

## *Letter from Board of Trustees President Tom Whitmore:*

It has been my pleasure to work closely with Anna Grace during my tenure as president of the Board of Trustees of Wadsworth Library. Anna is a highly qualified director and has been an excellent thinking partner as we have worked in tandem to make the full resources of the Pioneer Library System (PLS) available to our patrons. Anna is highly respected by her peers. She recently served as the president of the Pioneer Library System Directors Advisory Council and is generally regarded as one of the most effective directors in the PLS.

Anna has dedicated herself to leading the library into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. She has overseen the rollout of many technological advances and has worked tirelessly to bring an array of digital devices to the public. For many people in our service area, Wadsworth Library is their most reliable access to the internet which they can use to improve and enrich their lives.

Anna was instrumental in securing long-term funding thereby ensuring the library's sustainability and growth by asking the community to vote to recharter the library as a school district public library. This was a major initiative which was accomplished by a coordinated effort between the board, the director and the New York State Department of Education.

Anna, in her years as director, has attracted and developed a very strong staff. Wadsworth Library has grown its staff to ten full and part-time employees. The current staffing level allows the library to be open more hours during the week to better serve our community.

Anna recruited volunteers to create a Friends group in 2004. The Friends of Wadsworth Library (FOWL) offers a diverse selection of interesting and exciting programs that serve all age groups. FOWL has become a fundraising arm of the library, supplementing adult and children's programming through their wish list grants.

Under Anna's guidance Wadsworth Library was chosen as the Rochester Regional Library Council's Public Library of the Year in 2013. This

is a highly coveted award which reflects the dedication of the staff and volunteers of the library.

Anna has demonstrated an ability to learn and respond quickly when confronted with the operation of our 150 year-old building. She is adept at dealing with any facility issues that arise.

In 2014 Anna spearheaded an effort to hire a consultant to assess the overall functionality of the library. Anna has instituted many of these observations from the resulting study to make the library more user-friendly. In 2015 the library underwent a major overhaul of our website and logo. Anna worked with outside vendors to upgrade our internet presence and the result is an easy to navigate gateway to the library and its services. We undertook a major branding campaign earlier this year. Through this process we distilled the perceptions and expectations of the staff, volunteers and community partners.

All of the above reflects a small fraction of what Anna means to the Wadsworth Library and its users of all ages. She has grown to represent the library as a strong and active leader. She advocates for public library policy at the local, state and national level. Most of all, she is a wonderful friend and colleague. The next director will surely benefit as Anna's efforts have positioned Wadsworth Library to continue the positive direction in which we are currently headed.

*November 23, 2016*