

MEMORANDUM

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

Name: Bruce Ente
Library Type: Public
I am the representative of the Wilmette Public Library

Email address: dovbaer@aol.com

Occupation:

Wilmette, IL 60091
Home phone: 847-322-2225

Employer Name:

What community service activities have you been involved in?

Board president, Wisconsin Jewish Group Benefit Plan.
Vice president, board member, numerous committee chairmanships and memberships at Beth Emeth Synagogue (Evanston, IL).
Chair, Interfaith Outreach Committee (Evanston).
Nation Chief, YMCA Indian Guides (McGaw Y, Evanston).
Nation Chief, YMCA Indian Princesses (McGaw Y).
Soccer coach, soccer referee, baseball coach, softball coach, Wilmette Park District.
Soccer coach, soccer referee, referee instructor, AYSO Region 425.

What leadership roles have you held?

Most of my community activities have eventually involved taking on a leadership role; please see previous question.

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

Elected trustee of the Wilmette Public Library District, 1993-2013.
Past president, vice president and secretary of the Wilmette Public Library board of trustees; current treasurer of the WPL board of trustees.
Member of Board of Directors, North Suburban Library System, 1999-2005 and 2007-

2009.

Past president, vice president and secretary of the NSLS board of directors.

Member of ALA and ALTAFF (formerly ALTA), 1993-present.

What advocacy efforts have you pursued on behalf of libraries?

Enthusiastic and active participant in Illinois Advocacy Day and National Library Legislative Day for many years.

Frequent letter writer and phone caller to state and federal representatives regarding legislation important to libraries of all kinds (public, school, academic, special).

Participant in NSLS annual Legislative Breakfast for many years.

Encouraged Wilmette Public Library trustees and trustees from other libraries to participate in the foregoing advocacy opportunities.

How would you contribute to these roles?

I am a creative, sometimes unconventional, thinker who will be on the lookout for strategic opportunities for NSLS future growth.

I respect and value the experience and perspective of my fellow NSLS directors, with whom I will work collaboratively and synergistically.

I am an effective communicator who will write and speak, in public and private settings, about the needs of libraries and their contributions to our society.

I will challenge the NSLS staff to be innovative in their work and look for ways to increase our value to member libraries and the patrons they serve.

Recognizing the distinction between governance and management, I will focus on setting organizational goals and policy and on overseeing the organization's fiscal health.

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

Telling our story, convincingly and effectively, to funders, taxpayers, legislators, other governmental units.

Meeting the information and recreation needs of patrons in an era of alternate channels, especially electronic resources.

Fending off challenges to intellectual freedom from advocates of censorship and internet filtering.

Sustaining adequate funding levels, especially for tax-supported libraries, in a period of declining revenues.

Evolving the public library's "persona" as a multi-faceted community center, to maintain and enhance its vital role in public life.

How long have you served on your local Board?

16 years

When does your current term of office expire?

May, 2013