



SERVICES COMMITTEE

March 12, 2008

PRESENT: Erin Apostol, Brian Hartson, Robert Jaquay, Mary Muller, Lois Prenovost, Philip Ritter, Heidi Fuge

E. Apostol, Chair, convened the meeting at 3:30 PM.

I. NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2007 LIBRARY PROGRAM OF THE YEAR AWARD

Committee members discussed the following nominations:

Albany	Garage Bands in the Garage
Bethlehem	Technology Fair
East Greenbush	Book discussion for senior housing
Guilderland	Growing for Generations

There were no nominations in the rural category. All of the above were submitted in the urban/suburban category.

E. Apostol noted that the nominations were all well written and that it was much more difficult to make a decision than it has been in prior years.

Consensus that "Garage Bands in the Garage" should receive the Award; the program was innovative, creative and reached a previously unserved constituency. Several Committee members recalled seeing a lot of publicity about these programs last year.

II. NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2007 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Committee members discussed the following nominations:

Ann VanDerVort (Bethlehem)
Judy Ormiston (Castleton)
Teaching Team (East Greenbush)

Discussion about the use of the volunteers in the libraries. Consensus that volunteers should not be used to perform work that should be done by professional paid staff - if there is that much work to be done, then a community should support the local library by increased funding to allow for the employment of more staff members. Volunteers should function as adjuncts to the staff, not replace them.

Consensus that the Teaching Team (Dan Cornman, Reed Dawley and Ed Evans) from East Greenbush should receive the Award. The Teaching Team allowed the library to expand the variety and depth of the instruction that it offers.

III. BILL AND MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION - "Opportunity Online Hardware Grant"
P. Ritter reported that this is a pass-through grant offered by the Gates Foundation. The libraries to whom the funds are offered have been pre-determined by the Gates Foundation, as has the amount that they will receive. These are 50/50 matching grants that can only be used to purchase computer hardware. The Gates Foundation has also set aside 7% of the total to be given to the System to cover administrative costs. The total amount available to the specified libraries is \$63,518. UHLS will receive \$4,155 to cover administrative costs.

Consensus to recommend that the Board approve this grant application.

NEXT SERVICES MEETING: Wednesday, April 9th at 3:30 PM

Heidi A. Fuge
3/13/08