

North Suburban Library System

MEMORANDUM

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

Name: Richard Lee
Library Type: Public
I am the representative of the Waukegan Public library.

Email address: richardlee@waukeganpl.info

Occupation: Director

Home Address:
2201 Funderburk Dr.
Winthrop Harbor, IL 60096

Employer Name: Waukegan Public Library
Employer Address:
128 N. County Street
Waukegan, IL 60085

Business Phone: 847 623-2041, ext.250

Fax: 847 623-2094

What community service activities have you been involved in?
Waukegan Main Street
Waukegan Latino Coalition
Waukegan Rotary Club
United Way of Lake County Dispersment Committee

What leadership roles have you held?
Past President Waukegan Rotary Club.

Executive Director, Waukegan Public Library from 2003 to present.

Executive Director, Pueblo-City County Library District 2001-2003 (previously Assist. Director)

Las Vegas-Clark County Library District, 1988-1999, Administrator

What activities have you been involved in relating to libraries and library services?
Public Library Directors Forum, NSLS

Executive Director's Advisory Committee, NSLS

Current Board Member, NSLS

Illustrator of Will's World, American Libraries since 1988 (previously Wilson Library Bulletin)

Ray Bradbury Storytelling Festival (5th year)

What advocacy efforts have you pursued on behalf of libraries?
Rep. Eddie Washington's "Gate Keeper" (his terminology) for library issues.

Attended every Springfield Library Advocacy Day since my Illinois arrival in 2003.

Wrote letters to elected officials, visited Sen. Michael Bond at his Grayslake office.

Participated in ILA's snapshot day this April.

How would you contribute to these roles?

When I arrived at WPL, we were facing a \$500K deficit and within 2 years we were back in black. I'm pretty good at managing budgets from \$4 million to \$7 million. I am all about integrity in library organizations and even lost my Directorship in Colorado for taking a stand against the Library Board's mismanagement of funds (a situation I inherited from the previous Director).

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

Revenue, Revenue and Revenue.

Makes no difference if you are a district or municipal library. Partnerships must be made, spending limits and more enhancement of tax dollars (i.e., grants, fundraising, etc.).

Libraries must constantly reinvent themselves to stay viable to the communities they serve.

Get the right people on the bus and the wrong people off the bus. It makes a world of difference.