

## Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Working Group

### September 2024 Report to the Board

#### Working Group Members:

- Rajene Hardeman, Co-Chair (D)
- Mark Wilson, Co-Chair (C)
- Stuart Auchincloss (U)
- Barry Ramage (D), Board President, ex officio
- Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, MHLS Executive Director

1. **ACTION:** The group has formally requested an evolution of the EDI Working Group to a new construct using the recently approved “advisory group” format: a “Core Values Advisory Group” with a working purpose statement as follows: *The purpose statement of the Core Values Advisory Group is to support MHLS in authentically addressing [our core values](#) as they apply to the governance of the system.* Earlier this year, the group defined why this advisory group is necessary, noting the need to govern authentically, ensure the Group is responsive to our community, to serve as a model, and inform ourselves about relevant events affecting library access and library users, and then bring it back to the board. They propose keeping the same roster for the remainder of the year.
2. EDI Working Group members are planning to provide an orientation on our core values at the September board meeting.
3. As promised, the working group has formalized the language to honor Debbie Klein by renaming the Book Haven Collection Fund in her honor:

#### The Debra Wilcox Klein Book Haven Collection

The Debra Wilcox Klein Book Haven Collection was established by the Mid-Hudson Library System to further ensure the Freedom to Read for all patrons served by member libraries in the System. The collection is made up of titles most frequently challenged across the United States. It is named in honor of Debra Wilcox Klein, whose dedication and hard work in her professional life, and through her volunteer service on the Board of Trustees of the Mid-Hudson Library System, reflected her commitment to ensuring intellectual pursuits that improve the human condition are available to all in our communities.