

Westchester Library System

Annual Meeting

November 20, 2014 – Approved November 5, 2015

The 55th Annual Meeting of the Westchester Library System (WLS) was held on Thursday, November 20, 2014, at the Sheraton Tarrytown, 600 White Plains Road, Tarrytown, NY.

There were 70 directors, trustees, and guests representing WLS and 28 of its member libraries. The evening started off with networking and conversation over refreshments.

WLS Executive Director Terry Kirchner thanked all for coming and introduced New York State Assemblyman Steven Otis [91st District], Chair of the NYS Assembly Libraries and Educational Technology Committee and New York State Assemblyman Thomas Abinanti [92nd District]. Mr. Kirchner called up WLS President Chris Hansen and WLS Trustee Patricia Fontanella to present the 2nd WLS Trustees Award.

This year's Award was presented to co-winners Sue Feir, Director of the Hastings-on-Hudson Public Library and Barbara Morrow, President of the Friends of the Hastings-on-Hudson public Library, for their commitment to provide open access to information and resources that foster innovation, inspiration and lifelong learning. Unknowingly, each had nominated the other; and Lauren Casper, Hastings-on-Hudson Public Library Trustee, also supported Ms. Feir's nomination. Ms. Fontanella highlighted a number of accomplishments stated in their nominations:

Sue Feir:

- Spearheading a small yet transformative project to expand their community room;
- As creative advocate of collaboration, Ms. Feir recast the library as a host facility for school testing, local artist exhibits and free career counseling and fostered synergy between the library and Hastings Farmer's Market;
- Deployed the library to meet a public health need and began an annual blood drive, which in partnership with the New York Blood Center, became a regular library event held three times a year.

Barbara Morrow:

- Organized a garden tour to celebrate the library's 100th Anniversary as well as a lecture series titled, *Dewey on the Hudson*—completing the celebration with a bang-up party and marching band through the streets.
- Stayed on as President of the Friends to oversee new capital campaign, *Above and Beyond: Expanding our Point of View*, to extend the community room and build an outside deck overlooking the Hudson River.

The co-winners were presented with a check in the amount of \$1,000 to the Hastings-on-Hudson Public Library, funded by the WLS Trustees. Westchester County Legislator MaryJane Shimsky [12th District] came to present Proclamations to the co-winners and declare November 21st Sue Feir and Barbara Morrow Day.

All nominees listed below were recognized and thanked for their outstanding contributions:

Nominee	Nominated by	Library
Robert Cartolano	Tracy Wright	Eastchester Public Library
Lillian Hecker	Patricia Perito	Town of Pelham Public Library
Ann Hein	Jeffrey Ault	Dobbs Ferry Public Library

Nominee	Nominated by	Library
Haina Just-Michael	Emery Schweig	New Rochelle Public Library
Brian Kenney	Paul Schwarz	White Plains Public Library
Jenny Kolesar	Jill Davis	Hendrick Hudson Free Library (Montrose)
Gary Page	Mary Shah	Lewisboro Library
Charlotte Schachter & Ruth Shire, Co-Presidents of the Friends of the Mount Vernon Public Library	Carolyn Karwoski	Mount Vernon Public Library
Heide Shilstone	Elin Sullivan	Bedford Hills Free Library
Tamara Stewart	Hafeezah Basir	Mount Vernon Public Library
Na'im Tyson, PhD	Chris Hansen	Mount Vernon Public Library

CALL TO ORDER: President Chris Hansen called the Business Meeting to order at 7:12 p.m. and recognized the WLS Trustees who were in attendance.

MINUTES OF THE 2013 ANNUAL MEETING: The minutes of the 2013 Annual Meeting were accepted as submitted by consensus.

ELECTION OF NEW TRUSTEES: Mr. Hansen, on behalf of the WLS Nominating Committee, proposed the following slate of trustees who were nominated by their represented libraries and are willing to serve another term:

District XV [Yonkers]
Mary Amato (to a full term ending December 31, 2019)

District XI [White Plains]
Hope Furth (to a full term ending December 31, 2019)

District VII [Harrison, Purchase]
Dave Donelson (to a full term ending December 31, 2019)

There being no nominations from the floor, the above Trustees were elected unanimously to the WLS Board of Trustees on a motion by Norman Jacknis and seconded by Naseem Jamali. The motion passed unanimously.

The business portion of the meeting was adjourned unanimously at 7:15 p.m. on a motion by Ms. Draper and seconded by Mr. Donelson.

Terry Kirchner, WLS Executive Director, gave an overview of WLS’s accomplishments over the past year, including highlights from the following programs: Westchester Seniors Out Speaking (WSOS); Senior Benefit Information Centers (SBIC); WEBS Career and Educational Counseling Service; (Test Assessing Secondary Completion) TASC Connect!; and Library Ambassadors. The first WLS Battle of the Books was held in October. Teams made up of students Grades 4-6 and Grades 7-9 were given a list of books to read and then answered questions in a friendly and fun competition to promote a love of reading. It was truly inspiring to see the excitement generated by this event.

Another vital decision made in 2014 concerned the Integrated Library System (ILS) to continue with the current vendor SirsiDynix as well as to develop our knowledge about open source products. A huge time commitment was made by all who participated—which, in the end, resulted in a well thought-out decision. All those who participated were thanked for their efforts. Emphasis in 2015 will be on training for the new ILS; exploration of open source products; providing more eContent; support for program initiatives such as Creative Aging workshops and Makerspace activities; expanded marketing and further promotion of services available at local libraries; expansion of the conversation on technology and its possibilities, including enhanced wireless services and printing options; and defining WLS's role with the emergence of the digital public library—all of which help to empower libraries and empower communities.

Dr. Kirchner welcomed guest speaker Kerri Willette, New York's first Empire State Digital Network (ESDN) Manager. Ms. Willette is responsible for coordinating activities of the ESDN, a statewide service hub for the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA). The ESDN is being administered by Metropolitan New York Library Council (METRO) in collaboration with eight allied regional library councils collectively working as NY 3Rs Association, Inc.

Ms. Willette gave an overview of the DPLA, which was launched in 2013 with 7.1 Million searchable digital objects. Originally based on contributions to content from one-to-one relationships, this structure needed to change in order to achieve much broader exposure and to promote the DPLA regionally. The idea for hubs, like New York's ESDN, was implemented. Ms. Willette spoke about what it takes to share data with the DPLA, which is not merely another search engine but a new tool that will help libraries' special collections to be discovered. Many libraries are already contributing, and one of the roles of the ESDN will be to contact libraries to find out what is being collected and making all libraries aware of how to contribute their content properly. Ms. Willette answered questions and encouraged all to follow DPLA's progress via their website [metro.org/esdn/] and social media [[@NYSdigital](https://twitter.com/NYSdigital)].

Dr. Kirchner thanked Ms. Willette for her presentation; METRO for their support of the ESDN and the DPLA; and all for coming.

Respectfully submitted,

Elise Burke, *Recording Secretary*