

2007 CALTAC Awards

Gordon Stefenhagen
Library Commissioner
County of Los Angeles

Trustee, Commissioner or System advisory board Member for outstanding service to a local library or system.

Paul Miller
Director
Woodland Public Library

Librarian for outstanding work with a Board of Trustees or Commission.

Robert J. Devincenzi
Editor & Publisher
of the Milpitas Post

Newspaper, Radio Stations, or Television Channel for outstanding media coverage or special services to libraries.

Delene Gonzales
Banning Public Library

Individual for outstanding or volunteer service to a library.

Once again, CALTAC has selected and honored an outstanding group of awardees during their 2007 Awards Luncheon. Read on and find out about all the wonderful people and organizations honored this year. Congratulations to all!

***Trustee, Commissioner, or System Advisory Board
 Member for Outstanding Service to the Local Library or System***

Gordon Stefenhagen
County of Los Angeles Library Commissioner

Gordon Stefenhagen, with his experience as mayor of Norwalk, has brought a dedication to libraries, literacy, books, and reading to the Norwalk branches of the Los Angeles County public libraries.:

- Mr. Stefenhagen's tireless efforts, innovative thinking, leadership skills, and strong advocacy have led to a great leap in promoting literacy and the quality of life for County of Los Angeles residents of all ages.
- He embodies the phrase, "If you want something done, ask a busy person," by accomplishing so much for his city and county. A councilperson for 13 years and mayor three times, Mr. Stefenhagen also devotes time to several commissions and committees. He has not only served as Chair of the County of Los Angeles Library Commission, but also provided guidance to the Friends of the Norwalk Libraries as their vice-president.
- Mr. Stefenhagen used his expertise to create the "Night of 1000 Stars" which has raised over \$400,000 for new computers, books, and children's programs.
- Mr. Stefenhagen has worked with library staff to extend services to seniors, provide ADA compliant computers to library patrons, and obtain local corporate grants.
- In his role as Library Ambassador, Mr. Stefenhagen has kept the image of the libraries high and constantly reminds citizens of their responsibility to support library services.

Nominated by:
Terri Maguire
Chief Deputy of the County of Los Angeles Public Library

Librarian for outstanding work with a Board of Trustees or Commission

**Paul Miller
Director
Woodland Public Library**

Imagine stepping into the oldest (1905) original Carnegie library still functioning as a public library in California. You are the new Director. The building is in decline, relations with the city are strained, and employee morale is low. Your name is Paul Miller.

- Three years later, the Woodland Public Library has seen a dramatic turnaround under the guidance of Paul Miller. Relations with the council and other city departments is cordial, the administrative board has become engaged and enthusiastic, and improved employee morale has led to a high level of patron satisfaction.
- Under Paul Miller, library usage has doubled. Public polls show a deepening respect for the library. And the library has been refurbished in anticipation of an approved multi-million dollar expansion.
- Paul Miller has made the collection more responsive to the community through thorough weeding and materials budget augmentation.
- Paul Miller has empowered his staff by working with their suggestions and incorporating their ideas into a system that is responsive to patrons and satisfying to employees.
- And the citizens even rave about Director Miller as a budding star in the annual Friends of the Library Mystery Dinner.

**Nominated by:
George Goding
Woodland Public Library Board of Trustees**

Newspaper, Radio Stations, or Television Channel for outstanding media coverage or special services to libraries.

**Milpitas Post, Robert J. Devincenzi
Editor & Publisher**

The Milpitas Post has been providing community news since 1955, when it was founded by Mort Levine and his wife Elaine. Managed since 1999 by Robert J. Devincenzi the Milpitas Post was nominated for its outstanding coverage of Library issues during the past year.

- The Milpitas Post always finds space to help inform the community about Library programs and services;
- Because of their support, there is often standing room only attendance at library programs;
- The Post is a real advocate and a critical link in the effort to tell the library's story;
- Its coverage of the April 28, 2007 groundbreaking ceremony for the new library was exceptional. For two weeks in a row they gave the project front-page coverage with full-sized color pictures and articles that were both accurate and supportive of the largest construction project in Milpitas' history.

With more than 2,200 visitors per day the **Milpitas Community Library** is the **most visited public building in Milpitas**. The [new library](#) is to be 60,000 square feet spread out over two floors, incorporating the existing Milpitas Senior Center, formerly the Milpitas Grammar School, into the design. The historic building will be utilized as an auditorium, homework center and study rooms.

**Nominated by:
Linda Arbaugha
Milpitas Community Librarian**

Individual for outstanding or volunteer service to a library.

**Delene Gonzales
Banning Public Library
Banning, CA**

In the midst of change, Delene Gonzales helped the Board of Trustees transition from an advisory board to an administrative board.

- Stepping into the vacuum created by the resignation of the Director, Ms. Gonzales guided the library through change and facilitated the celebration of their 90th anniversary.
- Ms. Gonzales set up procedures for advertising, appointments, and interviews for a new director.
- Ms. Gonzales supervised the installation of wi-fi technology, bringing wireless Internet availability to Banning patrons.
- Ms. Gonzales has aided in the design and upkeep of the new webpage, the installation of a new phone system, and the creation of a partnership with the local art community to display local art.
- In the face of a gap in leadership, Delene Gonzales stepped in and made sure that the large plans and small details necessary to the running of the Banning Public Library were taken care of with skill and confidence.

QUOTE: "*Because of her work, knowledge, willingness, and just plain grit, our library is in great shape.*" -- Dawn Tracy Wells

**Nominated by:
Dawn Tracy
Banning Library District Trustee**