

PCBL ANNUAL AWARDS 2008 REPORT

Committee Recommendations

The Awards Committee composed of Lois Albrecht, Charles Greenberg, Kathy Kennedy and Al Kamper recommend the following Awards out of the nominations received:

Citizen of the Year: a Citizen or group who has contributed the most to the improvement of Pennsylvania libraries.

Nominated by Charles Greenberg this year is the Richard King Mellon Foundation of Pittsburgh, PA. The award is given in recognition of enabling the development and implementation in Westmoreland County of a countywide, full-featured, integrated library information network with a grant of \$400,000 over a three-year period.

Corporate Citizen of the Year: a business or company that has been supportive of a local library as well as the entire Pennsylvania Library Community.

Recommended this year are three awards:

1. Nominated by the York County Library System is the PeoplesBank, for being the 2008 Goal (Grade One at Your Library System) membership campaign sponsor for the York County Library system. This commitment lets York County Library System place a library card in the hands of every first grader in the county.

2. Nominated by Citizens Library is the Law Firm of Peacock Keller and Ecker, LLP.in Washington, PA. The Law Firm came to the Library to initiate sponsoring a signature benefit for the Library District of Washington and Greene Counties. The entire office of Peacock Keller has been involved in the planning and marketing of a dinner benefit for 300 people on September 24, 2008 people, selling tables for \$500 each. The staff of the firm has been volunteering in various capacities to ensure the event is a huge success. At this date all thirty tables are sold and filled. Major corporations in the area have bought tables and donated large ticket items for the event's Chinese and silent auctions.

3. Nominated by the Adams County Library System is Gastley Moving and Storage Company. The Company has provided storage of their book sale books for the last six years and this year they delivered over 3 tons of books to the Gettysburg Middle School for volunteers to prepare for the annual Friends book sale. In addition the company provides boxes for packing, the labor and trucking for the boxes, transporting and unloading of packed boxes and storage at their humidity controlled warehouse.

Friends Group of the Year: a Friends group that has provided the greatest assistance to its library.

Nominated by the Butler Federated Library System this year is the Friends Group of Slippery Rock Community Library. The exceptional success story for this Friends Group is that it is fully responsible both for creating its own fledgling Slippery Rock Community Library, beginning in 2004, and then gaining full operational support for it, as a branch of the Extension Services of the Butler County Federated Library System. About 40 members have been involved in raising money, while obtaining space, bookshelves, a computer, and books, and then doing the physical work of putting it all together. What a model they are!

Friends Newsletter of the Year: the best Friends group newsletter

Nominated by Holly L. McCullough, Branch Manger of the Squirrel Hill Branch of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh is the Friends Newsletter for the branch "Among Friends". Volunteers of the Friends produce this full-color newsletter, begun in 2007, completely in-house. Each quarterly issue includes news about events, resources, programs and general information about the importance of libraries to our community. The latest issue of the newsletter is an example of their willingness to try new techniques for library advocacy (examples of three of the latest included with nomination).

Elected State Official of the Year: an official who has been a leader in promoting and supporting Pennsylvania's libraries

Nominated by Bill Schell, Director of the Martin Library in York is Representative Eugene DePasquale. Representative DePasquale has been a champion of Martin Library for many years. Not only has he given the time to publicly advocate for the library and make cost savings suggestions, but has also secured significant funding to enable the library to provide a week packed with unique programming to over 1,180 people during National Library Week. Since this celebration overall usage of the library has increased with a record of 47,000 visits to the library in July 2008.

Library Public Relations Award: a library that has conducted an effective public relations campaign for a specific program or event that has resulted in significant community support.

Nominated by Lyn Meek, Director of the Cambria County Library is "A Little Night Music @ the Library". Since 2004, the library has this program since 2004, in part a fundraiser and in part a National Library Week event to celebrate what we do. Different musical groups, ranging from rock 'n roll to chamber music, to perform on each of the library's three floors Hors d'oeuvres, wine and beer are served. Staff members go all out to decorate their floors according to the musical theme and to bake cookies for our 300+ guests. Friends of the Library add to the festivities by organizing a basket raffle in the lobby. A fund raising campaign brought in enough money to completely fund the event and after expenses, \$7,151 was raised for the library. (Included is a brochure on the event.)

Lifetime Achievement Award: a citizen or group who has shown exceptional service to libraries.

Nominated by Lois Albrecht on behalf of the majority of PCBL Board Members is Kathy Kennedy. Kathy received her Masters Degree in Library Science from Drexel University. She has served libraries in various capacities in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, New Kensington, Monroeville and Washington. Throughout Kathy's career she has been a "people to people" person, communicating and promoting libraries and establishing positive connects with the various communities she has served. She has been active in library professional organizations, serving on various committees and boards, including PCBL, and as President of the PA Library Association in 1995, and is a recipient of the Association's Certificate of Merit Award. Kathy has also been active in other organizations and service clubs such as the Business and Professional Women and Rotary. She continues to serve on an advisory committee for Thiel College, of which she is an alumnus.

Meritorious Service Award: A citizen or group who has shown outstanding meritorious service on behalf of a library or libraries.

Nominated by the Blairsville Public Library Board is Joseph V. Serwinski, who has devoted over three decades of his life to improving library services to the community of Blairsville. Through his building programs, library advocacy and financial stewardship, Mr. Serwinski has demonstrated to other communities how great visions and leadership can improve small public libraries for both present and future users. He created and formed the Blairsville Public Library Charitable Foundation; in a little over three years the Foundation has raised over \$100,000.

Local Public Official Award: a local public official who has been supportive of his/her local library.

Nominated by the Board of Trustees and Anne M. Frank, Director of the Wissahickon Valley Public Library is the Board of the Wissahickon School District, who were instrumental in creating the Wissahickon Valley Public Library. The School District Board have been long-time and generous supporters of the library. In 1994 they were instrumental in under-writing an obligation under agreement with the library for a #3, 934, 707 renovation to turn an old roller-skating rink into the library's main building. They also collect and appropriate the real estate tax mileage collected on the library's behalf. Out of the library's 1.2 million dollar budget in 2007-2008, they appropriated \$918,803 and have increased this appropriation for 2008-2009.

Media Award: the best newspaper, radio or TV editorial, article or video in support of libraries

This year two awards are recommended with one representing a large city paper and one a small local newspaper serving several communities.

1. Nominated by Mary Garm, Administrator of the Lackawanna Library system is "The Times-Tribune of Scranton, PA. It has provided exceptional coverage of the 25th anniversary celebration of the library system. Established as a result of a successful referendum that created a dedicated library tax, the library system is credited by the editorial board of the newspaper with "converting moribund local libraries into jewels of their communities". "The Times Tribune" has always been a champion of public libraries and has spoken out regularly in favor of public funding, rather local or state for our institutions. (Included are copies of several newspaper articles and editorials.)

2. Nominated by Charles Greenberg is the Penn-Franklin News for its ongoing and longtime feature pieces on five public libraries in its circulation area. A regular library feature appears at a frequency of one per month. The newspaper is published twice a week and the column has been a feature for about five years. In addition to the feature articles the newspaper also frequently includes other articles about happenings in the five libraries and about the newly formed Westmoreland Information Network (WIN).

Special Award: Given to a citizen or group for an outstanding special or ongoing event.

Nominated by Sue A Newswanger, President of the Friends of the Eastern Lancaster County Library for their Dinner Auction Committee. This group celebrated its tenth anniversary with an incredibly successful auction and dinner, raising just over \$83,000 for the library. Over the past ten years the Dinner Auction has raised \$418,000 in support of the library.