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BUFFALO & ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY ANNOUNCES 2024 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Kimberly L. Johnson Re-elected to Serve as Board Chair

At the January meeting of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library Board of Trustees, **Kimberly L. Johnson** was re-elected as board chair for a third one-year term. She is senior billing account clerk for the Erie County Probation Department. Ms. Johnson is a recipient of the 2021 Annual Black Achievers Award, vice president of Agents for Advocacy, Inc., a member of Buffalo's 5/14 Survivors Fund Steering Committee and of the New York State 8th Judicial District-Children's Centers in the Courts Advisory Committee. As a library trustee, Ms. Johnson is credited with collaborating with local organizations and African American leaders on programming that addresses racial and gender equality.

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

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's Court.

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

Executive Committee members, along with Board Chair Johnson and Vice Chair El-Behairy, are: **Lucy A. Candelario**, executive director, The Belle Center; **Elaine M. Panty**, retired City of Buffalo Water Authority employee and the namesake of the Elaine M. Panty Branch Library located in Buffalo's Riverside neighborhood; and **Christopher Sasiadek, Esq.**, associate attorney, Rupp Pfalzgraf LLC, and founder of Lakeward Spirits.

Serving Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System Trustees include:

- **Michael Amodeo, Esq.**, confidential law clerk to Hon. Craig D. Hannah;
- **Prof. Christine P. Bartholomew, Esq.**, vice dean for academic affairs, law professor, University at Buffalo;
- **Kathleen Berens Bucki, MLS**, school librarian;
- **John Craik**, program and grants officer, Mother Cabrini Health Foundation;
- **Theodore K. Johnson**, president, Hadley Exhibits, Inc.; and
- **Sharon M. Kelly, Esq.**, retired attorney, Hodgson Russ LLP.

Trustee emeriti are W. Lawrence Buck, Jack Connors, the Hon. Salvatore R. Martoche and Rebecca L. Pordum.

About the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System

There are 37 Buffalo & Erie County Public Libraries and two mobile libraries. Programming highlights include children's literacy activities; job fairs; onsite and virtual book clubs; Black History Month, Women's History Month, Hispanic Heritage Month, Disability Awareness Month, and Indie Author Day events; mental health and wellness lectures; financial literacy workshops; technology training; genealogy classes; and programs for all ages.

In 2023, Buffalo & Erie County Public Libraries circulated over 6.94 million materials, including over 1 million eBooks and eAudiobooks. There were 8.2 million website visits and more than 2.12 million onsite library visits. The Library System holds over 3 million materials that are available for borrowing including traditional books, eBooks, DVDs, CDs, Chromebooks, hotspots, CPR kits, children's sports equipment, and more. There are over 413,404 Buffalo & Erie County Public Library cardholders.

Library cards are free for those who live, work, and/or go to school in Erie County. Traditional and online library card applications are available in all 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.



Library Board Chair
Kimberly Johnson



Library Board Vice Chair
Carima El-Behairy

Photo JPGs available upon request