

Read Like a Commissioner

During National Library Week

This year's theme for the American Library Association's National Library Week is "Libraries = Strong Communities." The theme illustrates how today's libraries are at the heart of our cities, towns, schools and community. To demonstrate this the Palm Beach County Library System (PBCLS) launched the "Read Like a Commissioner" campaign. Palm Beach County Mayor Mack Bernard; Vice Mayor Dave Kerner; along with Commissioners Hal R. Valeche, Gregg K. Weiss, Robert S. Weinroth, Mary Lou Berger, Melissa McKinlay; and County Administrator Verdenia C. Baker each provided the Library with a list of reading recommendations.

The idea for the campaign originated when Government Research Librarian Jayme Bosio asked, "How can we increase the public's knowledge about county government?" System Activities Coordinator Chris Jankow worked out the details of the campaign and created the book lists. Library marketing staff Demilade Haastrup and Konrad Neumann developed the web page and social media posts. Library Director Douglas Crane said, "I reached out to the commissioners for their reading recommendations to show a personal side of the commissioners. It provides a fun way for the community to connect with their elected representatives."

National Library Week demonstrates how the Library can encourage community members to meet and discuss civic issues and shows how government, civic and service organizations can actively engage with the people they serve. Public libraries are a space where all community members, regardless of age, culture or income level, can come together to connect and learn while striving to ensure the community's needs are being met.

Visit www.pbclibrary.org/read-commissioner to check out the commissioners recommendations and to place a hold on any title that interests you.

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Our mission: "To connect communities, inspire thought and enrich lives."
