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Jenny Newman Retiring from LibraryWorks After 20+ Years of Dedicated Leadership

BETHESDA, Maryland (August 4, 2025) — After more than two decades with LibraryWorks, Jenny Newman, Vice President and Publisher, will retire on September 1, 2025. Jenny has been with LibraryWorks since its inception and has been the driving force behind its popular webinar program and the well-respected Modern Library Awards (MLAs).

In November 2020, Jenny was diagnosed with Young Onset Parkinson's disease, a challenge she has faced with optimism and a determination to educate others about the disease while advocating for those living with it.

Jenny launched LibraryWorks' webinar program in 2015, bringing top-notch, timely training to the library community. She has produced, marketed, and moderated over 320 webinars, helping thousands of librarians and information professionals stay connected and inspired.

She helped develop and launch the Modern Library Awards in 2014, serving as the program's producer and overseeing each award season with integrity, fairness, and an unwavering attention to detail.

Jenny said, "I know the time is right to retire so I can prioritize my health, travel, and continue to be a Parkinson's advocate, but it's very bittersweet. I've met so many incredible people on this journey that I'm truly going to miss.

"I've also had the joy and privilege of working with our president, Mark Kimmel, and our vice president of sales, Sharon Deutch, for the past 33 years! We began working together in 1992 when Mark hired us at Phillips Business Information, a publishing firm with about 500 employees. I was just 24 years old and Sharon was 26. We were all so young (babies, really!). We've been through so many of life's ups and downs together, which makes us much more than coworkers, we're family!"

Mark Kimmel, president of LibraryWorks, said, "Since the beginning, Jenny has embodied the ethos of LibraryWorks. Her leadership, passion for service, and pursuit of excellence have helped make our company a trusted source of quality continuing education for librarians. We will miss her, and we wish her the best as she embraces retirement and brings her talents to bear on the fight against Parkinson's."

As part of this transition, Kathy Dempsey will assume the role of Director of Continuing Education and Producer of the Modern Library Awards. In this capacity, she will lead LibraryWorks' extensive webinar program as well as oversee the Modern Library Awards program.

Kathy has been a webinar presenter with LibraryWorks since the beginning, presenting their 9th webinar in 2016 and regularly contributing ever since. A seasoned writer, editor, and library marketing expert, Kathy is the author of *The Accidental Library Marketer*.

Rob Hudgins, who has been an integral part of LibraryWorks' production and design team for over 20 years, will step into the role of Publishing Director and Assistant Producer of the Modern Library Awards where he will serve as the primary contact for implementing LibraryWorks' marketing packages as well as overseeing the day-to-day operations of the Modern Library Awards program.

Sharon Deutch, vice president of sales, said, "Jenny has been my trusted partner for over 30 years. I have had the privilege of working alongside her as we have both grown into our editorial and marketing roles across two wonderful and successful companies. We are well beyond colleagues and are truly family. I can't imagine spending my workdays without Jenny, but I am equally so very proud of my dear friend for prioritizing her health as nothing is more important! I'm also excited as we welcome both Kathy and Rob in their new roles. I know that all of our clients will continue to be in very capable hands!"

As Jenny steps into this new chapter, she leaves behind a remarkable legacy of service, innovation, and heart. While her presence will be deeply missed, the entire LibraryWorks team is excited for what lies ahead under Kathy and Rob's leadership.

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About LibraryWorks

LibraryWorks' mission is to help you to make informed decisions about library technology, automation and software, collection development and management, facilities and furnishings, staffing, purchasing, and other areas that drive effective strategic planning and day-to-day operations. Our family of resources can enable you to identify best practices, monitor trends, evaluate new products and services, and hone your skills.