

Contact Person:
Josie Barnes Parker
Director
Ann Arbor District Library
734-327-4263
parkerj@aadl.org

NEWS RELEASE
**ANN ARBOR DISTRICT LIBRARY TRUSTEE
ED SUROVELL
AWARDED
MICHIGAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION'S
2011 AWARD FOR LIBRARY TRUSTEE**

July 18, 2011

The Michigan Library Association has announced that Ed Surovell, long-time Trustee of the Ann Arbor District Library, will receive this year's MLA Trustee Citation of Merit, the highest award bestowed by the Association for a Library Board Trustee. The award will be presented at the Association's Awards Banquet, Wednesday, October 26 at the Kalamazoo Radisson.

The *Trustee Citation of Merit* is awarded to a public library trustee to recognize his contributions to Michigan library service by promoting library cooperation, working effectively toward legislative and appropriations beneficial to libraries, and for outstanding work in the development of local library service.

Ed Surovell received special accolades for his wisdom and foresight on the AADL Board, and his ability to listen, filter and assess any proposal or idea and then address the issue broadly. He has served on the Ann Arbor District Library Board continuously for fifteen years and was a member of the first elected Board. Mr. Surovell has served longer than any AADL Board member. His tenure also includes a term as Board President.

ED SUROVELL

Edward Surovell is founder and owner of Edward Surovell Realtors, a regional real estate company based in Ann Arbor. Raised outside Washington, D.C., he attended Columbia University in New York and moved to Ann Arbor in 1968, where he was a graduate student at the University of Michigan.

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After completion of his studies, he entered real estate in 1973. From residential sales, he rose to sales manager, and finally in 1982, opened his own firm in Ann Arbor with three associates in a small office. The company has grown to be one of the largest real estate firms in southeast Michigan.

Mr. Surovell has a strong history with libraries and the book industry. As an undergraduate he worked in libraries at Columbia University and at Union Theological Seminary. For several years after college he worked as a book editor with several publishers including Harcourt, Brace and Princeton University Press. More recently, he held an appointment as a trustee of the Library of Michigan Foundation and has held appointments with the Michigan Center for the Book, the University of Michigan Friends of the Library and the University of Michigan's and Columbia University's University Library Leadership Council.

His philanthropic focus is cultural enrichment and public health. His non-library board service includes the Michigan Historical Commission, the Historical Society of Michigan, and Chamber Music America.

THE NEW ANN ARBOR DISTRICT LIBRARY BOARD

Ed Surovell was elected to the inaugural AADL Board of Trustees in 1996, when the new District Library moved from under the auspices of the Ann Arbor School District to become its own independent entity. With six other Trustees, he worked to establish the new District Library.

The Trustees were faced with many daunting tasks: creating a permanent governing structure for AADL; establishing working committees for Board activities; dealing with labor relations for the new library system; and quickly learning what was required for an independent Board with taxing authority.

It was a crucial time in the AADL's history, and, as Ed Surovell states, two of the most important questions facing Trustees at that time were - "what should we do with the Library's older, undersized buildings (mostly rented) and what kind of a Library are we to become now that we are on our own?"

Fifteen years later, the Ann Arbor District Library has three new, modern branches, national recognition as a former Library of the Year and is Michigan's only 5-Star Library. Circulation has surpassed 9 million; annual visits to the Library total 1.7 million; and 69% of the district population has a library card.

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TRUSTEE CHALLENGES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

According to Ed Surovell, the three great challenges AADL Trustees have faced during his fifteen years as Trustee were: (1) The decision to review the library system (a large central library with very modest branches) and the decision to change it to what it has become today – offering the best service possible at all locations. (2) The handling of an early fiscal crisis and the successful re-building of the Library's financial structure. (3) The selection of a new library director when AADL's first director accepted another position. At that time, Josie Parker was assistant director, and Ed was one of several Trustees to recommend her appointment as acting director.

“There is no doubt for me that my most important contribution has been my commitment to the AADL trustees' being a policy board and contributing to the board's support of the library's director as CEO and not simply as head librarian.”

When asked about Ed Surovell's contributions as Trustee, Library Director Josie Parker remarked “Everyone in the community, no matter their age, feels the impact of decisions he leads or supports as they use the public library. His commitment to creating a quality of life for the broader community through the existence of a healthy and responsive public library is felt by every citizen in the district.”

“It has been a pleasure for me to serve the community as Trustee,” Ed Surovell stated when learning of the award. “I am honored to receive this recognition from the Michigan Library Association and the respect it represents from so many others whose friendship and leadership in Michigan's public libraries helps our state remain a vibrant place to live and to work.”
