

Friends of Libraries Section – Annual Membership Meeting

November 15, 2023

Virtual Meeting

Welcome

President Kerstin Cruger welcomed everyone to the 2023 Friends of Libraries Section Annual Meeting.

Call to Order

She then called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. She noted that the meeting would be recorded and archived, and that the Chat would be monitored throughout the meeting for any comments or questions. She then reviewed the meeting Agenda and Mission of the Friends. She also took the opportunity to introduce and welcome NYLA President Lisa Kropp to the meeting and thanked her for joining us.

Introduction of the 2022-2023 FLS Board

Kerstin then introduced the members of the 2022-2023 FLS Board. The fourteen Executive Board members are President Kerstin Cruger, First Vice President/ Conference Curator Carol Fortier, Immediate Past President Karen Sperrazza, Second Vice President Amy Discenza, Secretary Lynne Madden, Treasurer Terry Mulee, President Emeritus Randall Enos, and Members at Large Marie Bindeman, Erica Freudenberger, Christopher Lund, Mary Giardini, Jerrie Grantham, Meg Sgombick, and Ristiina Wigg.

Kerstin noted that Karen Sperrazza and Lynne Madden will be leaving the Board. She thanked them for their service.

The FLS Board also has seven Auxiliary Members: Jennifer Allen, Jim Foster, Danielle Kraus, Joyce Laiosa, Helen Rados, Jean Sheviak. Kerstin noted that Danielle Kraus and Helen Rados will also be stepping down from the Board and thanked them for their service.

Approval of the Minutes of the November 16, 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes

These minutes were reviewed by the FLS Executive Board on December 7, 2022. A few grammatical errors were noted, but nothing that changed the proceedings of the meeting. With no corrections otherwise noted, Karen Sperrazza made a motion to accept the minutes. Seconded by Mary Giardini. Approved.

Review of Financial Reports

Treasurer Terry Mulee presented the Financial Report and stated that FLS had \$3,570.00 in expenses during the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year. She noted that this was about 50% of the Budget. This was due to a variety of factors but also reflected very good fiscal management on the part of FLS. The Randall S. Enos Conference Scholarship Fund ending balance was \$3,998.00.

Daniel W. Casey Library Advocacy Award

Kerstin introduced Lisa Wemett who represented Coordinator of the Daniel W. Casey Award Helen Rados, who was unable to be at the meeting. Lisa gave some background information on Daniel Casey and the FLS Daniel W. Casey Library Advocacy Award. She then

announced that the 2023 award was presented posthumously to Marjorie Gascon of the Friends of the Webster Public Library at a reception in her honor on November 11, 2020. Lisa noted that there was an article in the August Friends News and Notes about Marjorie and her involvement with the Webster Friends. Two representatives from the Webster Library were at the meeting and said a few words about Marjorie and thanked FLS for this honor. Lisa also reported that an Honorable Mention was awarded to Eileen Hall of the Friends of the Rosendale Library.

Randall Enos Conference Scholarship

Marie Bindeman, Coordinator for FLS Scholarship, gave a bit of background on the FLS Randall Enos Conference Scholarship. She then announced that the 2023 recipient of the scholarship was Theresa Schommer of the Monroe Free Library. Theresa was unable to attend the meeting, but Marie noted that Theresa had been in touch with her and told her that she had a wonderful experience at the NYLA Conference in Saratoga.

Review of Annual Report of Section Activities

President Kerstin Cruger highlighted a few items from her FLS Annual Report:

- The *2024-2026 Long Range Plan* was completed and is ready to be implemented.
- Three *FLS Connections!* were held this year. The topics of these virtual gatherings were *E-Newsletters and Email Marketing, Alternative Collections, and Membership Engagement*.
- The first *FLS In-Person Meet-Up* since 2019 was held in July at the Cazenovia Public Library. NYS Librarian Lauren Moore attended and spoke about the 2022 Regent's Advisory Council Vision Plan.
- FLS held a Regional Workshop, *Getting Started: Creating and Supporting a Friends Group for Your Library* at the Guernsey Memorial Library in Norwich, NY.
- FLS has a new resource on our webpage, the *FLS Toolbox*. Two Toolkits have been created, *FLS Toolkit to Start a Friends Group* and *FLS Toolkit for Writing Winning Grant Proposals*.
- FLS created a new position this year, *FLS Councilor*, the FLS representative to NYLA Council. A special election was held, and Jerrie Grantham was elected to this three-year position.
- FLS offered five sessions at the *2023 NYLA Conference* in Saratoga, including a three-hour Pre-Conference program. The Friends of the Saratoga Public Library hosted "Coffee and Connections" at their new Friends Coffee Shop on Friends Day of the Conference.
- After conducting a survey of our members FLS has decided to no longer offer *Friends News and Notes* in print form. Beginning in January 2024 it will be offered digitally every other month.

Outgoing President's Remarks

Kerstin thanked everyone for all their support, dedication, and hard work over the past two years. She then passed the gavel and the meeting to the 2023-2024 FLS President Carol Fortier.

Incoming President's Remarks and Installation of the 2023-2024 FLS Board

Carol thanked Kerstin for her work as FLS President and thanked all the Board members who were continuing to serve on the FLS Board and welcomed the new members. She then introduced the 2023-2024 FLS Executive Board: President Carol Fortier, First Vice President/Conference Ambassador Christopher Lund, Immediate Past President Kerstin Cruger,

Second Vice President Amy Discenza, Secretary Joyce Maguda, Treasurer Terry Mulee, FLS Councilor, Jerrie Grantham, President Emeritus Randall Enos, Members at Large: Matthew Corey, James Foster, Erica Freudenberger, Meg Sgombick, and Rusty Wigg. She also introduced Auxiliary Members Jen Allen, Marie Bindeman, Joyce Laiosa, Jean Sheviak, and Lisa Wemett.

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, President Carol Fortier asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Marie Bindeman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 p.m. Seconded by Amy Discenza. Approved.

Respectfully submitted, Lynne Madden, Secretary

Minutes submitted for Approval: December 2023; Reviewed by FLS Board: December 5, 2023