

Westchester Library System
Annual Meeting
November 18, 2008

The 49th Annual Meeting of the Westchester Library System (WLS) was held on Tuesday, November 18, 2008, at the Scarsdale Public Library.

There were 69 trustees, librarians and guests representing WLS and 18 of its member libraries.

John Smith welcomed all and recognized the WLS Board of Trustees. Mr. Smith gave an overview of the accomplishments made by WLS throughout 2008, highlighting the following services among many: the new Leadership Training Program; introduction of a Gaming Program in more than half the libraries; debut of Poetry Westchester!; completion of our first year of the Health Literacy Initiative; beginning of the WLS Bookmobile; Learning Ambassador program and “*What’s the Election Got to Do with ME?*” for young people; Spanish language catalog of only Spanish language material—the first of its kind in New York State; upgrade of the computer network; switch to Overdrive for downloadable audiobooks; installation of GoLibrary; and the extension of WEBS workshops and individual counseling services in six additional libraries. Mr. Smith also noted the current State budget cuts being proposed today in a special legislative session and encouraged all to keep in close contact with their legislators. Mr. Smith then introduced WLS President Patricia Fontanella, WLS Board President.

Ms. Fontanella spoke about the upcoming year-long celebration of WLS’s 50th Anniversary. Our new logo noting “50 years of Innovation, Support and Service” was revealed; the special events planned throughout the year as well as the special award programs to recognize outstanding library supporters in the three categories of Service, Support and Innovation were announced. Ms. Fontanella also introduced Terry Kirchner, the newly appointed WLS Executive Director who will be starting in January 2009.

CALL TO ORDER: President Patricia Fontanella called the Business Meeting to order at 7:25 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE 2007 ANNUAL MEETING: The minutes of the 2007 Annual Meeting were approved unanimously on a motion by Barbara Hickernell and seconded by Norman Jacknis.

ELECTION OF NEW TRUSTEES: Mary Ellen Forte, Chair of the WLS Nominating Committee, proposed the following slate of officers who had been nominated by their represented libraries and were willing to serve:

District IV [Lewisboro, North Salem, Somers]
Dr. Marie Grace Mutino (to a full term ending December 31, 2013)

(over)

District VIII [Larchmont, Mamaroneck, Scarsdale]
Sue Neale (to a full term ending December 31, 2013)

District XIV [New Rochelle]
Dr. LaRuth Gray (to a full term ending December 31, 2013)

There being no nominations from the floor, the above Trustees were elected unanimously to the WLS Board of Trustees, on a motion by Ms. Forte, which was seconded by Patricia Dohrenwend and passed unanimously.

The business portion of the meeting completed at 7:30 p.m. by consensus, and Ms. Fontanella turned the program back to Mr. Smith, who introduced the evening's keynote speaker, George Cigale, President and Founder of tutor.com.

Mr. Cigale noted that they are currently working with 1,800 libraries in 45 states throughout the country. He gave an overview of tutor.com and some insight into a typical night where 7,000 live tutoring sessions are held. Mr. Cigale noted that it was through the collaborative working relationship with libraries that brought success to his idea in the early stages. They are providing a real service that helps real kids when they need it; and according to exit surveys, 94% of their users got the help they needed. Mr. Cigale answered a number of questions from the audience, explaining more of the logistics of 24/7 coverage and how tutors are evaluated.

Ms. Smith thanked Mr. Cigale and all for coming.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Neale
Secretary