

SWFLN Library Champion and Library Advocate Awards Honorees Announced

(Fort Myers) The Southwest Florida Library Network (SWFLN) has recognized two distinguished leaders with its *Library Champion Award* and *Library Advocate Award* for exceptional support for libraries. The 2008-09 honorees are Mali Chamness and Dale Grasshopper.

Clewiston Mayor Mali Chamness has been very supportive of the programs held by the Hendry County libraries. She has attended library awards programs and presented certificates to the participating families. She has issued proclamations to kick off the Hendry County Big Reads in 2008 for “Their Eyes Were Watching God” and in 2009 for “Fahrenheit 451.” She invited the library to host a booth at the City Market. Her support of the library and its programs has fostered a positive community spirit at the three Hendry County libraries. Mayor Chamness has encouraged students and citizens alike to value their library services. She can always be counted on to lead community support of library programs.

Dale Grasshopper has been an enthusiastic supporter of Seminole Tribal libraries. She has developed programs, sponsored Open Houses, and encouraged use of libraries by students and adults on all four reservations. In addition, she has been an advocate of literacy and vocational programs for students. Her dedication to the education of Seminole youth has been exemplary. She has promoted reading and is a true friend of the libraries.

The SWFLN *Library Champion Award* is granted annually to recognize an elected or appointed official serving at any level of government who has demonstrated exceptional support for and attention to libraries.

The SWFLN *Library Advocate Award* is granted annually to recognize and honor a member of the community who has demonstrated exceptional support for and attention to the promotion of libraries.

Both awards were presented at SWFLN’s annual meeting which took place on November 5, 2009.