

Nominations & Elections Committee

Tuesday, May 1, 2024 | 2:00pm

1. Roll Call

- ✓ Richard Swierat, Chair (D)
- ✓ Kenneth Goldberg (U)
- ✓ Janet Schnitzer (C)
- ✓ Carla Taylor (P)
- ✓ Mary Linda Todd (G)
- ✓ Rebekkah Smith Aldrich (Staff Liaison)

2. The Committee reviewed its charge and recommend no changes: *“Presents, at the September meeting, a slate of Executive Committee members 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 count”*

3. The Committee reviewed the [Board Election Timeline and Process](#) and recommend no changes.

- a. All county chairs have been notified of existing and upcoming vacancies on the MHLS Board.
- b. By May 20th a memo will go out under the Nominations & Elections Committee chair’s name to all member library directors and board presidents in counties with a planned or unplanned vacancy with a request to send in their county’s nominee by July 30th.
- c. 2024 Seats
 - i. Planned:
 - 1. COLUMBIA: Mark Wilson – not eligible for another term
 - 2. DUTCHESS: Ric Swierat – not eligible for another term
 - 3. GREENE: Mary Linda Todd – has decided not to run for another term
 - ii. Unplanned:
 - 1. GREENE: to fill out the rest of Debra Klein’s term (through 12.31.25)
 - a. Barbara Swanson has been appointed until the election as the Greene County candidate and is the candidate for the remainder of Debbie’s term
 - 2. PUTNAM: to fill out the rest of George Joiner’s term (through 12.31.27)
 - 3. ULSTER: to fill out the rest of Heather Blakely’s term (through 12.31.27)
- d. The Committee reviewed the two handouts that go with the memo: Trustee Information, a description of the role and responsibilities of system trustees and “Achieving Diversity on the Board of the Mid-Hudson Library System” to help encourage nominees that represent the demographics of each county adequately.

4. The Committee reviewed the timeline and procedures for board officer nominations and confirmed the following timeline and procedures for this year:

- a. Committee Chair reviews term limits of current officers and speaks to each eligible officer to gauge their interest in continuing on in their role;

- b. Committee Chair emails an open call for nominations including self-nominations for all Board Officer positions;
- c. Committee Chair reminds board members of the open call at the July meeting.
- d. Nominations due to Committee Chair: July 19, 2024
- e. Post-July 19: Meeting of the Nominations & Elections Committee to select and recommend Board Officers
- f. August: Committee Chair confirms candidates selected by the Committee agree to serve if elected
- g. September Board Meeting: Committee proposes 2025 slate of Board Officers to MHLS Board
 - i. After the nominating committee has presented its report and before voting for the different offices takes place, the chair must call for further nominations from the floor...nominations from the floor are called for immediately after the presentation of the nominating committee's report – while the election is pending or earlier.”
 - ii. The sample wording provided goes position by position:
 - 1. “CHAIR: For President, Ms. A is nominated by the Nominating Committee. Are there any further nominations for President? [If a member nominates another person, the chair repeats the name of that nominee.] Mr. B is nominated. Are there any further nominations? [PAUSE] If not [PAUSE] nominations are closed.”
 - 2. After the President formally closes nominations, it would take a majority vote of the board to reopen them.
 - iii. December Board Meeting: MHLS Board elects 2025 Board Officers

5. The Committee worked on draft Trustee Officer “Job Descriptions” for the President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Immediate Past-President/Member-at-Large to use in recruitment of officer positions in the future.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35pm.