

**Westchester Library System**  
**Annual Meeting**  
**November 9, 2010 – Approved November 1, 2011**

The 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the Westchester Library System (WLS) was held on Tuesday, November 9, 2010, at the Mount Kisco Public Library.

There were 81 trustees, librarians and guests representing WLS and 24 of its member libraries.

Terry Kirchner, Executive Director, welcomed all and gave a brief overview of 2010. Although a difficult year due to the current economic climate, the WLS staff is to be commended for all that was accomplished. Major upgrades to Sirsi were made, and we look forward to the merger of the White Plains Public Library catalog into the WLS system. Senior Benefits Information Centers were expanded to two more libraries; and the Mixing in Math program also is looking to grow further. WEBS programs and the new computer center created at the New Rochelle Public Library through the Broadband Technology Opportunity Program (BTOP) are helping Westchester residents get back to work. While the outlook for 2011 is not promising due to large deficits faced at both the State and County levels, WLS most likely need to reduce its workforce and redefine its services. As WLS takes stock of the range of services provided, the focus will remain on effectively meeting the needs of our member libraries by providing meaningful and relevant services to help them connect with their communities.

Dr. Kirchner introduced Patricia Dohrenwend, WLS Board President, to preside over the business portion of the evening.

**CALL TO ORDER:** President Patricia Dohrenwend called the Business Meeting to order at 7:17 p.m.

**MINUTES OF THE 2009 ANNUAL MEETING:** The minutes of the 2009 Annual Meeting were approved unanimously on a motion by Barbara Hickernell and seconded by Hope Furth.

**ELECTION OF NEW TRUSTEES:** Sue Neale, Chair of the WLS Nominating Committee, proposed the following slate of officers who had been nominated by their represented libraries and are willing to serve:

District V [Armonk, Bedford Village, Mount Pleasant, Pound Ridge]  
Patricia W. Fontanella (to a full term ending December 31, 2015)

District X [Port Chester, Rye Brook, Rye City, Rye Town]  
Lawrence H. Lehman (to a full term ending December 31, 2015)

District XIII [Mount Vernon]  
To be determined (to a full term ending December 31, 2015)

There being no nominations from the floor, the above Trustees were elected to the WLS Board of Trustees, on a motion by Naseem Jamali, which was seconded by Dave Donelson, and passed unanimously.

The business portion of the meeting completed at 7:25 p.m. by consensus, and Ms. Dohrenwend thanked all trustees who serve the library community and turned the podium over to Dr. Kirchner to introduce the evening's keynote speaker.

Maureen O'Connor is the former Chief Operating Officer for the Queens Library System in New York City, where she oversaw the day-to-day operations of the Central Library, the library's 62 local community libraries, seven adult learning centers and the 28,000 programs and service sessions conducted annually.

Ms. O'Connor explained how the Queens Library developed their future-oriented approach to service and discussed some of the methods they implemented. The main key is getting to know the people and individuals in your community. Studying standard statistics can be helpful; but often there is more data that needs to be captured. Going out into the community to discover people's stories and listening to them to see how the library can fit in and help is vital to knowing if programs are reaching the right people and being successful. It is also important to talk about what the library can do. The breadth of information available to the public through technology has heightened the role of the library to vet information so that individuals get not only what they want but what they can digest. Engaging the community and responding to their needs can lead to growth and success.

Dr. Kirchner thanked Ms. O'Connor for giving us all much to think about and everyone for coming and making this event so successful.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ellen Forte  
Secretary