



For Immediate Release: February 3, 2022

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BUFFALO & ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM ANNOUNCES 2022 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Kimberly L. Johnson to Serve as Board Chair

At the January meeting of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library Board of Trustees, **Kimberly L. Johnson** was elected to serve as the new board chair for a one-year term. Ms. Johnson, who most recently held the seat of vice chair, is senior billing account clerk for the Erie County Probation Department. She is a recipient of the 2021 Annual Black Achievers Award and a member of the New York State 8th Judicial District-Childrens Centers in the Courts Advisory Committee. Ms. Johnson succeeds Kathleen Berens Bucki, MLS, who has served as chair since 2019.

Appointed to the Board of Trustees in 2017, Kimberly L. Johnson has followed in the footsteps of her late mother, Sharon Thomas, who served as a Library Trustee including two terms as the board chair from 2010-2012. Ms. Johnson resides in Buffalo.

Carima El-Behairy was elected vice chair for a one-year term. Ms. El-Behairy is director of operations and development and acting executive director of Buffalo Heritage Carousel, Inc. She is also the acting chief financial officer of the Association of Typographique Internationalé. Additionally, Ms. El-Behairy is board treasurer for the Ascension for the Arts. She resides in Buffalo.

Joel C. Moore, Esq. was re-elected secretary for a one-year term. Mr. Moore is an associate court attorney with the Erie County Surrogate Court. He resides in Buffalo.

Alan J. Bedenko, Esq. was re-elected treasurer for a one-year term. Mr. Bedenko is a partner at Smith, Sovik, Kendrick & Sugnet, PC. He resides in Clarence.

Executive Committee members, along with Board Chair Johnson and Vice Chair El-Behairy, are: **Sheldon M. Berlow**, associate broker, Pyramid Brokerage Company; **Frank Housh, Esq.** of Housh Law Offices, PLLC; and **Elaine M. Panty**, retired City of Buffalo Water Authority employee and the namesake of the Elaine M. Panty Branch Library in Buffalo's Riverside neighborhood.

Additional trustees serving the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System Board include:

- **Michael Amodeo, Esq.**, confidential law clerk to Hon. Mark A. Montour, JSC;
- **Kathleen Berens Bucki, MLS**, school librarian;
- **Lucy A. Candelario**, executive director, The Belle Center;
- **John Craik**, program and grants officer, Mother Cabrini Health Foundation;

- **Frank Gist**, owner, Greater Buffalo Bail Bond Agency and feature columnist, Buffalo Criterion News;
- **Theodore K. Johnson**, president, Hadley Exhibits, Inc.; and
- **Sharon M. Kelly, Esq.**, retired attorney, Hodgson Russ LLP.

Trustees emeriti are W. Lawrence Buck, Jack Connors, Richard O. Hopkins, the Hon. Salvatore R. Martoche and Rebecca L. Pordum.

Jeannine Doyle is interim library system director.

About the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System

All Buffalo & Erie County Public Libraries are open to the public, some seven days a week. Masks are required to be worn by all. [Programming highlights](#) include onsite and virtual events celebrating Black History Month, Women's History Month and Indie Author Day, as well as health and wellness, career, and financial literacy fairs; technology and genealogy classes; family programs and more.

In 2021, despite the challenges brought on for the second year by the COVID-19 pandemic, Buffalo & Erie County Public Libraries, representing 37 libraries and the *Library on Wheels* bookmobile, circulated over 5.17 million materials, including over 1 million eBooks and eAudioBooks. There were 7.38 million website visits and more than 1.56 million onsite library visits. The Library System holds over 3 million materials that are available for borrowing including books, eBooks, DVDs, CDs, and more. There are over 400,000 Buffalo & Erie County Public Library cardholders.

Traditional and online Library card applications are available in libraries and on the System website at <https://www.buffalolib.org/library-cards>. For more information about library hours, programs, downloadable materials, databases and more, call 716-858-8900 or visit www.BuffaloLib.org.
