

**Friends of Libraries Section – Annual Membership Meeting
November 17, 2020
Virtual Meeting**

Welcome

President Lisa Wemett welcomed everyone to the first ever Virtual Annual Membership Meeting of the Friends of Libraries Section.

Call to Order

She then called the meeting to order at 2:02 pm. She noted that the meeting will be recorded and archived, and that “chats” will be monitored throughout the meeting for any comments or questions.

Introduction of the 2019-2020 FLS Board

Lisa then introduced the members of the 2019-2020 FLS Board. The thirteen Executive Board members are President Lisa Wemett, First Vice President/President Elect Karen Sperrazza, Second Vice President Terry Mulee, Secretary Lynne Madden, Treasurer Stephen Hofer, President Emeritus Randall Enos, and Members at Large: Anne Andrianos, Kerstin Cruger, Erica Freudenberger, Patricia Loughan, Marie Orlando, Leslie Riley and Ristiina Wigg. The FLS Board also has nine Auxiliary Members: Christine Beck, Marie Bindeman, Joyce Laiosa, Meg Sgombick, Amy Discenza, Annabeth Hayes, Jean Sheviak, Janet Kreason, and Margaret Pilaroscia.

Approval of the Minutes of the November 15, 2019 Annual Membership Meeting

These minutes were reviewed by the FLS Executive Board on January 8, 2020 and posted on the FLS website for the members. Terry Mulee made a motion to accept the minutes. Marie Orlando seconded the motion. Approved.

Treasurer’s Report

Treasurer Stephen Hofer reviewed the Financial Report and reported a beginning balance of \$7,939.00 and an ending balance of \$7,514.00 for the fiscal year 2019-2020. In 2020 the Randall Enos Conference Scholarship ending balance was \$4019.00. The total ending 2019-2020 Fund Balance was \$11,533.00.

Introduction of the 2020 FLS Dewey Conference Fellow

The 2020 recipient of the FLS Dewey Fellowship was Kerstin Cruger. Kerstin is the Library Sustainability Associate and Communications Specialist at the Mid-Hudson Library System. She is the 2020-21 FLS First Vice President/President Elect.

Announcement of the 2020 FLS Daniel W. Casey Library Advocacy Award

Marie Bindeman, Casey Award Coordinator announced that two recipients had been awarded FLS Daniel W. Casey Library Advocacy Award this year. The Award honors these groups whose efforts have contributed to the growth of their individual libraries and Friends organizations. The 2020 award recipients were The Friends of the

Clifton Park-Halfmoon Library and The Friends of the Olean Public Library. A Certificate of Merit was also awarded this year to Mary Louise Morgan in commendation for her dedicated service to the Elizabethtown Library Association. Both the nominators and representatives of the two groups gave remarks about receiving this honor.

Marie thanked her committee members Joyce Laiosa and Leslie Riley for their work on this project. Lisa Wemett thanked Marie for her conscientious diligence to the award over the past three years.

Call for Nominations for 2021 FLS Scholarships and Awards

Helen Rados was introduced as the new FLS Daniel W. Casey Award Coordinator. Nominations are now being accepted for this award.

Anne Andrianos was introduced as the Coordinator for FLS Scholarship Awards. Two FLS Randall Enos Conference Scholarships will be awarded in 2020. One will be awarded to someone who has never attended a NYLA Annual Conference and one will be awarded to someone who has attended in the past. Applications are now being accepted.

June 1, 2021 is the deadline for both awards.

Membership, Newsletter and Website Report

Second Vice President Terry Mulee reported that there was a slight decrease in FLS membership during the past year due to the COVID pandemic. Currently FLS has 179 individual members and 58 Friends groups. FLS publishes a quarterly newsletter, *Friends News and Notes*, which is filled with information about FLS activities and well as articles on what Friends groups around the state are doing. This newsletter is sent to all members of FLS. FLS also has a website that is kept up to date with news, information and activities that are of interest to Friends groups. She encouraged those attending the meeting to take advantage of these resources and to let other Friends groups know about them. She also noted if anyone had any questions about any of these things to contact her.

Outgoing President's Review of Annual Report of Section Activities

President Lisa Wemett highlighted a few items from her FLS Year in Review report and noted that it will be posted on the FLS website:

- FLS presented 6 programs at the 2019 Annual Conference in Saratoga Springs with 236 attendees.
- Due to the COVID pandemic causing the 2020 NYLA Annual Conference to be held virtually, FLS was only able to offer one "on demand" program. FLS co-sponsored several other sessions developed by other NYLA units. Additional content planned for the conference was developed into the *Focus on Friends* webinar series for 2021. FLS was also able to host and "staff" a virtual booth at the Conference for 13 hours over two days.

- A Membership Survey was conducted in advance of developing the second FLS Long Range Plan. 119 responses were received.
- Upon recommendation of the Long-Range Plan Task Force the FLS mission statement was revised. It now states *FLS creates a network to connect and inspire Friends groups in all types of libraries to support the New York library community.*
- **New Frontiers for Friends, the FLS Long-Range Plan for 2021-2023** was adopted in July 2020.
- Two Webinars were presented with approximately 60 viewers in attendance. This benefit was established in 2019, reinforcing FLS's emphasis on professional development. All members of FLS including registered non-voting members of a group with an FLS Organizational Membership are eligible to participate in FLS-sponsored webinars at no charge. All archived FLS webinars may be accessed on the FLS website under Events.
- Regional workshops and 2020 meet-ups were put on pause in 2020.

Lisa also reminded the attendees that one of her jobs as the 2020-21 Immediate Past President is to chair the Nominating Committee. FLS is always looking for new faces to join the Board or serve on a committee. She asked anyone interested in joining the Board to please contact her.

Outgoing President's Remarks

Lisa thanked the members of the 2019-20 FLS Board for their support and hard work during the past year. She especially thanked Second Vice President Terry Mulee for her personal assistance and invaluable collaboration on projects and initiatives during Lisa's presidential terms.

Passing of the Gavel to Incoming President

Thanks to Terry Mulee, using a very cleverly designed photo collage, Lisa passed the FLS gavel to Incoming President Karen Sperrazza.

Incoming President's Remarks, Introduction, and Installation of the 2020-2021 FLS Board

FLS President 2020-21 Karen Sperrazza thanked Lisa and introduced the new Executive Board for the upcoming year: First Vice President/President Elect Kerstin Cruger; Immediate Past President Lisa Wemett; Second Vice President Terry Mulee; Secretary Lynne Madden; Treasurer Stephen Hoefler; Randall Enos, President Emeritus; Members at Large, Anne Andrianos, Marie Bindeman, Erica Freudenberger, Patricia Loughan, Marie Orlando, Leslie Riley, and Ristiina Wigg. Karen also introduced two new auxiliary members of the Board, Danielle Krause, and Helen Rados.

She noted that the Board is now officially installed and that she was looking forward to working with everyone.

New Frontiers for Friends: Long Range Plan 2021-2023

Karen reported that FLS will be forming or has formed a few new task forces in keeping with the Guiding Principles of the 2021-23 Long Range Plan. They are the Task Force on Friends and Rural Libraries, the Task Force on Friends Councils, and the Library Champions Task Force. Two new Ad Hoc Committees are planned, the Ad Hoc Committee on Governance and the Ad Hoc Committee on By-Laws.

FLS 30th Anniversary

FLS will celebrate 30 years in 2022. Planning for this celebration will be done this year.

Upcoming Events

Karen noted a few events already on the calendar for 2021. Two webinars in the *Focus on Friends* series are planned, *Efficient, Effective Boards and Board Meetings*, January 12, 2021 and *Friendly Partnerships Strengthen Communities*, March 11, 2021. The Annual NYLA Conference will be held in Syracuse, November 3-6, 2021.

Adjournment

With no further matters to discuss, President Karen Sperrazza asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Marie Bindeman made the motion, seconded by Mickey Cherry. Approved.

Respectfully submitted, Lynne Madden, Secretary

Submitted for approval by the FLS Executive Board December 9, 2020