

FOLIO Board Meeting  
Via Zoom  
Friday, January 13, 2023  
Final

**Members Present:** Karen Alexander, Sandra Austin, Candace Baird, Sharon Douthitt, Bill Hagen, Judy Haught, Gerry Hendon, Melinda Howard, Angie Lewis, Karen Neurohr, Diane Pennington, Linda Pye, Sharon Saulmon, Wayne Hanway

**FOLIO Emeritus Members Present:** Eugene Earsom

**Advisory Board:** Natalie Currie, Connie Armstrong, Bill Young

President Judy Haught called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

The minutes from October 21, 2022 were approved without objection.

**Treasurer's Report:** Candace Baird sent her report for the 2Q and partial 3Q via email. \$5200 of the \$6000 had been received for the Endowment challenge. She has received some additional donations since that time that leaves us only \$500 dollars away. Candace feels the Endowment goal will be met by the end of the month. Wayne Hanway made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report and Linda Pye seconded. The motion passed.

**President's Report:** Judy Haught sent out her report via email, which was full of plans for the coming year. They include the endowment campaign; Ready2Read trainings throughout the spring; Literary Landmarks honoring Tony Hillerman and the annual conference in March.

**Book Discussion:** Judy recommended *Demon's Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver and *Last Train to London* Meg Waite Clayton. Wayne Hanway suggested *Atlas of the Heart* by Brene Brown and *All Our Losses; All Our Grievs* by Herbert Anderson, Linda Pye suggested *Bloomsbury Girls* by Natalie Jenner and *Dreamland* by Nicholas Sparks. Candace Baird told about *This Time Next Year We'll be Laughing*, a memoir by Jacqueline Winspear. Eugene Earsom reported on *Accidental Saints: Finding God in All the Wrong People* by Nadia Bolz-Weber. Sharon Saulmon recommended *The Masterpiece* by Fiona Davis. Karen Alexander suggested *The Other Side of the Coin* by Angela Kelly. Karen Neurohr recommended *An American Childhood* by Annie Dillard. Bill Young has been reading *The Architect* series by Adrian Tchaikovsky and also recommended *After: A Doctor Explores What Near-Death Experience Reveals About Life and Death* by Dr. Bruce Greyson. Bill Hagen suggested *The Women of Copper Country* by Mary Doria Russell and *Mercury Pictures Presents* by Anthony Marra.

**ODL/Federal Relations Report:** Natalie Curry sent out her report via email earlier in the week. She reported that State Aid has been sent out. It has decreased over

the past years and the agency will really prioritize increasing that in the next legislative session. During this session the agency is concerned with bringing up salaries in order to attract and retain staff as well as recruit new people to fill open vacancies.

Representative Mark McBride has taken an interest in the archives. He has shared a draft bill asking for an appropriation of up to 27 million to renovate the ODL building. The original structure would be added on to increase the amount of storage available to house archives that are currently scattered in various locations. This has been necessary since the space available has been at capacity for over 30 years.

The Legislative Session will begin on February 6, 2023. This will be another challenging year as far as school libraries. Funding for the State Digital Equity Plan is one of the key items the agency is focused on in order to increase connectivity across the state. They also helped the state broadband office apply for an affordable outreach program, which would help those below the poverty line and certain educable groups to achieve connectivity.

In Federal and National Updates the Omnibus bill passed for Museum and Library services and there is an increase of 26 million for IMLS. School libraries also received an increase of a little more than 2.5 million in LSTA funds, which will be instrumental in the state being able to add new databases for citizens of Oklahoma to access.

Natalie stated that these are challenging years for libraries. Oklahoma is not the only state that is dealing with freedom of information. There is a need to continue to work on Digital Equity for all. She recommended that all members go to the link in her report for more information.

**Awards: Best Friends** – Dianne Pennington reported that there was one entry – the Elk City Carnegie Library. They have done an outstanding job in supporting the community. They submitted a notebook with narrative and articles as well as photos. Dianne proposed that FOLIO award the Elk City Library with \$1000. That would combine the John Harkey Award and the Best Friends' Awards of \$500. This was done last year as well. Dianne made the motion. The motion passed. This is being kept a secret until the presentation in March.

**Awards: Friends of Libraries Week** – Angie Lewis reported that no entries were received. There was some discussion about how to publicize our awards.

**Awards: Hall of Fame:** No report.

**Scholarships:** Katherine Witzig, Joshua Caudill, and Kathryn Hall are winners of the \$1000 scholarships which will be presented in March at the OLA Conference.

**Awards: Seed Grants:** Bill Hagen sent out a revised set of guidelines for the Seed Grants. In Bill's absence Eugene reported that the committee feels a change of rules is needed. The language clarifies what is needed before an application for the grant is made. There was discussion about 501(c)3 applications as well as the person filing the application. It was decided that this was something that this proposal needed to be looked at in March by the board and by Wayne and the By-Law Committee.

Sharon Saulmon commented that she felt we needed more information about the results of our grants to the groups who receive the seed grants. Candace agreed.

**By-Laws:** Wayne Hanway reported that there are a number of details to be addressed in the By-Laws. Proposals need to be sent out 10 days before the FOLIO Board meeting so Wayne warned that the clock is running.

**Endowment:** Judy Haught began the report with asking some questions. Gerry Hendon and Sharon Douthitt are on the committee but Judy asked how Candace works on that committee. As the treasurer Candace reported that she works on keeping track of donations and sometimes will purchase mailing labels. Gerry and Sharon Douthitt both want to have some relief as they have worked on the committee since its inception. Judy reported that there are videos and training sessions on writing grants and she is actively looking for someone to replace them. Candace mentioned that there are several parts to the Endowment responsibilities: grant writing, development of materials, responses to donations, etc. Not all of them have to be under the Endowment responsibilities and perhaps with new people and new ideas some changes could be made. Gerry also reported on the types of things they have done and what could be passed along to a "brave, energetic person to come along and reorganize." Judy would like someone to step up and volunteer. The Endowment was established in 2009 and there is an active base that believes in FOLIO and the endowment.

**Financial Review/Audit:** No report.

**History/Archives:** Karen Neurohr reported that this is FOLIO's 45th year. She suggested that we might want to decorate our booth at the conference. A 1978 proclamation from The Governor's Conference on Libraries called for the formation of a state wide Friend's group.

**Legislative:** Sharon Saulmon reported that a report was sent out by email and Natalie covered the important issues at this time. Melinda agreed that there wasn't much to report at this time.

**Literary Landmarks:** Connie Armstrong reported that the National Center for the Book and the Library of Congress have approved the transfer of Literary Landmarks to the National Center. All the state centers will take over the program. Connie does want to partner with FOLIO. Karen has been a great help but Connie would like to

meet with folks from FOLIO in the future. She has spoken with Peggy Cook in Shawnee about the Tony Hillerman event. That will happen before the end of the year. She is writing a grant for \$5000 from the John Y. Cole and Nancy E. Gwinn Trust Fund for Centers for the Book Programming Grants. This would help cover the costs of the Hillerman event. Roadrunner Press wants to do a coffee table book of Literary Landmarks. The proceeds would go to the Center and to FOLIO. Judy asked Connie to set up a meeting at her convenience. Judy would also like to flesh out the Landmark site on the FOLIO website and add photos and commentary at some point in the future.

**Membership:** Gerry Hendon is having problems with the sound on her computer. She did send out a report. There are 95 individuals, 41 Friends' groups, 37 libraries and no corporate members making 173 total paid memberships. Bartlesville dues just came in to Candace. She reminded us that memberships would continue to trickle in until the end of the fiscal year. In the past we have sent out postcards as reminders. Candace is not sure how effective they were. Judy suggested we think of corporations in our own communities and approach them as we only have five on our mailing list and none have responded by paying dues or making a donation in recent years.

**Newsletter:** Sharon Saulmon reported that she has an entire page that is empty. She is asking that anyone having news or ideas please contact her.

#### **Outreach Ambassadors:**

**Northeast** – Sharon Douthitt reported that she had attended a meeting at the Bristow library. They had a nice turn out for the Friends' meeting and unexpectedly Sharon was asked to conduct the meeting. They got a slate of officers under Sharon's guidance. She left materials and a suggestion that an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) should be made between the library administration and the Friends' board.

She also visited with the Friends of the Catoosa Library. They were contacted by the Library Director as well as the City Manager and asked to cancel all activities, remove support, and let all local and state agencies know they are no longer affiliated with the library. The Catoosa Library and city are reorganizing and making plans for the future that doesn't include the Friends' group. There was discussion about various methods to help resolve the issues and where their funds might be placed as their organization is discontinued. There is a question as to whether FOLIO should even be involved.

**Northwest:** No report

**Southwest:** Angie reported that the Chickasha Friends' group is hosting a Chocolate Celebration in person again this year on February 15. Anadarko has a new Library

Director. Their group is active and doing well. They were very appreciative of the Ready2Read training and the materials they received.

**Southeast:** Bill Hagen reported that Shawnee is having their first Annual Meeting in person since the Pandemic. They also had a Booksale and put out a newsletter. Peggy Cook has announced her retirement as Library Director.

**Publicity/Media/Marketing:** Sharon Saulmon emailed a report earlier in the week. She mentioned that she hadn't really emphasized membership previously but she would in the future.

Candace is working with Bruce who is retiring soon and will be going on an extended trip outside the country later in the year. He is using software purchased by FOLIO to generate the web pages. The vendor discontinued support for the software in 2016. He will give Candace a copy of the software and they will work together to see if she can make it work. They plan to meet during the OLA conference to test their plan. Candace's husband has experience developing web pages and may be able to help. Long term, however, it will be necessary to switch software programs. This may cause a change to the look of the website and an expense to purchase the software. The company hosting our website is still willing to host the site for free. Bruce is also happy to continue as webmaster after his trip.

**Special Programs:** Sharon Saulmon reported that everyone has received their Ready2Read materials and funds to spend. There are still libraries waiting for training this spring.

Valerie has spent a lot of time with this volunteer project and is ready to finish in May. There are still libraries that are interested which means FOLIO would need to decide whether to try to continue. That would mean finding a person to do the training and find funds for materials and training. Oklahoma City Community Foundation suggested FOLIO apply for funds through a group in McAlester but Sharon has not been able to find any information about that group.

**Unfinished Business:** The Annual OLA Conference is coming in March. FOLIO will have several sessions on March 10. One has to do with Censorship and Friends' Advocacy. Another is on Early Childhood Literacy. The author talk will be presented by Mariana Llanos, the author of Run, Little Chaski ! She is the winner of a 2022 Oklahoma Book Award for the book. FOLIO will also be presenting the Awards. Registration is available for \$30 online. We usually have students who work at the FOLIO table so if you are interested in helping recruit students, or to set up the table please let Judy know. Sharon Saulmon has the materials for the table. She is willing to look into who would know about students. She also has books that could be raffled off. Karen Neurohr will bring balloon numbers. Brochures and newsletters will also be available for the FOLIO table.

**New Business:** Judy reported that several members had suggested a United for Libraries statewide membership. She asked what benefits would be available. Sharon Saulmon reported that training sessions on various topics are offered for free to Friends' groups, foundations and trustees. The cost is several thousand dollars according to Karen Neurohr. Natalie will look into the possibility of ODL paying for the membership fee.

**Announcements:**

- OLA/MPLA Annual Conference at Embassy Suites, Norman, OK, March 8-10, 2023
- FOLIO Day and Annual Meeting, Embassy Suites, Norman, OK, March 10,2023
- National Library Week, April 23-29,2023
- National Poetry Month, April 2023

Sharon Douthitt announced that she has new Ambassador brochures, which she will have at the conference.

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Respectively submitted by Sandra Austin, Secretary