

Friends of Libraries Section – Annual Membership Meeting November 13, 2024 Virtual Meeting

Welcome

President Chris Lund welcomed everyone to the 2024 Friends of Libraries Section Annual Meeting.

Call to Order

Chris then called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. He noted that the meeting would be recorded and archived, and that the Chat would be monitored throughout the meeting for any comments or questions by Amy Discenza. He then reviewed two additions to the meeting Agenda, and stated that a quorum was present.

Introduction of the 2023-2024 FLS Board

- Chris then introduced the members of the 2023-2024 FLS Board. President Carol Fortier (11/23-4/24), Chris Lund (4/24-present); First Vice President/Conference Ambassador Meg Van Patten; Immediate Past President Kerstin Cruger; Second Vice President Amy Discenza; Secretary Joyce Maguda; Treasurer Terry Mulee; FLS Councilor Jerrie Grantham; President Emeritus Randall Enos; Members at Large: Matthew Corey, James Foster, Mary Giardini, Erica Freudenberger, Meg Sgombick, Arlene Vaquer and Rusty Wigg. He also introduced Auxiliary Members Jen Allen, Marie Bindeman, Joyce Laiosa, Jean Sheviak, and Lisa Wemett.
- FLS Committee Representatives: Awards: Joyce Laiosa; Communications: Terry Mulee; Conference Ambassador: Chris Lund (11/23-4/24), Meg Van Patten (5/24-11/24); Continuing Education: Matthew Corey; Governance: Carol Fortier (11/23-4/24), Chris Lund (4/24-1/24); Intellectual Freedom: Chris Lund; Legislative: Jean Sheviak; Membership: Amy Discenza; Nominating: Erica Freudenberger; Sponsorship/Fundraising: Terry Mulee.
- FLS Project Coordinators: FLS Daniel W. Casey Library Advocacy Award: Lisa Wemett (with readers Joyce Laiosa and Leslie S. W. Riley); FLS Randall Enos Conference Scholarship Award: Marie Bindeman (with readers Catherine Cooper and Kris MacDonald); Professional Development: Lisa Wemett; Marketing: Meg Sgombick; Newsletter Editor: Terry Mulee; 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.

Chris thanked those members who are serving their last year on the board: Marie Bindeman, Kerstin Cruger, Amy Discenza, Arlene Vaquer and Rusty Wigg.

Approval of the Minutes of the November 15, 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes

These minutes were reviewed by the FLS Executive Board on December 5, 2023. Two changes were noted. Terry Mulee made a motion to approve the amended minutes. Seconded by Mary Giardini. Approved.

Treasurer's Report

Terry Mulee reported that NYLA has completely changed the way section finances are tracked. In the endeavor to provide networking, educational opportunities, and resources for Friends groups across the state, FLS continues to be fiscally responsible. Total expenses for the year were less than \$2,300. The FLS Randall Enos Scholarship Fund is a restricted endowment. Last fiscal year \$863 of the allotted \$1,000 was spent while the fund took in \$377 in donations. There was no scholarship recipient in 2024.

Daniel W. Casey Library Advocacy Award

Lisa Wemett, coordinator for the FLS Daniel W. Casey Library Advocacy Award, gave historical information on Daniel Casey and the Award. She then recognized Paulette Quinn, of the Friends of the Marcellus Free Library, as the recipient of the 2024 Casey Award. Terry Mulee, Meg Van Patten and Lisa were privileged to present the Casey Award plaque to her at an October event. Paulette Quinn expressed her gratitude for the award, and support of the Friends of the Marcellus Free Library.

Randall Enos Conference Scholarship

Marie Bindeman gave a brief history of Randall Enos, and the formation of the scholarship awarded to an individual to reimburse NYLA conference costs up to \$1000. Application details are on the FLS page of the NYLA website.

Membership Report

Amy Discenza reported that NYLA now has a new membership structure, with a fixed membership year. She pointed out several perks with FLS membership, and that dues help support the NYLA Legislative Committee. FLS also offers members additional virtual and in-person training opportunities throughout the year, including the *FLS Connections!* series.

Newsletter and Webpage Report

Terry Mulee reported that the FLS webpages have made the initial move to the redesigned NYLA website, but the transition is still a work in progress. The available tabs for FLS include the board, history, bylaws, events, awards and scholarships, and newsletters. The website also contains copies of *Friends News and Notes*, the FLS newsletter (now digital). The current issue of the FLS newsletter is available and viewable by all. Archived issues (back to August 2023) are only viewable by FLS members. An FLS update is also included in the *NYLA Voice*. The plan for 2025 is to expand the offerings available on the website to include our leadership manual documents, and some of the toolkits and other previously available resources.

Review of Annual Report of Section Activities

President Chris Lund highlighted the following:

- 2024 NYLA Conference in Syracuse featured several successful FLS offerings and trade booth
- Pre-conference workshop: "Forming Friends: The Board Game!" presented by Stephanie Cole Adams
- Sessions: "Friends Teaming Up: Success in Community Partnerships"
 - "Friends: From Hello to Goodbye"
 - "Friends Board Development and Management Strategies"
 - "1-2-3: Finding Valuable Volunteers"

- o “Fundraising Without Book Sales”
- o “Keep it Growing! Strengthening Your Friends of the Library Group, (1 & 2)”
- Annual in-person FLS Board Meeting and Friends Group Meet-up at Beekman Library, Hopewell Junction
- Two *FLS Connections!*
 - o “Making the Most of National Friends of Libraries Week”
 - o “Preparing Friends Organization for Succession Planning”
- Workshop: “Getting Started: Creating and Supporting a Friends Group for Your Library” co-sponsored by three library systems

Passing the Gavel and Introduction of the 2024-2025 FLS Board

Chris Lund will remain as President for a full term. Meg Van Patten will remain as Vice President for a full term. Second Vice President position is vacant; Secretary Joyce Maguda; Treasurer Terry Mulee; Immediate Past President position is vacant; FLS Councilor Jerrie Grantham; President Emeritus Randall Enos; Members at Large: Jen Allen, Matthew Corey, James Foster, Mary Giardini, Erica Freudenberger, Meg Sgombick, and one vacant position; Auxiliary Members Joyce Laiosa, Jean Sheviak, and Lisa Wemett.

Membership Vote to Appoint Voting Alternate for FLS Councilor

Chris Lund explained the need to have FLS interests represented with voting rights, in the absence of the FLS Councilor at NYLA Council meetings.

“In order to assure that FLS has a voice at all NYLA Council meetings, and in accordance with the terms of Article V, Section 3.3 of the NYLA Bylaws, the FLS Board, by unanimous vote taken at the October 9, 2024 FLS Board Meeting, recommends that FLS membership elect Chris Lund to serve as the section’s Council meeting alternate, with authorization to vote at any NYLA Council meeting that the elected FLS Councilor is unable to attend, for a term to commence immediately and to continue until the earlier to occur of either 1) the effective date of any amendment to Article V, Section 3.3 of the NYLA Bylaws, or 2) the close of the 2025 FLS Annual Membership Meeting.”

Terry Mulee made a motion to approve the proposal. Meg Van Patten seconded. All members present voted unanimously to approve.

Upcoming Events – 2025

- NYLA Conference in Saratoga Springs November 5-8, 2025
- *FLS Connections!*

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, President Chris Lund asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Meg Van Patten made the motion to adjourn. Mary Giardini seconded. Approved. Meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Joyce Maguda, Secretary
Minutes reviewed by FLS Executive Board, December 4, 2024