

Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services

1190 Meramec Station Road
Ballwin, MO 63021



Press Release – For Immediate Release

Susan Parkins, Senior Outreach Specialist at Laramie County (WY) Public Library System and the 2019 ABOS President, is the recipient of the 2021 ABOS John Philip Excellence in Outreach Award. The John Philip Excellence in Outreach Award, sponsored by the Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services and Farber Specialty Vehicles, is given to an individual in recognition of their outstanding contributions and prominent leadership to the Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services.

Susan Parkins' commitment to ABOS has been outstanding since being elected to the ABOS Board of Directors for 2017-2018 as a Board Member-at-Large. As a new board member, Susan served as the co-chair of the ABOS Advocacy Committee, working with her committee to create a comprehensive list of state library associations across the country, which is used for the organization to publicize ABOS events and get the word out about the association.

In 2018, Susan was elected by the membership to serve in the three (3) year term as Vice President-President-Elect/President/Past President. As President-Elect and President, Susan served as the chair of the Long-Range Planning Committee, coordinating hotel contracts for conference years 2019-2022. Prior to serving in this position, ABOS only planned one year in advance for conferences. Susan's dedication enabled the organization to plan four years in advance, allowing ABOS to allocate more time for growth and the future of the association.

As the 2019 ABOS President, Susan planned the 2019 ABOS Conference in Omaha, Nebraska, which was attended by 200 library outreach workers from across the United States and around the world. In her role as President, Susan helped unite and mentor the Board, laying down the foundation for the exponential growth in membership and exciting new initiatives that the organization experienced and established in 2020 and 2021.

As the 2020 Past President, Susan helped advance the organization in a multitude of ways, giving her all to ABOS during her entire year in this role. Susan spearheaded the mobile conference app, Whova, in 2020. The use of this mobile app was essential in the switch to a virtual conference format due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Susan diligently worked with the conference attendees and provided comprehensive tech support, showing compassion as she

helped troubleshoot each and every tech issue. Susan's mentorship and guidance as Past President was essential in this unprecedented advancement of ABOS in 2020 as well as during COVID-19.

In addition as Past President, Susan established the Continuing Education Committee, in an effort to enhance membership value and to provide continuing education opportunities to members.

Susan continues to contribute to the organization even after her term as Past President. Susan has taken on the position of the 2021 Whova App Coordinator and will coordinate the use of the mobile conference app, providing tech support to both the Board of Directors and conference attendees. Susan also serves on the Technology Committee, Conference Programs Committee, and Long-Range Planning Committee, in 2021.

Beth Cook, Youth & Outreach Services Manager at the Laramie County Library System, describes that, "Susan diligently embodies the spirit of The John Philip Excellence in Outreach Award through her dedication and tireless work for outreach services locally and nationally as well as advocate and support ABOS."

Carey D. Hartmann, Executive Director of the Laramie County Library System, shares that, "Susan is a person of integrity who takes her responsibilities seriously. She builds on past successes and makes improvements for the future in every challenge and project she takes on. Susan brought those skills to her work with ABOS as Vice President, President, and Past President. The work she did to provide excellent conferences and to mentor those creating conferences afterwards was driven by all she has learned and by the lasting connections she has made in the wonderful ABOS organization. Susan wants every person providing outreach in libraries to have the same opportunities ... Outreach has been her life's work and passion. Ensuring, through ABOS, that others have the knowledge and network they need to succeed in this unique field has been her mission."

The John Philip Excellence in Outreach Award will be presented at the Awards Ceremony to be held on Tuesday, October 12, 2021, during the 2021 Virtual Conference of the Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services. The ceremony starts at 10:15 a.m. CST.