Friends of Libraries Section – Annual Membership Meeting  
Wednesday, November 16, 2022 – 2 p.m.  
Virtual Meeting

Welcome  
President Kerstin Cruger welcomed everyone to the Friends of Libraries Section’s Virtual Annual Membership Meeting.

Call to Order  
She then called the meeting to order at 2:05 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. There were 26 participants attending via Zoom.

Introduction of the 2021-2022 FLS Board  
Kerstin then introduced the members of the 2021-2022 FLS Board. The thirteen Executive Board members are President Kerstin Cruger, First Vice President/Conference Curator Lisa Wemett, Immediate Past President Karen Sperrazza, Second Vice President Terry Mulee, Secretary Lynne Madden, Treasurer Stephen Hoefer, President Emeritus Randall Enos, and Members at Large: Anne Andrianos, Marie Bindeman, Amy Discenza, Erica Freudenberger, Chris Lund, Leslie Riley, and Ristiina Wigg.

Kerstin noted that Stephen Hoefer and Leslie Riley will be leaving the Board. She thanked them for their service and reported that Leslie will still be involved in FLS as a Scholarship Award Reader.

The FLS Board also has eight Auxiliary Members: Jim Foster, Danielle Kraus, Joyce Laiosa, Helen Rados, Meg Sgombick, Jean Sheviak, Rebecca Fuss, Sue Swanton.

Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Membership Meeting, November 18, 2021  
These minutes were reviewed by the FLS Executive Board on December 8, 2021, and posted on the FLS website for the members. Anne Andrianos made a motion to approve the minutes. Marie Bindeman seconded the motion. Carried.

Treasurer’s Report  
Treasurer Stephen Hoefer reviewed the Financial Report and reported an ending balance of $8,055.00 for the fiscal year 2021-2022. The FLS Randall Enos Conference Scholarship ending balance was $3,998.00. The total ending 2021-2022 Fund Balance was $12,053.00. Stephen noted that this year was challenging in providing Treasurer Reports with all the upheaval at NYLA but that things seemed to be straightening out and should be better in the future. With no questions or comments noted, Stephen was thanked for his report and his stellar service on the Board. He will be missed.

Membership, Newsletter and Website Report  
Second Vice President Terry Mulee thanked everyone for attending today’s meeting and for their support of FLS. She reported this year’s membership numbers were “squishy” due to all the changes that have been occurring at NYLA. She noted that memberships seem to be on an upswing and after two years of being unable to send out renewal notices, they will
start being sent out again. She reminded everyone to watch the mailing labels on their newsletters.

She commented on the FLS quarterly newsletter, *Friends News and Notes*, which is filled with information about FLS activities as 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. This year, 300 special 30th Anniversary newsletters were sent out.

The FLS website is constantly being updated with news, information, and activities that are of interest to Friends groups. She highlighted two new pages, the *FLS 30th Anniversary Celebration* page and the *Resources for Friends Groups Supporting Small and Rural Libraries* page and encouraged those attending the meeting to take advantage of these resources and to let other Friends groups know about them.

Kerstin thanked Terry for her continued dedication and hard work on these resources.

**Introduction of the 2022 FLS Daniel W. Casey Library Advocacy Award Recipient**

Kerstin 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 turned the meeting over to Helen, who introduced this year’s recipient, Jane Harkinson of the Friends of the Cornwall Public Library. Jane and Cornwall Public Library Director Charlotte Dunaief both made a few remarks. Jane thanked the Friends and staff of the Cornwall Public Library for this honor and Charlotte thanked Jane for her dedication to the Friends for so many years.

**Review of the Revisions to FLS Randall Enos Conference Scholarship**

Marie Bindeman, Coordinator for FLS Scholarships, gave a bit of background on the FLS Randall Enos Conference Scholarship. She reported that it will now be awarded annually. It reimburses expenses up to $750 for attendance at the NYLA Annual Conference and is open to FLS members who have or have not attended the conference before. The eligibility requirements and application can be found on the FLS Awards page. Applications will be due by 5 p.m. on June 1, 2023, and must be submitted online only. Marie thanked the members of her committee for their help with these changes. Kerstin thanked Marie for chairing this committee and working on the revisions. FLS welcomes donations to this restricted fund at any time.

**President’s Review of Annual Report of Section Activities**

President Kerstin Cruger highlighted a few items from her FLS Year in Review report:

- *FLS Connections*, virtual gatherings, continue to take the place of in-person regional FLS Meet-ups, allowing groups across the state to network and share their experiences on various topics. Three gatherings were held this year, “Book Sale Reminders,” “Organizing a Book Sale Crew,” and “Community Outreach Supported by Friends.” A total of 96 people participated.
- Two webinars were presented this year, “Fishing for Friends: How to Reel in Midlife Adults with Programs” and “Partners in Planning: A Strategic Planning Approach for Friends Groups” with 89 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 by NYLA members on the FLS website under Events.

- This year FLS offered six programs at the 2022 NYLA Annual Conference as well as manning our ever-popular Trade Show booth.
- FLS celebrated its 30th anniversary this year with many fun and nostalgic projects. Several of the events highlighted President Emeritus Randy Enos’s involvement and support of the Empire Friends Roundtable/Friends of Libraries Section over the past three decades. FLS was recognized by resolutions from both NYLA Council and ALA in honor of our 30th anniversary. 30th anniversary pins were shared with our friends and colleagues at the NYLA Annual Conference in Saratoga Springs.
- A new section of the FLS webpage was introduced this year, *Resources for Friends Groups Supporting Small and Rural Libraries*. Culminating two years of work this resource offers suggestions and best practices with an emphasis on Friends groups that support small and rural libraries; these can also be adapted for use with all Friends groups. This new resource was unveiled in July at the Small Libraries Summer Symposium held by the OWWL Library System and was the topic of a program at this year’s NYLA Annual Conference sponsored by the Rural Libraries Round Table.
- In addition, *Beyond Younger Volunteers: White Paper on What Rural Friends Groups Need to Thrive*, was published this year. It was based on a virtual session presented for the 2021 Annual Conference of the Association for Rural and Small Libraries.

**Outgoing/Incoming President’s Remarks, Introduction, and Installation of the 2022-2023 FLS Board**

FLS President Kerstin Cruger noted that she will continue as President of FLS for 2022-2023. As outgoing President, she thanked the Board for all of the wonderful work done this past year. She then thanked the Board members who will be staying on the Board, welcomed the new members, and introduced the new Executive Board for the upcoming year: First Vice President/President Elect Carol Fortier; Immediate Past President Karen Sperrazza; Second Vice President Amy Discenza; Secretary Lynne Madden; Treasurer Terry Mulee; Randall Enos, President Emeritus; Members at Large, Anne Andrianos, Marie Bindeman, Erica Freudenberger, Mary Giardini, Jerrie Grantham, Christopher Lund, and Ristiina Wigg. Kerstin also introduced the auxiliary members of the Board, Joyce Laiosa, Danielle Krause, Lisa Wemett, Helen Rados, Leslie Riley, Meg Sgombick, Jean Sheviak, and Sue Swanton.

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

**Adjournment**

With no further matters to discuss, President Kerstin Cruger asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Stephen Hoefer made the motion, seconded by Terry Mulee. Approved. The meeting was adjourned at 3:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Lynne Madden, Secretary

Reviewed by the FLS Executive Board on December 7, 2022