

KAREN BASH-ROMANER, Suffern, NY. As a library professional for over 40 years, I have witnessed and taken part in the changing roles of public libraries. I have lived in Rockland County for 40 years and have worked in various libraries in RCLS for over 39 years. To that end, I am a strong advocate for RCLS and its member libraries.

My library career has always seen me in a leadership role. I took part in the origins of ANSR, was a member of the Regional Inter-library Loan Committee, served as a Library Director, Head of Reference and Adult Program Coordinator. As a director I made appearances at the Orange County Legislature on behalf of Orange County libraries and served as Chair of the Directors Association and later, while working in Rockland County, I was Chair of the Adult Services Advisory Council and Adult Programming Committee.

In 2017, I was honored to be appointed to the Board of Trustees of the Suffern Free Library. I have been re-elected to the Board and I am currently serving as Secretary. In 2018, I was again honored. This time I was appointed to the Board of the Ramapo Catskill Library System. I am currently serving as Treasurer and Chairman of the Personnel and Finance Committee.

As I stated earlier, I have witnessed and taken part in the changing roles of public libraries. COVID-19 hit public libraries hard in 2020 – libraries are again trying to reinvent themselves. I know that having someone with library experiences and insight is invaluable. I look forward to being part of RCLS as it moves forward in these trying times.