Nominee For: FLS First Vice President / President Elect

Term Ending: November 2025

Name: Carol Fortier
LaGrangeville (Mid-Hudson Library System)

Present Position:
Director of the Beekman Library (fourteen years)
As Director I work closely with the Friends of the Beekman Library in an advisory capacity.

Prior Work and Volunteer Experience:
Children's Librarian at Poughkeepsie Public Library District
Chair of various Mid-Hudson Library System Advisory Committees
Presenter, Tips for Engaging Friends as Partners, FLS Program at the 2019 NYLA Annual Conference

Education:
M.S.I.S. SUNY Albany
B.B.A. Pace University

Activities and Affiliations:
Chair of the Dutchess County Libraries Directors' Association
Member and volunteer for Mom's Demand Action

Position Statement:
I first became aware of the great work of the Friends of Libraries Section when I went through a rebuilding effort of the Friends of the Beekman Library. I learned firsthand as a Director that Friends groups are a major force for library stability. They not only support the library financially, they are the eyes and ears on the ground in the community. They are the greatest and most devoted library supporters. As a Director, I have also heard some very difficult stories about Friends groups that were at odds with library administrators or trustees. I hope that during my tenure as First Vice President/President Elect, I can help shine a light on the value of a strong partnership between library staff, trustees, and Friends.
Candidate Profile
2022 FLS Executive Board Election

Nominee For: FLS President / Immediate Past President (filling an unexpired term due to vacancy)

Term Ending: November 2024

Name:
Kerstin Cruger
Poughkeepsie (Mid-Hudson Library System)

Present Position:
- Outreach & EDI Specialist at Mid-Hudson Library System
- FLS President

Education:
State University of New York Empire State College
Bachelor of Science (B.S.) Human Development

SUNY New Paltz
Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) Art History, Criticism and Conservation

Activities and Affiliations:
Chairperson – NYLA Communications Committee
FLS Executive Board 2019 - present
CSEA Election Chair

Position Statement:
As current President of the Friends of Libraries Section, it has been a privilege to work with the many dedicated members of this organization. The support and hard work from each of our members is truly inspiring. In the spirit of this can-do attitude, I am running for a second year as FLS President to fill an unforeseen gap in our succession. In a second year as President, I hope to continue our good work as we move through our Long-Range Plan and expand our organization with new members as well as create a seamless transition for our next President-Elect.
Candidate Profile
2019 FLS Executive Board Election

Nominee For: FLS Immediate Past President (filling an unexpired term due to vacancy)
Term Ending: November 2023

Name:
Karen Sperrazza
Sauquoit (Mid York Library System)

Present Position:
- Retired
- FLS Immediate Past President

Prior Work and/or Volunteer Experience:
Retired; 33 years School Librarian in the Rome City School District
20+ years Board of Trustees for the Clayville Library Association
Section of School Librarians (SSL) Board member 15 years
SSL President 2013-2014

Education:
BS in Education from Clarion University, Clarion, PA, 1973
MLS SUNY Buffalo, 1978

Activities and Affiliations:
Friends of Clayville Library
Town of Paris Zoning Board of Appeals

Position Statement:
Since coming to the FLS Executive Board in 2019 as First Vice President/President Elect my main job was to serve as the FLS Conference Curator for the upcoming 2020 NYLA Annual Conference. Because of the pandemic, we had to pivot from an in-person event with our program proposals to a virtual event. Being flexible while finding ways to continue to meet the needs of Friends organizations became the goal. The FLS Executive Board is very supportive of each other. Many individuals on the Executive Board not only worked to provide virtual programming for the 2020 NYLA Annual Virtual Conference, but also worked to provide FLS sponsored webinars. The FLS Board operates as a team, especially when it comes to achieving the greater goal of reaching out to connect with Friends groups across the state.

FLS is a very active, energetic, and vibrant Section of NYLA. And we are Friendly! As Immediate Past President, I will continue to work toward building a network of support for Friends groups throughout New York State.
Candidate Profile
2022 FLS Executive Board Election

Nominee For: FLS Second Vice President

Term Ending: November 2024

Name:
Amy Discenza
Rochester (Monroe County Library System)

Present Position:
- Outreach Coordinator, Rochester Public Library
- FLS Member At Large

Prior Work and Volunteer Experience:
- Monroe County Library System | Outreach Coordinator | March 2021 - present
- Monroe County Library System | Outreach Librarian | June 2016 - February 2021
- Lyell Branch Library | Adult Services Librarian | Jan. 2015 - June 2016
- Wood Library | Adult Services Librarian | Jan. 2015 - June 2016
- Mundy Branch Library | Adult Services Librarian | July 2013 - Jan. 2015
- Cortland Free Library | Adult Services Librarian | May 2010 - July 2013
- FLS Board Member-at-Large | Nov. 2021 - present
- FLS Auxiliary Volunteer, FLS Representative to NYLA's Continuing Education Committee | Nov. 2019 - Nov. 2021
- FLS Auxiliary Volunteer, FLS Representative to NYLA's Intellectual Freedom Committee | Nov. 2018 - Nov. 2019
- Project Director and Marketing Coordinator for FLS webinars
- Contributor to the FLS newsletter Friends News and Notes

Education:
MS LIS, Syracuse University Library & Information Science
BA (Writing and English), Ithaca College

Activities and Affiliations:
Friends and Foundation of the Rochester Public Library

Position Statement:
Throughout my career as a librarian, I’ve been fortunate enough to staff a variety of public libraries and gain experience in many different facets of adult librarianship. I’ve worked in a small rural library where, depending on the day, you might find me plunging toilets or teaching technology classes; at an urban branch where books largely served as a backdrop as we struggled to help community members meet their most basic needs; at a busy, vibrant, mid-sized library where the public had high

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expectations for library services and staff were encouraged to dream big; and, most recently, in a small department within a large and structured organization that delivers services to some of the most vulnerable populations in Monroe County. One constant in my career has been the support of the Friends of the Library and I’m continually in awe. Over the years I've attended author series funded by the Friends, shopped Friends book sales that are more organized than Marie Kondo's closet; and had several of my own events and summer reading programs funded.

I began working with FLS as an auxiliary volunteer in 2018. During my tenure with the Section, I've served as representative to NYLA's Intellectual Freedom (2018-2019) and Continuing Education Committees (2019-2021); helped staff the FLS booth at the 2018 and 2019 NYLA Conferences, also serving as a room monitor; written a few articles for the FLS newsletter Friends News and Notes; assisted with the planning and marketing of two FLS webinars; worked with FLS Second Vice President Terry Mulee to distribute membership renewal reminders; and, most recently, served as Member At Large. I'm grateful to be a member of a Section that offers support and inspiration to library champions and appreciate being considered for a new position, FLS Second Vice President, in 2023.
Candidate Profile
2022 FLS Executive Board Election

Nominee For: Treasurer

Term Ending: November 2024

Name:
Terry Mulee
Rochester (Monroe County Library System)

Present Position:
- FL$ Second Vice President, 2014 - present
- FL$ Newsletter Editor, 2014 - present
- FL$ Web Editor, 2014 - present
- FL$ 30th Anniversary Committee

Prior Work and Volunteer Experience:
- 2011 – 2015: Executive Board of St. John's Home Auxiliary; Membership Secretary, Communications Chair
- 2010 – 2011 Walworth-Seely Public Library; Friends Board, Library Volunteer
- 2010 – present Supporter, multiple Friends of the Library Groups
- 2009, 2011, 2013: NYLA’s Youth Services Section Spring Conference Committee member
- 1976 – 2008 Girl Scouts of Genesee Valley: Over 30 years of service as a trainer and 20 years on the Library Team, overseeing the collections, organization, and operation of three library locations across five counties in the Council.

Education:
Nazareth College of Rochester: B.A. Religious Studies, Elementary Education Certification.
Numerous training and environmental education certifications

Activities and Affiliations:
- Girl Scouts of the U.S.A.: life-long and Lifetime member
- NYLA Empire Friends Roundtable (EFR) service immediately precedes FLS
- 2012 – 2014 EFR Membership Chair
- 2012 – 2014 EFR Newsletter Layout Editor
- 2013 – 2014 EFR Web Editor
- NYLA Friends of Libraries Section (FLS)
- 2014 – present Various FLS Task Forces, Working Groups, and Ad Hoc Committees
- 2018 - present FLS “defacto” Assistant to the FLS Treasurer
- 2012 – present Travelogues with Lisa and Terry Presenter, armchair travel presentations in-person or online for libraries and civic groups
- Amateur photographer

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Position Statement:
When I joined the Executive Board of the Empire Friends Roundtable in 2012 to become the Membership Chair, the first order of business for that group was to plan its 20th Anniversary celebration. Now it's time to plan the 30th Anniversary, which means that I've been volunteering with this group for 1/3 of its existence.

Shortly after I came on board back in 2012, the EFR newsletter layout editor needed to step down. As that was something in my wheelhouse, I offered to take on that responsibility. A few months later, the EFR web editor position became open, so I took that on to broaden my skill set. When EFR became FLS in 2014, I became the 2nd VP handling membership duties in an elected position on the FLS Executive Board. I continued as FLS web editor and became the FLS newsletter layout and copy editor. After 4 terms as 2nd VP, and assisting the Treasurer for the last two years, it's now time for me to serve in a new way. When the FLS nominating committee was looking to fill the FLS Treasurer position, I raised my hand. (There's a very capable candidate for FLS 2nd VP!)

I am committed to being a Friend helping Friends -- and to help set the course for the next 30 years for FLS to create a network to connect and inspire Friends groups in all types of libraries to support the New York library community.
Candidate Profile
2022 FLS Executive Board Election

Nominee For: Member At Large

Term Ending: November 2024

Name:
Anne Andrianos (incumbent)
Syracuse (Onondaga County Public Library)

Present Position:
• FLS Member At Large 2018 - present
• FLS Dewey Fellow, 2018
• FLS Daniel W. Casey Library Advocacy Award 2016 Recipient

Work and Volunteer Experience:
• 35 years employment as Registered Nurse and Lactation Consultant
• 25 years as a volunteer La Leche League Leader
• 20 years as a school volunteer and chair of fundraisers
• 5 years as president of Friends of Onondaga Free Library
• 3 years as Coordinator of International Lactation Consultant scholarship organization (MILCC)
• 3 years as Coordinator for FLS Scholarship Awards

Education:
MS Nursing University of Arizona
BS Nursing Syracuse University

Activities and Affiliations:
Ambassador, Onondaga Free Library ((I attend monthly meetings and assist OFL Friends with various activities, such as book sales, coordinating Geology Day, etc. I regularly provide FLS information to OFL Friends to increase membership, enhance fundraising activities, and encourage group development through attendance at FLS webinars.)

Position Statement:
Libraries need Friends to thrive! The Friends of Libraries Section plays an important role in uniting Friends groups across NYS. By creating a network of advocates, FLS has fulfilled an important objective to connect and inspire Friends groups in all types of libraries to support the New York library community.

In this time of change, forward thinking FLS provides leadership to groups and provides opportunities to educate, energize, and galvanize the membership. Libraries have never been more important and Friends are needed to support them.

Participating in FLS, as a Member at Large, will allow me to contribute ideas and plans to the larger group, particularly about scholarships and awards. Advocacy is also an area of interest and I hope to be more engaged in this activity. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.
Candidate Profile
2022 FLS Executive Board Election

Nominee For: Member At Large

Term Ending: November 2023

Name: Mary Giardini, filling an unexpired term due to vacancy
Olean (Chautauqua-Cattaraugus Library System)

Present Position:
- Advancement and Communications Coordinator and Database Administrator, Mt. Irenaeus, Franciscan Mountain Retreat, West Clarksville, NY
- High School Equivalency Test Coordinator, Cattaraugus Allegany BOCES

Work and Volunteer Experience:
- Communications and fundraising for 13 years
- High school equivalency diploma coordinator for 9 years
- Elementary education teacher for 8 years
- Taught middle/high school Spanish for 5 years

Education:
St. Bonaventure University; BS in Elementary Education and Spanish, Elementary Literacy

Activities and Affiliations:
- Friends of the Library of Olean, Board Member and Special Events Chair
- Allegany Engine Company Auxiliary
- St. Bonaventure University Campus Ministries

Position Statement:
Reading has always been a hugely influential part of my life. It was a source of learning, an escape, a way to reach out to new and unexplored worlds where my imagination could soar. I would like to extend this opportunity to others. My life experiences have gradually expanded my view of what a library is. Several years ago, I was recruited for the Olean Friends of the Library Board of Trustees. Just sitting in on the first meeting opened my eyes to the extent of what a library really is and does for a community – and what a Friends group can do to help support the many programs offered to the patrons. Libraries have transitioned over the years from the traditional building where a person could borrow books, to a place where a person can come to use the internet, get help with finding and applying for jobs, meet with tutors, and explore interest groups in a free, nonjudgmental environment. Libraries, and the programs that many offer, are a necessary link for society to a larger community. They also provide a place of temporary respite for those who need a bit of quiet, a safe place to meet with friends after school, a place to go in the summer when it’s sweltering hot, a place to get out of the bitter cold. When used appropriately, a library is a home where many of your needs can be met. The broad goal of the Friends of the Library is to connect and inspire others to become

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active participants in their local library. It is my goal to continue working with libraries by using my experience with communications to broadcast the offerings of the public libraries and, most especially, in fundraising and organization to help fund a variety of programs to meet the ever-changing needs of our society. I could see that my skills would most closely align with helping to organize/host events and meetings, applying my skills with technology and utilizing the connections I have with others who might have the skills I lack to achieve a goal – but I will happily pitch in and help with anything asked of me. I very much look forward to this new chapter in life with the Friends of Libraries Section.
Candidate Profile  
2022 FLS Executive Board Election

Nominee For: Member At Large

Term Ending: November 2024

Name: Jerrie Grantham
Corona (Queens Public Library)

Present Position:
Volunteer Services Manager, Queens Public Library

Work and Volunteer Experience:
Queens Public Library
Customer Service Supervisor January 2017 - December 2018
Volunteer Services Manager (formally known as Community Affairs Manager) December 2018-present
Serves as the primary liaison and contact between the institution and Friends of QPL volunteers. Responsible for helping provide a clear direction and understanding of current Library policies; long-term Friends goals; and offering hands-on administrative and programmatic support of related activities and efforts.

Education:
SUNY Empire State College - Bachelors

Activities and Affiliations:
Queens Public Library internal groups:
• President's Council for Racial Equity, Co-Chair Marketing & Outreach Committee
• LGBTQ+ Allies Committee, Chair

Position Statement:
Friends of the Library represent the best of dedicated individuals rallying behind their local libraries. FLS has been instrumental in helping Friends of the Library groups across the state expand beyond their regional ties to network and inspire other groups. It is my hope to continue serving that rich tradition, helping to spread best practices and innovative ideas for every Friends member to realize. I truly believe through collaboration and shared experiences that we can support our local libraries while also fostering a greater sense of community.
Candidate Profile
2022 FLS Executive Board Election

Nominee For: Member At Large

Term Ending: November 2024

Name: Ristiina Wigg (incumbent)
Corning (Southern Tier Library System)

Present Position:
- Retired
- Member At Large, FLS Executive Board (2014 - present)

Work and Volunteer Experience:
1998 – 2013: Executive Director, Southern Tier Library System

Education:
BFA, Alfred University, 2017
AMLS, University of Michigan
BA, Oakland University

Activities and Affiliations:
- Vice-President, Foundation for Southern Tier Libraries
- Secretary, Finger Lakes Finns
- Vice-chair, Resource Development Committee, Corning City Democrats
- Board Member, Second Place East, Inc., Elmira

Position Statement:
As COVID-19 appears to be winding down, libraries are thinking about balancing patron safety while recognizing the desire of many to stop wearing masks or distance socially. Some communities are asking questions about the role of libraries, which books and materials should be available, and which people served. Friends play an important part in supporting the right of community access to many different types of materials. As former executive director of the Southern Tier Library System, I saw first-hand how effective Friends of Libraries can be in supporting the growth of their library, connecting the library to its community, and advocating for political and financial support.

Our Friends of Libraries Section continues to experiment with new ways to share information and incorporates new strategies to meet challenges. I am excited to participate in our efforts to connect Friends statewide, share inspiration for new ideas, projects, and activities, and to work with you!