Staff Present:

Rebekkah Aldrich, Isaac Barbee, Casey Conlin, Kerstin Cruger, Gerry Formby, Joan Kay, Tom O'Connell, Laurie Shedrick, Tara Stohr, Linda Vittone, Peggy Winn

Others Present:

List Attached to File

2. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

At 9:15 AM, President Wilson convened the 60th Annual Membership Meeting of the Board of Trustees, and introduced Jeff Urban, Education Specialist at the Franklin Delano Roosevelt site, who welcomed attendees, gave a brief history of the facility, and encouraged guests to tour the grounds and visit the FDR Library and Museum's exhibit FDR and Churchill's "Mighty Endeavor".

President opens meeting

3. INTRODUCTION OF MHLS BOARD MEMBERS AND LIAISONS

President Wilson introduced System Board representatives, 2019 Board Liaisons, and Chairs of System Advisory Committees, and turned the meeting over to Ms. Aldrich who introduced staff, library trustees, library directors and special guests.

Introductions

System's Legislators Recognized

Ms. Smith Aldrich 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, and thanked legislators for the increase in funding for NYS Construction Grant Projects and for Special Legislative Grants for member libraries.

Legislators recognized

Lydia Biskup, Aide to Senator Serino, Speaks

Lydia Biskup, Aide to Senator Sue Serino (*Senate District 41*), was introduced and invited to address the audience. Ms. Biskup spoke on behalf of Senator Serino who was unable to remain at the meeting and: congratulated Ms. Aldrich on the completion of her first year as MHLS Executive Director; recognized the MHLS System for its long history of outstanding service and purposeful growth; presented Ms. Aldrich with two New York State Proclamations, one recognizing the MHLS System's 60th Anniversary and another on attainment of Green Business Certification.

Message from Senator Serino

4. ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS

President Wilson introduced Lisa Baker Brill, Chair of the Nominations and Elections Committee, who conducted the election of three trustees to the MHLS Board.

Elections of trustees

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From Columbia County:

Mark Wilson was nominated for a second five-year term by AnnaLee Dragon, Director of the Kinderhook Library/Chair Columbia County Directors Association, and seconded by Julie DeLisle, Director of the Chatham Public Library.

*Columbia
candidate
nominated*

From Dutchess County:

Richard Swierat was nominated for a second five-year term by Dawn Jardine, Director of the Red Hook Public Library/Chair of the Dutchess County Directors Association and seconded by Mary DeBellis, Director of the LaGrange Library.

*Dutchess
candidate
nominated*

From Greene County:

Mary Linda Todd was nominated for a first five-year term by Debra Kamecke, Director of the Cairo Public Library/Chair of the Greene County Directors Association, and seconded by Sue Ray, Director of the Catskill Public Library.

*Greene
candidate
nominated*

Ms. Brill welcomed the candidates, asked them to introduce themselves, and invited them to address the audience briefly regarding their 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 Mark Wilson for a 5-year term, Richard Swierat for a 5-year term, and Mary Linda Todd for a 5-year term, commencing January 1, 2020.

*Three
candidates
elected*

5. REPORT OF BOARD TREASURER

Board Treasurer, Ramage, reported on the fiscal standing and funding sources of the MHLS and the success of the audit of the MHLS' 2018 financial statements, performed by RBT, C.P.A.s, LLP, Certified Public Accountants (*report appended to file*).

*Treasurer's
report
presented*

6. REPORT OF THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Board President, Wilson, summarized issues essential to System operations that have been addressed by the MHLS Board in 2019 (*report appended to file*), and thanked and recognized library trustees and System staff for their ongoing outreach and advocacy efforts vital to the well-being of the System and its member libraries. He also recognized the work of Ms. Smith Aldrich during her first year as MHLS Executive Director by reading testimonials from library directors supporting her efforts.

*President's
report
presented*

7. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Executive Director, Aldrich's report included:

- Highlights of the System's 2019 challenges and successes in the areas of: delivery services, technology (ILS), library sustainability efforts, staff re-organization – including onboarding of new personnel, and launching of the System's Sustainability Initiative.
- A brief overview of "What's Next – Future Goals of the MHLS," including the planning and development of a new 5-year Plan of Service with input from all System stakeholders.
- The presentation of Staff Service awards to Isaac Barbee for 10 years of service and Thomas O'Connell for 5 years of service

*E.D. report
presented*

Outstanding Achievement Awards

Executive Director, Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, presented **Outstanding Achievement Awards** to the directors and board presidents of two member libraries: **Kinderhook Memorial Library - Grand Opening** and the **Stanford Free Library – Grand Opening**. Representatives of each library accepted

*Achievement
Awards
presented*

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their awards, spoke briefly about the planning and completion of their library’s construction projects, and thanked System staff for their invaluable assistance throughout the process.

Spotlight Awards: The Great Give Back

Ms. Aldrich introduced The Spotlight Award winners, those member libraries that signed on for the pilot year of The Great Give Back. These libraries have brought local residents together for a common cause and have proven to be libraries that are “ahead of the curve” in advancing library science and service to meet the changing needs of their communities. Information on events hosted by over half of the System’s libraries through The Great Give Back program can be accessed at (<https://midhudson.org/great-give-back-events>).

Spotlight Award certificates presented

Assemblymember Barrett Speaks

Assemblymember Didi Barrett, joined the meeting already in session, and was introduced by Ms. Aldrich and invited to address the audience. Assemblymember Barrett (*Assembly District 106*): congratulated Ms. Aldrich on completion of her first year as Executive Director and for spearheading the System’s outstanding sustainability initiative; reported that she has been appointed as the first woman Chair of the Committee on Veteran’s Affairs and will seek opportunities to partner with libraries to promote the committee’s goals; encouraged ongoing support for libraries, as they will play an important role in the 2020 Census process; and, emphasized that libraries are an integral part of a community’s infrastructure and provide invaluable services to the communities they serve.

Didi Barrett speaks

8. ADJOURNMENT OF ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

At 10:30 A.M., President Wilson adjourned the Business portion of the 60th Annual Membership Meeting.

Business meeting closed

9. KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Ms. Aldrich introduced Miguel Figueroa, Director of the ALA Center for the Future of Libraries. Mr. Figueroa’s presentation, titled “Trends, Signals, and Changes” addressed the need for public librarians to stay abreast of emerging economic and societal trends in order to continue to meet the ever-changing needs of the communities they serve. Mr. Figueroa outlined the “scanning” process used to identify trends on organizational, environmental and global levels. Emphasis was placed on how libraries can learn to adapt and utilize new innovations that align with their goals and values to provide services that continue to meet the needs of the communities they serve. A brief question and answer session followed Mr. Figueroa’s presentation.

Keynote address presented

Mr. Figueroa encouraged the audience to contact him directly by email @ mfigueroa@ala.org; subscribe to his newsletter at <http://tinyletter.com/libraryofthefuture> or view more information on this topic at www.ala.org/libraryofthefuture.

10. CLOSING COMMENTS

At 12:30 P.M., Ms. Aldrich thanked attendees and Mr. Figueroa, for their participation, and ongoing support and dedication to libraries.

Closing Comments

Respectfully submitted by: Michele Ment, Secretary

Approved 2019
By the MHLS Board of Trustees