

Hennepin County Library
Officially Withdrawn (OW)
An organization for retired and former library employees/staff

Spring Meeting: Penn Lake Library
May 12, 2016

Present: Lisa Bjerken, Roger Burg, Rose Burke, Roseanne Byrne, Pat Chisenhall, Sue Colten, David Cramer, Carol Dosse, Vicki Dunn, Linda Engberg, Jan Feye-Stukas, Cathy Fischer, Paula Fox, Joann Frankena, Linda Jennings, Pat Kulseth, Laurie Lazinski, Carol LeDuc, Phyllis Mattill, Michael McConnell, Doris Skalstad, David Smith, Sharyll Smith, Kathy Steward, Carol Woodward

Carol LeDuc called the meeting to at about 9:30 p.m. (due to a proofreading error by the Secretary, the meeting was announced to be at 9:00 a.m.; apologies to all and note made to NEVER LET THAT HAPPEN AGAIN! le).

A birthday card for Robert Rohlf was circulated for signatures (88th birthday: May 14, 2016).

Cathy Fischer encouraged participation in one/more of the projects being worked on by the Archiving Group: 1) histories of each of the suburban libraries, 2) transcription of handwritten reports and logs, 3) oral history interviews of people who have not yet participated in the Oral History project (subject to funding), 4) visiting suburban libraries to assess local history files, 5) transfer slides from current storage to archival boxes, and 6) transfer boxes from current storage to archival envelopes/sleeves. If interested, contact anyone in the current Archiving Group (Cathy Fischer, Phyllis Mattill, Sandy Louis, Eileen Cavanagh, Linda Engberg). The Group meets at Ridgedale, on the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of the month during the school year, and the 1st Tuesday of the month in June, July, and August.

It is time to pay membership dues (\$5.00). Membership period is July 1 through June. Membership must be current to receive minutes, announcements, general news.

R. Byrne moved the slate of officers presented (all the current Board members); L. Jennings 2nd; approved by acclimation. Board elected for two-year term (July 1, 2016 - June 31, 2018). C. LeDuc emphasized that each current Board member had served 2 - 2-year terms and that in 2018 it would definitely be time to elect new Board members.

Library Director Lois Langer Thompson will be invited to speak at the September, 2016, meeting. Location and date will depend on her schedule. Brooklyn Park was proposed.

In response to requests, OW will now 'serve' coffee-shop coffee at the meetings. OW will even pay for the coffee (contribution can still be made for treats).

R. Byrne mentioned that Minitex has received a large federal grant to assist with making using e-books easier & more readily available - for more information check:

<https://news.minitex.umn.edu/news/library-news/minitex-awarded-695000-federal-grant-enhance-ebooks-app>

Program: Michael McConnell & *The Wedding Heard 'Round the World: America's First Gay Marriage*

- the decision to write this book was made after Michael retired from HCL in 2010 & began going through more than 40 boxes of records, letters, clippings, etc., associated with the first legal same-sex wedding in the United States (Sept. 3, 1971)
 - these boxes turned into more than 70,000 pages documentation (which are now all at the University of Minnesota Anderson Library in the Tretter Collection)
 - Note: an exhibit in the Atrium Gallery of the Elmer L. Anderson Library, entitled "America's First Gay Marriage" ran from January 11 through April 29, 2016
- Michael spoke eloquently about the events surrounding his wedding and the impact of it on the then evolving gay rights movement
- in 1980 Michael and Jack left the public stage to concentrate on their careers;
- when Michael and Jack decided to write this book they enlisted long-time friend and author Gail Langer Karwoski as the primary writer; Gail brought the skill & experience of writing for young adults to the project and this helped make the book accessible to young people and adults alike
- having their records available at the University of MN Library has prompted requests from around the world and visits from scholars doing in-depth research
- there is now talk of the book becoming a movie (Michael said no one should hold his/her breath waiting for the premiere!
- Michael noted that he would be delighted to hear from anyone who had comments/questions about the book

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:15

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Engberg, Secretary

