



NEWS RELEASE
North Olympic Library System
2210 South Peabody Street
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: December 13, 2019
Contact: Jennifer Pelikan, Chair, Board of Trustees
jpelikan@nols.org or 360-460-5171
Margaret Jakubcin, Library Director
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Re: North Olympic Library System Director announces retirement
Attachments: *Margaret Jakubcin-Headshot.jpg*

The Board of the North Olympic Library System (NOLS) has announced that Library Director Margaret Jakubcin plans to retire in the summer of 2020. Jakubcin confirmed her retirement timeline with the Library's Board of Trustees earlier this week, and notified library staff in individual meetings and in an email sent out on Thursday.

"My thirteen-year journey with NOLS has been a remarkable adventure, full of many personal and professional satisfactions, as well as some painful defeats," said Jakubcin. "I am proud to have been a part of this organization's growth and transformation, and honored to have served alongside NOLS' hardworking, creative, and caring staff." Jakubcin added, "I look forward to enjoying an active retirement, and having more time to pursue long-deferred personal and family interests."

Jakubcin has been in a position of leadership at NOLS since 2007. She was initially hired as the Assistant Director in September of 2007 and promoted to the position of Library Director in July of 2014. Prior to moving to Clallam County, Jakubcin worked for public library systems serving other rural communities in both Washington and Oregon.

“Margaret has been an outstanding library director,” said long-time NOLS Trustee, Betty Gordon. “Her commitment to the core philosophies of the public library has shaped the vision that has moved the library forward, and her skilled management, high energy, and hard work have combined to guide NOLS on a continuing upward trajectory. Margaret’s leadership has provided just what NOLS’ outstanding staff has needed to thrive and accomplish the incredible work they do.”

Some of the important initiatives that have progressed under Jakubcin’s leadership have included:

Development of an expansive array of services and program opportunities for all ages, notably extensive Summer Reading Program offerings, Community Read events, the Art in the Library program, DIY, tech, and skills training classes, and numerous author and musical events.

NOLS has expanded its role as the “community hub” through innovative use of Library “living rooms” for activities that bring the community into the heart of the library. NOLS has also engaged the community by building more and stronger collaborative partnerships with local schools, agencies, tribes, non-profits, businesses, and community groups. Beyond-library-walls services and programming, Tiny Olympic Libraries and Read and Ride collections, and staff participation in community events, have also extended the Library’s service reach.

Collections have expanded to include more digital resources, as well as non-traditional collections like the Seed Library, and circulating “NOLS gear” items such as telescopes, birding kits, and musical instruments.

NOLS has removed barriers to library access by modernizing circulation policies, including the elimination of overdue charges.

Capital improvement projects at all branches, have made facilities more comfortable, energy efficient, and functional. Between 2014 and 2018 Jakubcin led the multi-phased Sequim Future Library planning project, to develop solutions to the aging infrastructure and

overcrowding issues at the Sequim Branch. Sadly, the 2018 capital bond vote, which would have made it possible to implement those solutions, failed to pass by a tiny margin.

Board Chair Jennifer Pelikan noted that one of the key areas of growth under Jakubcin's leadership has been "the development and articulation of fiscal management policies, practices, and reporting protocols that have enhanced the Board's ability to be efficient and transparent in managing the library's public resources."

NOLS will be conducting a nationwide recruitment to select the next Library Director. The Board is currently developing the executive recruitment plan. They hope to make the appointment by June.



Margaret Jakubcin

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