

FLS Year in Review

2024 FLS Awards and Scholarships: FLS Daniel W. Casey Library Advocacy Award



Paulette Quinn (right), Historian for the Friends of Marcellus Free Library, receives her plaque from Lisa C. Wemett (left).

Meg Van Patten, FLS 1st Vice President (center), from the

nearby Baldwinsville Public Library also attended the event.

FLS Randall Enos Conference Scholarship

No recipient in 2024

Membership:

August 2023: 229

October 2024: 176

NYLA has restructured its membership so that instead of rolling membership, all memberships run from June 1st - May 31st. Additionally, NYLA is now operating under a new membership management system, so in order to maintain/renew membership, all members will have to sign up for the new membership system if they have not done so already. For more information, see <https://www.nyla.org/membership>.

FLS greatly values your membership and we are proud to represent Friends volunteers and staff who work together to benefit libraries. Your continued support allows FLS to offer tried-and-true and new services. Let's keep growing together: the more Friends we have, the more we can do. Thank you for your membership.

In Person Events and Workshops

- On May 9th, FLS Trainers Lisa C. Wemett and Joyce Laiosa presented the two-hour workshop "Getting Started: Creating and Supporting a Friends Group for Your Library." The program, co-sponsored by the Southern Adirondack Library System, the Upper Hudson Library System, and the Mohawk Valley Library System, was offered at the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library in Clifton Park, with 31 attendees representing 18 libraries across 5 library systems. If you're interested in hosting an FLS Regional Workshop, send an email to FLS.nyla@yahoo.com.
- On August 15th, fourteen attendees joined about a dozen members of the Executive Board for the annual in person meet-up, held this year at the Beekman Library in Hopewell Junction. Groups discussed three different topics during each of two breakout sessions, including membership recruitment and retention, fundraising ideas (excluding book sales), and outreach. For detailed notes from these meetings, see the September 2024 edition of Friends News and Notes.

FLS Connections!:

These virtual gatherings were developed to take the place of our in-person regional FLS meetups, allowing groups across the State to network and share on various topics. FLS Connections! programming has been so successful that it's now a regular offering. While these programs had previously been offered during afternoon hours, we also debuted our first "FLS Connections! at Night" session, starting at 7:00pm.

Two FLS Connections! gatherings took place in 2024:

- On February 28th, Jillian Wentworth (Manager of Marketing & Membership, United for Libraries) presented "Making the Most of National Friends of Libraries Week" to 46 attendees, representing 44 Friends groups.
- On April 9th, Chris Lund (Former President, Friends of the Cortland Free Library) presented the first installment of FLS Connections! at Night, "Preparing Friends Organizations for Succession Planning," to an audience of approximately 49 attendees.

#NYLA2024 Annual Conference:

FLS Sponsored Programs:

- ◆ Pre-Conference FLS Continuing Education Workshop:
Forming Friends: The Board Game!
(game is available to purchase for \$55 at <https://hiddengolemgames.com/formingfriends>)
- ◆ Friends Teaming Up: Success in Community Partnerships
- ◆ Friends: From Hello to Goodbye
- ◆ Friends Board Development and Management Strategies
- ◆ 1-2-3: Finding Valuable Volunteers
- ◆ Fundraising Without Book Sales
- ◆ Keep it Growing! Strengthening Your Friends of the Library Group Parts 1 & 2 (Double Session)
- ◆ Attendance at FLS programs was 162
- ◆ FLS Trade Show Booth - raffled a copy of Forming Friends: The Board Game! and provided networking opportunities for Friends, trustees, and library professionals

Financial Report:

FLS FY 2023-24	
Expenses	
Executive Board	\$1,094
Administrative, newsletters, webinars	
Pre Conference / Conference	\$1,199
Administrative, programming, trade show	
Total Expenses	\$2,293
FY 23-24 Budget \$6,850 / expenses at 33%	
FLS Randall Enos Conference Scholarship Fund	
Balance as of July 1, 2023	\$4,399
Donations	\$377
Expenses - Terry Schommer 2023 recipient	\$863
Balance as of June 30, 2024	\$3,913

RECS July 1, 2023 balance has been corrected. 3/2025

FLS Executive Board, 2023-2024

- FLS Councilor: Jerrie Grantham (2023-2026)
- President:
Carol Fortier (11/23 - 4/24)
Chris Lund (4/24-11/24)
- Vice President/President-Elect:
Chris Lund (11/23 - 4/24)
Meg Van Patten (5/24 - 11/24)
- Second Vice President: Amy Discenza (2022-2024)
- Secretary: Joyce Maguda (2023-2025)
- Treasurer: Terry Mulee (2022-2024)
- Immediate Past President: Kerstin Cruger (2023-2024)
- Member At Large: Matthew Corey (2023-2025)
- Member At Large: James Foster (2023-2025)
- Member At Large: Erica Freudenberger (2023-2025)
- Member At Large: Mary Giardini (2023-2025)
- Member At Large: Meg Sgombick (2023-2024)
- Member At Large: Arlene Vaquer (2022-2024)
- Member At Large: Ristiina (Rusty) Wigg (2022-2024)
- President Emeritus: Randall Enos

FLS 2023-24 Executive Board



Website & Newsletters

www.NYLA.org/Friends:

The FLS webpage has made its initial transition to the newly redesigned NYLA website. This transition is still a work in progress, but the new site currently includes information about the FLS Board Members, Committee Representatives and Auxiliary Volunteers, a history of FLS, our Bylaws, a list of our upcoming events, information about the FLS Daniel W. Casey Library Advocacy Award, the FLS Randall Enos Conference Scholarship, and the Friends of Libraries Tribute Fund.

You'll also find Friends News and Notes, the FLS Newsletter. It's now a digital-only format beginning with Volume 10 # 1 in January, 2024. The current issue is available to all at <https://www.nyla.org/friends-of-libraries-section---newsletter> and an archive of issues dating back to August 2023 is viewable by FLS Members. Our plan for 2025 is to expand the offerings available on this website to include our leadership manual documents and some of the toolkits and other resources that were previously available on the prior website.

2024-2025 Executive Board Term Notes:

- ▶ President Chris Lund will be commencing his full term as President, after assuming the Presidency on April 16, 2024, following the resignation of previous President Carol Fortier.
- ▶ Vice President/President-Elect Meg Van Patten will be commencing her full term as Vice President/President-Elect after being appointed to this position on May 6, 2024, to fill the vacancy created when prior Vice President Chris Lund was elevated to President.
- ▶ Meg Sgombick will be commencing her first full term as a Member At Large after being appointed to serve a partial term to fill a previously existing vacancy.
- ▶ Terry Mulee has been reelected to her position and will be continuing on as Treasurer for a term running from 2024-2026.
- ▶ Jennifer Allen will be joining the Executive Board as a Member At Large for a term running from 2024-2026.
- ▶ The positions of Second Vice President, Immediate Past President, and one Member At Large position are currently vacant for the 2024-2025 term. The Board is seeking interested candidates.

Board Departures:

Kerstin Cruger, Amy Discenza, Arlene Vaquer, and Rusty Wigg will be leaving the Executive Board at the conclusion of the 2024 term. Marie Bindeman will conclude her term as FLS Randall Enos Conference Scholarship Coordinator. We thank them immensely for their years of service.



FLS NYLA Committee Representatives, 2023-2024

- Awards Committee: Joyce Laiosa
- Communications Committee: Terry Mulee
- Conference Ambassador:
Chris Lund (11/23 - 4/24)
Meg Van Patten (5/24 - 11/24)
- Continuing Education Committee: Matthew Corey
- Governance Committee:
Carol Fortier (11/23 - 4/24)
Chris Lund (4/24 - 11/24)
- Intellectual Freedom Committee: Chris Lund
- Legislative Committee: Jean Sheviak
- Membership Committee: Amy Discenza
- Nominating Committee: Erica Freudenberger
- Sponsorship/Fundraising Committee: Terry Mulee

Thank you to all current and incoming FLS Board members and volunteers. Your dedication is greatly appreciated.

FLS Project Coordinators, 2023-2024

- FLS Daniel W. Casey Library Advocacy Award Coordinator: Lisa Wemett
- Readers for FLS Daniel W. Casey Award:
Joyce Laiosa
Leslie S. W. Riley
- Coordinator for FLS Randall Enos Conference Scholarship: Marie Bindeman
- Readers for FLS Randall Enos Conference Scholarship:
Catherine Cooper; Kris MacDonald
- Coordinator for Professional Development: Lisa Wemett
- Marketing Coordinator: Meg Sgombick
- Newsletter Editor: Terry Mulee
- Coordinator for National Friends of Libraries Week: Jennifer Allen
- Web Liaison: Terry Mulee
- Chair, FLS Nominating Committee: Kerstin Cruger
- FLS Task Force on Friends Councils: Jim Foster
- FLS Task Force on Membership: Amy Discenza
- FLS 2024-2026 Long Range Task Force: Lisa Wemett

Highlight Slides from the FLS Annual Membership Meeting

