

MEMORANDUM

TO: NSLS Board of Directors
FROM: Sarah Ann Long
DATE: May 8, 2009
RE: Self Nomination for Kathy Berman

Name: Kathy Berman
Library Type: Public
I am the representative of the Prospect Heights Public Library District library

Email address: aswbyn@aol.com

Occupation:

Wheeling, IL 60090
Home phone: (847)520-7722

Employer Name:

What community service activities have you been involved in?

During my children's school days I was an active parent- teacher group participant with involvement in a variety of ways that included everything from room mom at the grade school to riding in the high school parade representing the Teacher-Parent School Council. Along the way I contributed my time to many community service activities such as cooking for PADS, seeking donors for the Wheeling Township Halloween party for Families of Children With Disabilities, and driving the pick-up van for the high school student council food drive one year.

What leadership roles have you held?

I am the current Secretary of the NSLS board and have served on its Board of Directors for 4 years. I chaired the by-laws committee during its last revision.

I have served as a Girl Scout Leader, Entertainment Book Chairman of the WHS Symphony League, Co-chair of the Ross-Sullivan PTO Reading Incentive Program and as Chairperson of the Crochet Guild of America's "Teach Your Girl Scout to Crochet Day" during an annual conference.

What activities have you been involved in relating to libraries and library services?

My most frequent library activity is an on site visit and one of the library services I am

very active in is using my library card at other libraries and library systems. I have served as a public library trustee at a district library for 9 years and have attended most NSLS Legislative Breakfasts since then. I am part of the historic first group that completed NSLS's Trustee Training. In addition to serving as my library's NSLS rep I have worked at some Friends book sales. I have also put in significant volunteer time at the Sullivan library while I still had a student in the district.

What advocacy efforts have you pursued on behalf of libraries?

Short of sporting the Barak Obama license plate, I am always ready with an elevator speech on behalf of libraries. As an active participant on the Legislative Committee I have emailed, faxed, phoned, written as well as spoken one on one and face to face with our legislators at their office and at functions. I attended the mini-capital hearing this year and the budget hearings last year too.

How would you contribute to these roles?

I take pride in my contribution to the NSLS Board. Our members this year alone can now boast of the accomplishment of individuals who have completed a PhD and an MLS and another who leaves us to go lead another library system as Executive Director! We can be proud that our fellow board member's personal fulfillment was achieved while experiencing the cooperation and nurturing addressed in our governing strategies. My regular attendance at board and committee meetings and careful consideration of proposals brought before the board are ways that I will continue to participate in accountability and value for the system.

In your opinion, what are the biggest challenges facing libraries today?

Funding and funding of the system. Acquiring reliable, predictable, or even special funding. Continuing to monitor the pulse of the community while keeping pace with the technology that leads people to information, ideas, and entertainment. In addition to funding libraries need advocates. Advocates not only to help achieve funding but to preserve the right of the citizens of the United States to unfiltered information.

How long have you served on your local Board?

9 years

When does your current term of office expire?

April, 2015