

**Friends of Libraries Section – Annual Membership Meeting  
November 18, 2021  
Virtual Meeting**

**Welcome**

President Karen Sperrazza welcomed everyone to the second Friends of Libraries Section Virtual Annual Membership Meeting.

**Call to Order**

She then called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. 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 2020-2021 FLS Board**

Karen then introduced the members of the 2020-2021 FLS Board. The thirteen Executive Board members are President Karen Sperrazza, First Vice President/President Elect Kerstin Cruger, Immediate Past President Lisa Wemett, Second Vice President Terry Mulee, Secretary Lynne Madden, Treasurer Stephen Hoefler, President Emeritus Randall Enos, and Members at Large: Anne Andrianos, Chris Beck, Marie Bindeman, Erica Freudenberger, Marie Orlando, Leslie Riley, and Ristiina Wigg. The FLS Board also has nine Auxiliary Members: Amy Discenza, Annabeth Hayes, Danielle Kraus, Joyce Laiosa, Helen Rados, Meg Sgombick, Jean Sheviak, Rebecca Fuss, Margaret Pilaroscia.

**Approval of the Minutes of the November 17, 2020 Annual Membership Meeting**

These minutes were reviewed by the FLS Executive Board on December 9, 2020 and posted on the FLS website for the members. Stephen Hoefler made a motion to accept the minutes. Lisa Wemett seconded the motion. Approved.

**Treasurer’s Report**

Treasurer Stephen Hoefler reviewed the Financial Report and reported a beginning balance of \$7,514.00 and an ending balance of \$9,099.00 for the fiscal year 2020-2021. In 2021 the Randall Enos Conference Scholarship ending balance was \$4019.00. The total ending 2020-2021 Fund Balance was \$13,363.00. Stephen remarked that despite the Covid pandemic and the problems it brought, FLS ended the fiscal year with a healthy fund balance. This was due to more memberships than budgeted, our very successful webinar series, and no travel expenses. With no questions or comments noted, Stephen was thanked for his report.

**Introduction of the 2021 FLS Daniel W. Casey Library Advocacy Award Recipients**

Karen thanked Helen Rados, Coordinator for the FLS Daniel W. Casey Library Advocacy Award and her readers, Leslie Riley, and Joyce Laiosa for their work this year. She then announced that two recipients had been awarded the FLS Daniel W.

Casey Library Advocacy Award this year. The Award honors these groups or individuals whose efforts have contributed to the growth of their individual libraries and Friends organizations. The 2021 award recipients were The Friends of the Fairport Public Library and Kris Macdonald of the Friends of the Beekman Library. Ann Poelma, current President, and Marianne Michaud Past President of the Friends of the Fairport Public Library, and Kris Macdonald gave remarks about receiving this honor.

### **Introduction of the 2021 FLS Randall Enos Conference Scholarship Recipient**

Karen thanked Anne Andriano, Coordinator for FLS Scholarships and her readers Margaret Pilaroscia and Rebecca Fuss for their work this year. The 2021 recipient of the FLS Randall Enos Conference Scholarship was Christopher Lund. Christopher is the President of the Friends of the Cortland Free Library. He was recently elected an FLS Member at Large and will be a member of the 2021-22 FLS Executive Board. Christopher thanked FLS for the Scholarship, noted that he was excited to have attended his first NYLA Annual Conference, and has already started implementing some of the ideas he got there.

### **Membership, Newsletter and Website Report**

Second Vice President Terry Mulee reported that there was a slight decrease in FLS membership again this past year. Currently FLS has 171 individual members and 55 Friends groups. She commented on the FLS 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 and is archived on the FLS website. The FLS website 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 Karen Sperrazza highlighted a few items from her FLS Year in Review report and noted that it will be posted on the FLS website:

- In March, the FLS Board approved the FLS *Commitment to Diversity* statement.
- FLS participated in the *NYLA Virtual and In-Person Annual Conference* this year. We presented a Live Virtual program and an OnDemand program for the Virtual Conference, and two programs for the In-person Conference. We were also happy to be able to have a booth again at the annual Trade Show.
- Three *Webinars* were presented with this year, with 122 viewers in attendance. 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.

- *FLS Connections*, virtual gatherings, have taken the place of in-person regional FLS Meet-ups, allowing groups across the state to network and share on various topics. Gatherings were held in May, July, and September. Plans are to continue FLS Connections for 2022 along with hopes of in-person gatherings as well.
- *Membership in a Minute* is an outgrowth of one of FLS initiatives for 2021, the *Task Force on Friends and Rural Libraries*. These are weekly emails with helpful tips to grow, retain, engage, and recognize members in Friends groups. Initially offered as a free subscription service, beginning in January 2022 it will be a members-only benefit.
- Two other *New Frontier for Friends - FLS Long Range Plan* initiatives for 2020-21 were the establishment of the *Task Force on Friends Councils* and the *Ad Hoc Committee on Governance*.
- FLS began celebrating its *30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*, which will be held in 2022, with a drawing for a free, one-year Friend Group Organizational Membership to libraries and Friends groups who responded to *the Survey on Friends Groups and Small and Rural Libraries*. Twelve memberships were awarded.

### **Brief History of FLS**

Immediate Past President Lisa Wemett presented a short history of FLS from its beginnings, with the establishment of the *Library Friends Round Table* in 1992, to today. In addition to the history, she highlighted FLS's many programs and initiatives over the years, including workshops, webinars, meet-ups and much more. She showcased how FLS has grown from humble beginnings to the outstanding Section it is today.

### **Passing of the Gavel to Incoming President**

Karen thanked the members of the 2020-21 FLS Board for another successful year. She noted it was a challenging one, but with their support and hard work a tremendous amount was accomplished. Then, with thanks to Terry Mulee, for another very cleverly designed photo collage, Karen passed the FLS gavel to Incoming President Kerstin Cruger.

### **Incoming President's Remarks, Introduction, and Installation of the 2021-2022 FLS Board**

FLS President 2021-22 Kerstin Cruger thanked Karen for her work during a difficult year. She then made a few remarks on her plans and ideas for new projects for 2021-22. She took a moment and welcomed the new members of FLS, and then introduced the new Executive Board for the upcoming year: First Vice President/President Elect Christina Ryan-Linder; Immediate Past President Karen Sperrazza; Second Vice President Terry Mulee; Secretary Lynne Madden; Treasurer Stephen Hofer; Randall Enos, President Emeritus; Members at Large, Anne Andrianos, Marie Bindeman, Amy Discenza, Erica Freudenberger, Christopher Lund, Leslie Riley, and Ristiina Wigg. Kerstin also introduced the auxiliary members of the

Board, Joyce Laiosa, Danielle Krause, Helen Rados, Lisa Wemett, Meg Sgombick, Rebecca Fuss, and Sue Swanton.

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

### **Upcoming Events - 2022**

Kerstin noted a few upcoming events for 2022:

- NYLA Conference in Saratoga Springs – November 2-5, 2022.
- Webinars – The first one to be held in late winter/early spring.
- FLS Connections will continue in 2022.
- FLS 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration events.

She reminded the members to watch for articles in *FLS News and Notes*, the webpage, and member-blasts for details on upcoming events

### **Adjournment**

With no further matters to discuss, President Kerstin Cruger asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Terry Mulee made the motion, seconded by Chris Beck. Approved. The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Lynne Madden, Secretary

Submitted for approval by the FLS Executive Board on December 8, 2021.