

**MEMORANDUM**

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

Name: Jeanne Lohfink  
Library Type: School  
I am the representative of the Beach Park School District #3 Library

Email address: [jlohfink@bpd3.org](mailto:jlohfink@bpd3.org)

Occupation: District Librarian

Home Address:  
612 W. Keith Avenue  
Waukegan, IL 60085  
Home phone: 847-662-7703

Employer Name: Beach Park School District #3  
Employer Address:  
Beach Park Middle School  
40667 N. Green Bay Road  
Beach Park, IL 60099

Business Phone: 847-596-5880

Fax: 847-731-2402

What community service activities have you been involved in?

Our Lady of Humility Choir  
Habitat for Humanity  
Avon Walk for Breast Cancer  
Saudi Arabia presentations for local public libraries  
Northlands Storytelling Network

What leadership roles have you held?

Illinois School Library Media Association Archivist

District Librarian for Beach Park School District #3  
Synergy mentor  
Brain Gym Instructor  
Mentor Student Teacher-Librarians  
Tutor elementary students  
Provide staff training

What activities have you been involved in relating to libraries and library services?  
Create and successfully complete over \$300,000 worth of grants to bring unique services and features to Beach Park School Libraries and partner libraries in northern Illinois

Participate in Due North

Present at state conferences for Illinois School Library Media Association, Illinois Library Association, Illinois Association for Gifted Children, and Illinois Council of Teachers of English

Participate in Synergy

Review grants for Illinois State Library

Reviewer for Rebecca Caudill committee

Teach Storytelling and Administration of School Libraries in the College of Lake County Library Technical Assistant program

Storytimes in Sign Language

Member of American Library Association, American Association of School Librarians, Association for Library Service to Children, and Young Adult Library Services Association

Received Highsmith Innovation Award  
Library partnerships with school departments hosting evening events such as Literacy Fair, Math and Science Career Night, Civil War Day, Multicultural Night, and Fine Arts Night.

What advocacy efforts have you pursued on behalf of libraries?

Attended Legislative Breakfast  
Attended Library Day in Springfield  
Write state and federal legislators  
Participated in Getting the Word Out  
Presented at school board meetings

Trained in Buzz Marketing  
Written articles for newspapers

How would you contribute to these roles?

NSLS is a leader in providing innovative programs, and I would like to assist in any way I can to continue that tradition. Libraries also need advocates who will speak for their importance to life-long learning and their role in society. I am willing to carry the message not only to legislators, but to individuals in my community. It is important to begin making connections beyond the library world to share our message.

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

One of the biggest challenges facing school libraries today, and in a sense public libraries, is the outdated perception of our role in society. If you ask many people we are a warehouse for books, and maybe the occasional movie. We are so much more than simply a warehouse. Yes we provide access to information, but we are in competition with the internet. People can go online and find answers to questions, but how do you know what to trust? What do you do with the information once you have over 100,000 hits? How do you make sense of it? That is where our strength lies, but many people don't know it.

Just over lunch today, I learned of a school district looking to cut programs. Hundreds of parents, students and teachers came to the meeting when band was on the chopping block. Only five people came to the meeting when the library was being discussed, three of which were library staff. The statement that the library is the heart of the school is no longer true. We are more and more often seen as dispensable instead of integral.

The other largest challenge facing libraries in general is keeping ourselves in touch with and competent at the changing needs of our patrons. Knowing trends, knowing the expectations of our population base, then educating library staff to meet those needs can be a challenge. NSLS is superb at offering cooperative groups and education in order to provide the best service possible. NSLS needs to continue to be a leader in the library community.