

**Friends of Queen Anne's County Library
2019 Annual Meeting
March 4, 2019
Kent Island Library
Stevensville, MD**

Attendance

Board Members: Kathie Smarick, Penny Lins, Beth Maier, Elaine O'Neal, Sue Wilson and Connie Zillig

Library Staff: Janet Salazar, Library Director (incoming); Kim Baklarz, Interim Director and Centreville Branch Manager; Erin Neusbaum, Emerging Technology Librarian; and Julie Ranelli, Kent Island Branch Manager and Youth Services Coordinator.

Members: 28 members were in attendance

Welcome and Business Meeting

Kathie Smarick, president of the Friends, welcomed the participants to the 2019 Annual Friends Meeting. **Jim Wilson made a motion that the 2018 Meeting Minutes be approved. Penny Lins seconded the motion and the meeting attendees passed the motion unanimously.** Kathie introduced the library staff in attendance and the incoming director, Janet Salazar. John Walden, previous director, was acknowledged for his leadership and support of the Friends. Janet is an experienced advocate for libraries and is transitioning from her role as Director of Charles County Libraries. She is a strong supporter of Friends' initiatives and the organization's contributions.

A Year in Review and Looking Forward

Ms Smarick began by sharing the mission of the Friends. The friends is "a non-profit membership organization committed to helping Queen Anne's County Library achieve its mission by increasing awareness of Library resources and raising funds to enhance Library programs." She continued by sharing the following:

Financial Support

In 2018, the Friends of the Library donated \$17,597 to the library.

These monies funded the Summer Reading Program, a Memory Center, VOX Audio Books, foreign language DVD's, furniture, Wellness Wednesday and a Device Charging Station. The Summer Reading Program was fully funded by the Friends and involved 118 in-library programs for more than 1600 children. Library staff brought in experts and provided incentives to keep kids reading over the summer months.

Friends' funds partially funded Guys Read, the Saturday Arts Program, The Dolly Parton Imagination Library Program and Choose Civility-The Longest Table.

From launch through today, the Friends of the Library have donated \$ 77,736.

Community Based Initiatives and Partnerships

In 2018, The Friends of the Library supported community-based activities and fundraisers. These included a fundraiser at Sweet Frog, an Authors Night for Children at Chick-fil-A and a Local Author's night at the Library for adults. For the fourth year, the Friends honored one student at each county elementary school as a Reading Pro. The Friends collaborate with County Reading Coordinators to identify 4th or 5th grade students who are recognized for their dedication to developing important reading skills. A certificate and gift card were awarded to the selected students in recognition of their accomplishments. The Friends also sponsored the installation of a Little Free Library at Terrapin Nature Park.

Analysis of Fundraising

The Friends raised \$33,725 in 2018. How were these funds raised? 62% were from the Friends' Annual Appeal. The remaining almost \$13,000 were raised through: 36.1% Book Nook sales, 7.2 % Restaurants, 8.2% Quilt Raffle, 12.4% Business Sponsors, 21.6% Annual Book Sale, 13.4% Member Dues. Amazon Smile is another source of revenue. If members make purchases from Amazon, they were encouraged to use Amazon Smile. A small percentage of each purchase is donated to the FOL.

Business In-kind donations included a quilt which was raffled off, 1,500 Hardees coupons for free lunches used to reward visits to the library in July and a PRS guitar donated by Paul Reed Smith and raffled off at the close of the Summer Reading Program.

Volunteer Efforts and Other Partnerships

Some organizational Milestones were listed: over 400 members, 1500 volunteer hours and the County declared a Friends of the Library Week.

A Volunteer of the Year award was given to Carol Collins. Carol was unable to attend the meeting but will receive a small trophy, created by the 3-D printer, as recognition of her dedicated work to keeping the Kent Island Library Book Nook well stocked and organized.

Partnerships exist with the Lions and VFW. The Friends partnered with Talbot County Figure Skating Team to collect and contribute books to the Friends, and the Friends partnered with the Queen Anne's County Centre for the Arts to present a Holiday Concert, which was a successful fund raiser for both organizations.

Emeritus Member and Election of Officers

Kathie explained the term limits established by the Friends bylaws (two, 3-year terms) and listed Connie Zillig and DeAnn Cheyne as members of the Board transitioning due to term limits. The creation of 'Emeritus Member of the Board' was explained. This additional position will allow the

Board to continue benefiting from the expertise of transitioning members. Board members with Emeritus status will serve for one year with an option for renewal. Sue Haddox and Connie Zillig, former Board members, have made significant contributions and elected as Emeritus Members.

Kathie presented the proposed slate of officers for 2019: Kathie Smarick, President, Elaine O'Neal, Vice President, Beth Maier, Treasurer and Sue Wilson Secretary. Penny Lins **made a motion the slate of officers be accepted, and Elaine O'Neal seconded. The proposed slate of officers was confirmed by a unanimous vote.** The FOL conducted a detailed planning meeting (Friends Retreat) at which they decided to expand the Board to 9 members. This decision will allow the Friends to focus on the important projects planned for the upcoming year. Projects include: Building on Current Success - expansion of the book sale, launching additional community partnerships, Launching New Initiatives: building a network of Little Free Libraries, creating new and rethinking existing events, Advocacy: educate others about the impact libraries have on the community and supporting the campaign to expand the Kent Island Library. Kathie assured the attendees information will be shared and options for supporting the expansion will be outlined. Members were encouraged to consider joining the leadership team.

A Word from the Acting Director

Kim Baklarz, Acting Director, acknowledged the financial support the Friends have made to the library and praised the Board's dedication. She introduced Erin, the technology librarian, and stated the library staff's intent to broaden opportunities for patrons to use new technologies. Kim listed the SOAR program, Adult Summer Reading Program, English as a Second Language Program and the Longest Table as current initiatives. She shared history of Kent Island Library, after 10 years of advocacy the building constructed in 1989 was too small and emphasized the need for a clear unified voice to get the message to decision makers regarding the needed expansion. Dates to remember for KI Library hearings were posted: April 22- Kent Island, April 23-Centreville and April 24-Suddlersville. She explained the bidding process which resulted in a cost adjustment needed, the Capital Campaign surveying the potential for various funding streams and grant monies in the Governor's Budget. The public library was characterized as a county building with the highest degree of public access, analogous to the living room of the community. Access was quantified as 40 to 50 people coming into the library per hour every day. Questions were asked and answered about how to support the library expansion. Kathie assured everyone they would be receiving direction on how to advocate for the expansion.

Meeting Closure

Kathie closed the presentation portion of the meeting with this quote, "Social infrastructure provides the setting and context for social participation, and the library is among the most critical forms of social infrastructure that we have." Eric Klineberg, Palaces for the People

Participants were invited to visit five information stations set up around the room. These stations provided detailed information and examples of technology in the library (3-D printer and Memory Station), the Arts Program, Little Free Libraries, the Summer Reading Program and Reading Pro/Guys Read.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Wilson, Secretary