

August 5, 2017

Minnesota Association of Library Friends  
1080 Montreal Ave., Suite 2  
St. Paul, MN 55116-2311

I am writing on behalf of the Friends and Foundation of the Northfield Public Library to nominate William "Bill" North as a Standout Library Friend. Over the years the Northfield Library has been blessed with the contributions of many different people. However, during the last few years Bill has been the face of the Friends in Northfield and has contributed in so many varied ways that he is the incomparable choice.

Let me start by saying that Bill became president of the Friends immediately after his first meeting as a Friend back in 2005. Almost immediately after that, he jumped right into the challenge of raising money to purchase a newer bookmobile for the library. One of his first big efforts toward that goal was setting up a community spelling bee. He not only hosted the bee but also appeared in a bee costume that has since become a staple of his appearance as the host of the spelling and trivia bees that have been (almost) annual occurrences since then. The fund-raising drive was successful, and the Library has enjoyed the use of that bookmobile ever since. Currently, the Friends are contributing substantially to the purchase of a brand-new bookmobile.

Because they are so numerous, I think it is easiest if I just list some of his many other activities (not in any particular order):

- Organized Friends and other library volunteers to march in the annual Defeat of Jesse James Day Parade with Booker more than 10 times
- Organized and participated in spring and fall clean-up days at the library. This included ordering and distributing truckloads of mulch, weeding, trimming bushes and picking up trash
- Helped to arrange for the purchase and installation of the "Dancing Book Heads" sculpture at the Library
- Organized the "Give to the Max Day" campaigns for the Friends
- Facilitated the transition of the Friends of the Northfield Public Library to the Friends and Foundation of the Northfield Public Library

- Acted as President of the Friends for many years AND as treasurer for the Friends and Foundation (the position he currently holds) and sometimes did both
- Worked with high school art students on the creation of annual bookmarks for the Friends
- Worked with the Arts and Culture Commission of the City of Northfield on the Sidewalk Poetry and Poet Laureate projects
- Has been the contact person for the Friends' membership in MALF
- Worked with other Friends on almost all other projects related to the organization, including membership, recruitment of new board members, scholarship designations, web page design and special event planning such as the 2010 Carnegie Centennial
- Has consistently been an articulate and engaging spokesperson on library issues

Perhaps his most important contribution, however, has been his leadership of the Capital Campaign Committee for the recently-completed Library Improvement Project. He joined others members of the Friends, the Library Board and the community in raising over one million dollars for the expansion and renovation of the library!

I could go on, but I do not think there can be any doubt that Bill is deserving a "Standout Friend" designation. On separate pages, I have included some pictures of Bill engaging in some of the activities I mentioned. I have also attached a supporting memo from another wonderful Friend, Margit Johnson. (Margit contributed the pictures that are included with this nomination.)

Our Friends group looks forward to celebrating Bill's many accomplishments as a leader of the Friends and Foundation of the Northfield Public Library.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lynne Marie Young".

Lynne Marie Young

Co-Chair of the Board of the Friends and Foundation of the Northfield Public Library