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## January 2023 Board President Report

Jill Hurst-Wahl  
Jan. 10, 2023

**Mark Your Calendars** – OCPL Board members need to mark your calendars for our Board Retreat on April 29 (time TBD). If you have not confirmed your availability on this date, please contact me and do so. I hope we can gather most of us, and any new Board members, on this date.

**Committee to Plan the Board Retreat** – In order to plan for a retreat that will be beneficial for the Board, 2-3 volunteers are needed to assist in its planning. *Who will volunteer to help?*

**The Work of a Board Happens in Committees** – The work of any board happens in standing and ad hoc committees, and task forces. The OCPL Board has no standing (permanent) committees in its bylaws, although the Finance Committee functions as a standing committee. In order for the work of this Board to be distributed better and in order to get every Board member contributing, this Board needs to create committees. Some of those committees (e.g., Finance) should become committees that are outlined in the bylaws. Others could be ad hoc committees to focus on specific efforts (e.g., the Board Retreat, updating the bylaws). Serving on a committee helps the Board accomplish its work and helps Board members understand OCPL better.

*If you are not serving on a committee currently, what type of committee work would interest you?*

**MOU Committee** – The MOU Committee will meet on Jan. 13. Having a meeting in January allows for potential input into the OCPL 2024 budget related to essential services which are supported by a cost sharing model among member libraries. This is also the first meeting since the cost sharing model was updated using 2019-2021 circulation numbers. I will provide information from this meeting in February (although other committee members may have info to share this month).

**Trustee Advisory Committee (TAC)** – Besides our own committees, we need to represent this Board on other committees. In lieu of someone else, I attended the Jan. 9 meeting on Zoom. There are two items worth noting. First, TAC has created a Trustee Distribution List for all trustees across the county. If you would like to opt-in and receive information that is being provided to all Onondaga County library trustees, please contact Amanda Schiavulli, [aschiavulli@onlib.org](mailto:aschiavulli@onlib.org). Second, TAC will be holding training conversations this year, which will help trustees fulfill their training requirement and allow trustees to build relationships across libraries. The first conversation is scheduled for Mar. 28, 5:30-7:00 p.m. through Zoom and the topic is being prepared for censorship challenges.

**Grow the Board to its Full Complement of 11 Members** – No new Board members were nominated in December. The County Legislature will not meet in a full session until Feb. 7, 2023, and could vote on nominations then. Several people have submitted their applications through the County's Board Application Form, <https://tinyurl.com/ycxvknzh>. Thanks to Babette Morgan-Baker for suggesting graduates of Nourishing Tomorrow's Leaders (Gifford Foundation), who would help us diversify the Board so it might better mirror the diversity in the City of Syracuse and Onondaga County.

Currently the OCPL Board has three vacancies (not including me). Babette has agreed to continue to serve on the Board until she is replaced. I am available for appointment to a second five-year term.