



July 26, 2016

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Board of Library Trustees Sworn in for New Terms



**Largo, MD** – The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) Board of Library Trustees assumed new terms after the recent swearing-in ceremony. Three trustees are new to the Board: Dr. Arthuree R. M. Wright, Brett Crawford and Toni A. Smith. The biographies of our Board of Library Trustees and their respective terms follow.



**Alease J. "Christy" Wright, President**

**Term: 2016-2021**

A Board of Library Trustees member since June 2008, Dr. Wright was elected President in January 2016. This former librarian is also a board member of the Maryland Advisory Council on Libraries, a charter board member of the National Forum on Information Literacy and founder of the Literary Ladies Book Club. An alumna of Morgan State University (B.S. and Ed.D.) and the University of Maryland (M.L.S.), Wright retired from IBM in 2000 after a successful career in programming and technical marketing. She resides in Springdale, MD.



**Samuel A. Epps IV, Vice President**

**Term: 2016-2019**

Samuel Epps serves as the Political Director for UNITE HERE Local 25, a union of 6,500 hotel workers in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. Responsibilities include policy, legislation and electoral politics. His past experience is in the areas of

nonprofit work, state government and campaign management. Epps is a former member of Prince George's Democratic Central Committee from District 21. He currently serves as President of the Trustees at the First Baptist Church of North Brentwood, MD. Epps has a bachelor's degree in Political Science from Penn State University. He and his wife, Zabrina reside in Laurel, MD.



**Sylvia Bolivar**

**Term: 2016-2021**

Sylvia Bolivar, a member of the Board of Library Trustees since June 2008, served as President from February 2013 to January 2016. As a President Obama appointee to Senior Advisor for Placed-Based Initiatives at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Bolivar leads the Communications and Stakeholder Engagement for the Promise Zones Initiative, in which the federal government partners with local communities and businesses to create jobs, expand educational opportunities, increase access to quality, affordable housing and improve public safety. She was Team Co-Lead of the OPM Agency Review Team for Obama's Presidential Transition Team. In November 2015, Sylvia Bolivar was an honoree at the first annual Latinas Empowering Prince George's County Award for her leadership and advocacy in education. She resides in College Park, MD and can be found on weekends at the library with her young son.



**Arthuree R. M. Wright**

**Term: 2016-2017**

Dr. Arthuree McLaughlin Wright served 15 years as Associate Director of Information Services and two years as Interim Director of Libraries at Howard University prior to her retirement in May 2015. At Howard University, Wright focused on information literacy, assessment of learning and service effectiveness. Nationally, she chaired the Research Committee of the Association of College and Research Libraries and served on the American Library Association's Committee on Accreditation. Her distinguished career began at the Science Library at MIT in Cambridge after earning a bachelor's degree in mathematics at Indiana University and the M.L.S. at Rutgers University. While at MIT, Wright was chair of the Board of Directors for the Cambridge YWCA. Subsequently, she earned a doctorate in library and information science from the University of Maryland. From 2004-2012, Arthuree McLaughlin Wright chaired the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry for the Baltimore Washington Conference (BWC) of the United Methodist Church. Prior to that appointment, Wright chaired the BWC Task Force on Children and Poverty. Wright and her husband, Obie, a retired Methodist pastor, reside in Bowie, MD.



**Brett Crawford**

**Term: 2016 - 2019**

Brett Crawford heads a management consulting firm focused on strategy, governance and innovation in the nonprofit and emerging businesses sectors. He has extensive experience promoting small business development, community development and education policy. Crawford served as Louisiana's Secretary of Revenue, responsible for the state's tax policy and administration. He also held the position of Executive Director of the Louisiana Economic Development Corporation. Brett Crawford currently chairs the Board of Directors of Volunteers of America Chesapeake and is an advisor on strategic partnership and collaboration issues for Compass. Brett has a law degree from Georgetown

University Law Center, a Master of Business Administration from Dartmouth College and a bachelor's degree from Louisiana State University. He resides in Clinton, MD.



**Toni A. Smith**

**Term: 2016 - 2018**

Toni Smith is the founder and executive director of In Reach, Inc. a nonprofit organization that prepares Prince George's County students for college, work and life. Smith has a long-standing commitment to children's issues and has worked in a variety of local and national youth advocacy nonprofit environments including The Forum for Youth Investment and the Department of Pediatrics at Howard University Hospital. Toni Smith has written numerous articles that have been published nationally and internationally. She is passionate about improving the lives of children and youth, empowering women and girls to reach their full potential, and supporting the vital work of community-based nonprofit organizations. As a Library Trustee for PGCMLS, Smith believes that enriching, engaging and illuminating the lives of others is absolutely achievable. She resides in Landover, Maryland.

Join us in welcoming the Board of Library Trustees to their new terms in office. The next scheduled Board meeting is September 13, 2016 at 7:30 pm at the South Bowie Branch. To learn about the PGCMLS Board of Library Trustees, visit our website at [www.pgcmls.info](http://www.pgcmls.info).

**About The Prince George's County Memorial Library System**

The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS), consisting of 19 branches, offers strategies for lifelong learning. Skills development library resources include: Rosetta Stone Library Solution, Lynda.com, Brainfuse's HelpNow and JobNow, ArtistWorks for Libraries and Learning Express Library. Ready 2 Read Centers, Ready 2 Read Backpacks, ABCmouse, AWE Early Literacy Stations, Beanstack and Playaway Launchpads are some of our early literacy tools. Access OverDrive, OnePlay, hoopla digital, Freegal and Zinio to enjoy e-books, gaming, movies, music and magazines. Also, join us for Minecraft, 3D printing, DREAM (Digital Resources for Electronic Applications in Media) lab, Chess Clubs and MAC (Manga and Anime Clubs). All library services, resources and programs are free with your library card, except for our Passport services. Try out our new PGCMLS app too! Learn more about what your Library has to offer at [www.pgcmls.info](http://www.pgcmls.info).

**About The Board of Library Trustees**

The Board of Library Trustees is a policy-making body that guides the development of Library services. It is composed of volunteer citizens appointed by the County Executive. Their policy decisions impact all areas of library operations.

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