

North Suburban Library System

MEMORANDUM

TO: NSLS Board of Directors
FROM: Sarah Long
DATE: May 14, 2010
RE: Self-Nomination for Susan Garland

Name: Susan M. Garland
Library Type: Public
I am the representative of the Winnetka-Northfield Public library.

Email address: s-boatman@sbcglobal.net

Occupation: Volunteer. Writer and Author.

Home Address:
636 Garland Ave(yes)
Winnetka, IL 60093-3912
Home phone: 847.441.6366

Employer Name: AT&T Retiree
Employer Address:
was 227 W. Monroe
Chicago, IL 60606

Business Phone: See Home Phone

Fax: 847.441.7904

What community service activities have you been involved in?
NSLS Trustee June 2005-May 2009/June 2009-present.

Winnetka-Northfield Public Library District Trustee 2003-present

Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago Women's Board

Chicago Youth Centers, Northern Board

University of Tennessee, Development Council

Christ Church Winnetka, programs

Junior League, programs and State of Illinois advocacy

American Rhododendron Society

What leadership roles have you held?

NSLS: Co-chair, Public Outreach; Chair, Nominating Committee; Member, Management Affairs & Legislative Committees.

Winnetka-Northfield Library: Immediate Past President; Secretary; Facilities Chair.

RIC: President, Junior Auxiliary; VP Programs and Services; Public Relations Writer; Creator, Patient Enrichment Program; 2006-2007 Annual Appeal Chairman, raising close to \$440,000.

CYC: Fundraising, Gifts in Kind Campaigns.

Christ Church: Rummage Steering Committee; Chair, Benevolence Committee (which gives away rummage proceeds); Developer, Holiday Hospitality Program; Founder of new Department; Chair and Producer, 2005 Centennial Gala.

Junior League: Chair, Political Action Committee. Lobbied Springfield on-site to support Fair Day-Care Wage bill, which passed.

ARS: District Co-Director, reporting to National Board.

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

For many years I considered my local library an extension of my home library. I decided to give back and successfully self-nominated to the Board in 2003. It is a privilege to serve.

As President of WNK, I launched a Needs Analysis. To this end, I serve on the Board's Strategic Planning Committee, which is hiring a Survey firm. When past levy errors were discovered, I shepherded the Board through the challenge. I called in community leaders for support and, under our Director's leadership, established a successful program to regain lost levy amounts.

What advocacy efforts have you pursued on behalf of libraries?

NSLS' shortfall of MANDATED State funding is the ultimate challenge to our existence. I have written letters, called legislators, met with them, sent emails, talked to taxpayers, participated in the Quinn/Hynes email blast (after which NSLS received some funds) and more.

But we are still short. I am emailing legislators that we need our money, now. Many have come to know me by name.

I attend ILA and ALA conventions to gain wisdom and knowledge, especially on advocacy. I attend the Legislative Breakfast and make new friends among IL lawmakers.

My role in Public Outreach was to educate the public about what NSLS does. I spoke to Rotaries, Kiwanis Clubs, and community groups. It was rewarding to see the "light" turn on among attendees as they came to understand what makes Reciprocal Borrowing happen!

Please know that my WNK term expires in May 2011, so I am running for one year. Yet I ask for your vote. Keep me in harness. and let's accomplish great goals together!

How would you contribute to these roles?

A major credo of NSLS is the encouragement to Think Out Of The Box. I vastly support this concept and I use it. When the Finance Committee was seeking new suggestions to raise funds, I was in there, pitching ideas, some of them wild. A great organization can often be measured by how well "off the wall" ideas are received and implemented.

Every week, almost every day, I am promoting NSLS and explaining our critical role in library operations. Our public needs to have a far better understanding of the backbone role NSLS - and all Systems - play.

Each person has unique gifts. I make a point of seeing those gifts in others and then complimenting the owner. The individual talents on this Board amaze me. Each of us has special expertise. Same with the NSLS Staff. Rightfully lauding Board members and Staff leads to more successes, and I am more than pleased to do my part.

The financial knowledge and abilities of our Staff is astounding. They present, they teach, they educate. They have ready answers to my questions. Their expertise and education help me in the details and the overall picture. I am a legal steward of NSLS and am grateful for their excellent support.

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

FUNDING.
PERIOD.

GETTING LEGISLATORS AND OUR CITIZENS TO UNDERSTAND THE KEY ROLE OF A LIBRARY SYSTEM... THEN TO ACT TO TRIGGER THE MANDATED PAYMENT OF OUR PAST-DUE FUNDS FOR THIS YEAR ...AND TO PASS A RESPONSIBLE NEXT-YEAR BUDGET... WHICH HAS ENOUGH MONEY TO KEEP LIBRARY SYSTEMS ALIVE.

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ENOUGH SAID.

How long have you served on your local Board?
Since June 2005

When does your current term of office expire??
May, 2011