

Evergreen Indiana Executive Committee

Bios for slate of candidates

July 1, 2012 Election

Class A nominee

Janet Wallace is Library Director, at the newly named Shelby County Public Library. She began working in the library in 1981 and has done just about every job in the library. Her passion was working with children and it is not unusual to see her in costumes. Wallace became the Library Director Dec. 2003. She received her MLS at IUPUI in 2000. This year along with the migrating to Evergreen, Shelby County is pursuing a branch and a new website. Of course, all of these changes are happening at the same time so it makes the library a very busy place.

The Shelby County Library is migrating on May 15th. Wallace has been very impressed with ISL staff members as they are helping Shelby County through the migration. She states: "Thank heavens no question is considered silly! We are so excited with the possibilities of Evergreen." Wallace is looking forward to the possibility of working with the Indiana Executive Committee to help with the development of the system and getting more libraries on board. She thinks it would be so exciting to have a totally statewide library system.

Class B nominee

Sheryl Sollars received her MLS from Indiana University 1996. She is currently the Director of Westfield Washington Public Library. Her work history involves the following institutions: Purdue University Libraries 1985-1996 (*Pharmacy Library Periodicals Clerk 1985-1987, Serials Search Clerk – 1987-1990, Copy Cataloger – 1990-1996*), Frankfort Community Clinton County Contractual Public Library (*Head of Technical Services 1996-1998, Assistant Director 1998-2003*), Westfield Washington Public Library (*Director 2003-Present*). Serving on the Evergreen Indiana Executive Committee would be a wonderful opportunity to further the cooperation among the libraries in Indiana, by helping with the creation of policies and procedures that will encourage efficient and cost-effective Library services for the citizens of Indiana.

Lynn Mehringer received her MLS from School of Library Science, Indiana University, Bloomington in May 2005. She has been the Director of Lincoln Heritage Public Library from January 2009 to present. Previously, Mehringer worked as an Adult Reference Librarian at Broward County Public Libraries, Miramar Branch from August 2008 to December 2008 and an Adult Reference Librarian at Broward County Public Libraries, Pembroke Pines branch from September 2005 to August 2008. She is interested in serving on the Executive Committee because she would like to learn more about the services that Evergreen Indiana can provide the public libraries of Indiana, to promote Evergreen Indiana, and provide support to public libraries pertaining to Evergreen Indiana.

Class C nominees

Christine Sterle is Head Librarian & Adult Services Department Head at Thorntown Public Library in Thorntown, Indiana. She began her library career at TPL in June 2007, joining the staff as Assistant Librarian, and was promoted to her current position in May 2008. She received her MLS in December 2007 from IU School of Library & Information Science at Indianapolis.

As a professional in a small and busy library, Christine enjoys juggling the many opportunities and challenges that each day offers. She has experience working with the Evergreen system from many angles—as a cataloger, circulation clerk, local administrator, and library user—and looks forward to adding her knowledge of the system to the Evergreen Executive Committee.

Her director adds, “Christine is our go-to person for Evergreen and helped steer us through implementation on March 9, 2009, partly by bringing us special green M&M’s printed with Evergreen phrases. She will be an asset to the Executive Committee.”

Karen Kahl graduated from Ball State University with a MA degree in elementary education. She also received her library certification from Ball State University. She is a former teacher turned librarian. In the past few years she has also taught education classes at Indiana University East.

Kahl is the director of Union County Public Library and has been for 20 years. Two major building projects at the library have made her feel like she can tackle anything.

University County Public Library joined Evergreen in 2008 and has never once regretted that decision. Kahl feels that it is wonderful sharing resources and information with so many others in the field. She would like to be more active in the decision making concerning small libraries.

Celia Bandelier received her MLS from IUPUI in 2008. She has been employed as library director at the Roanoke Public Library since January 2006. She also has an MBA and was working as a financial assistant for clients in a not-for-profit agency when budget cuts caused her job to be eliminated. Of getting the position of Director at Roanoke Public Library, Bandelier states: “They told me about the job elimination in the morning. When I got home and told a friend she suggested I apply for the library director position in my hometown. I wasn’t sure I was qualified since I had no working experience in a library although a few years before that I served on the Roanoke Public Library’s board. I was convinced by our then local newspaper editor and by a retired librarian that I was perfectly suited for the job so I contacted the library board president. She told me to quick get my resume and cover letter to her. I did in the early afternoon that same day. A couple hours after that she called and asked if I could interview for the position that night. Not many people get eliminated from one job unexpectedly and interview for another job equally unexpected on the same day, but I did and 10 days later I was the library director at the Roanoke Public Library.”

Since she became library director for 6 years, she hasn’t joined any committees or held an office outside of her library and hometown. She has been able to attend workshops and conferences, but not as a leader, just as a participant. Last year, however, she was able to hire two assistants to help run the library. This change has freed up Bandelier’s schedule so she feels she is in a position to be more involved in committees and giving back to the library community that has been so gracious in welcoming her. Of joining Evergreen, she states: “I love the Evergreen system. It allows my little library to share its holdings with others. It still amazes me that we have some things that other libraries don’t have. I also love that my patrons no longer have to depend on what we have or waiting some unknown amount of time to get an interlibrary loan. Unless it is a very popular item they are able to receive their requests in a week usually. I know this will be a big commitment and the timing is not the best with us moving our library to a larger location, but it is one that I am willing and able to take on if elected.”