

2011-J3202

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Walworth-Seely Public Library

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across the great State of New York is reflective of certain exemplary institutions whose purpose is dedicated to serving the community and the needs of its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its longstanding traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Walworth-Seely Public Library, to be celebrated on Sunday, February 12, 2012; and

WHEREAS, Prior to the establishment of the Walworth-Seely Public Library, Walworth resident, Bessie Seely sold her father's vacant building, formerly Jay Seeley's Tinsmith Shop, to the Walworth Chamber of Commerce; this location would later be home to the library which would bear her family's name; and

WHEREAS, True interest for a public library was sparked in the early 1960s through the tireless efforts of Dr. William Horace Foster Newman and his secretary, Mary Louise Fleming, who wrote more than 200 letters to Rochester area doctors and several large corporations telling of the community's desire to have a public library; and

WHEREAS, A precursor to the Library, The Walworth Reading Room first opened its doors on January 27, 1960, as an experiment under the co-sponsorship of the Wayne County Library Board and the Walworth Chamber of Commerce; it was located on the first floor in the rear of the old Seely building; and

WHEREAS, On October 5, 1961, an appeal was made to the Walworth Town Board to establish a public library; the Board voted unanimously to

establish the Walworth-Seely Public Library and appointed the first Board of Trustees; and

WHEREAS, The establishment of the Walworth-Seely Public Library came on August 19, 1962; a ribbon cutting ceremony and open house were held, attended by Bessie Seely, political dignitaries, and local residents; and

WHEREAS, In Walworth-Seely Public Library's first full year of operation, the Circulation was 7,112 serving a Population of 2,782; and

WHEREAS, Today, located on the western border of Wayne County, the Walworth-Seely Public Library serves approximately 9,400 residents and is a member of the Pioneer Library System, a cooperative public library system serving forty-two public libraries in Ontario, Wayne, Wyoming and Livingston counties; and

WHEREAS, Steeped in a proud and distinguished history, the Walworth-Seely Public Library may take just pride in its purposeful growth, as it looks forward to continuing to serve the educational, cultural and intellectual needs of the community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Walworth-Seely Public Library; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Walworth-Seely Public Library.