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LIBRARY SYSTEM 2013 BOARD OF TRUSTEES ANNOUNCED

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library system 2013 board of trustees announced

Jack Connors Elected Chairman

Jack Connors will retain the role of chairman of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System Board of Trustees in 2013. Connors, publisher and president of Buffalo Business First and the Buffalo Law Journal, was reelected to serve a one year term at the January meeting of the Library System Board.

Theodore K. Johnson was elected vice chair for a one year term. Johnson is president of Hadley Exhibits, Inc. of Buffalo.

Frank Gist was reelected treasurer for a one year term. Mr. Gist, a retired Buffalo firefighter, is a columnist for the *Buffalo Criterion* newspaper and the owner of Greater Buffalo Bail Bonds Agency.

Elaine Panty retains her seat as secretary for a one year term. Panty of Buffalo is retired from the City of Buffalo Water Department.

Elected members of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System Board of Trustees Executive Committee include:

Amy Alvarez-Perez, M.D.

John G. Schmidt, Jr., partner, Phillips Lytle LLP; as well as officers Jack Connors, Theodore Johnson and Elaine Panty. Sharon A. Thomas, former System Board chair and vice chair, also serves on the Executive Committee as Ex-Officio. Thomas is chief clerk for Buffalo City Court.

Other trustees of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System Board include:

Sheldon Berlow, associate broker, Pyramid Brokerage Company

Phyllis A. Horton, retired educator

Sharon M. Kelly, attorney, Hodgson Russ, LLP

Anne M. Leary, development consultant

Wayne D. Wisbaum, partner, Kavinoky Cook, LLP

Jennifer Zivis, administrator, Cancer Care of Western New York

In other board business:

Library System Director Mary Jean Jakubowski updated Trustees on restored open hours for 2013 and the necessity of dipping into the Library's fund balance. With \$300,000 in funding approved by the Erie County Legislature, restored open hours effective this month (January) are as follows:

Amherst Public Library:

Clearfield Branch will reopen Thursdays 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. (4 hours).

Eggertsville Snyder Branch will reopen Tuesdays 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. (4 hours).

Buffalo Branches:

East Delavan Branch will reopen Thursdays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (8 hours).

Crane Branch will reopen Fridays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (8 hours).

Cheektowaga Public Library:

Anna M. Reinstein Library will reopen Wednesdays 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. (4 hours).

Grand Island Memorial Library:

Reopen Tuesdays 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. (1 hour).

Lackawanna Public Library:

Reopen Wednesdays and Thursdays from 8 p.m. – 9 p.m. (2 hours).

Tonawanda Public Library:

Kenilworth Branch will reopen Wednesdays 12 noon to 8 p.m. (8 hours).

Funds will also be used to restore programming at the Angola Public Library and the West Seneca Public Library, as well as support Sunday service hours in May 2013 and September 2013 at the Audubon (Amherst) Library, downtown Central Library, Julia Boyer Reinstein (Cheektowaga) Library, Hamburg Branch (Hamburg) Library, Kenmore Branch (Town of Tonawanda) Library, Frank E. Merriweather, Jr. Library (Buffalo) and the Orchard Park Public Library. Limited System funding will be restored to the Williamsville Branch (Amherst) Library to prevent a loss of open hours.

Jakubowski added "For 2013, the Library System has budgeted the use of \$710,639 from the Library's fund balance to help offset cost increases for contractually obligated health insurance and retirement expenses that are not supported by revenue."

Chair Jack Connors stated, "Our Libraries are at a critical juncture with operations, services and staffing stretched to their maximum. With a remaining \$3.4 million funding gap, it is becoming nearly impossible to provide the services and meet the demands being placed upon us for technology training, workforce development, children, teen and adult programming, materials, databases, outreach, and more. Long-term financial sustainability created by a new form of governance – that of a Library District - is our number one priority."

The Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System has more than 2.6 million materials available for borrowing including books, eBooks, DVDs, music and more. Free library card applications can be downloaded and taken to any of the 37- local public libraries for processing. A valid form of identification and proof of address is necessary. For more information call 716-858-8900 or visit www.BuffaloLib.org.

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