

MINUTES OF THE 2012 F.O.L.K. ANNUAL MEETING

Held on the Kailua Kona Library Lanai

January 24, 2012

WELCOME: **President Pamela Wang** called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. She thanked all those who volunteer for F.O.L.K. activities to make it the organization it is.

MINUTES: **Secretary Shirley David** read the minutes which were approved as read.

TREASURER'S REPORT: **Treasurer Barbara Isley** reported that at the end of 2011 F.O.L.K.'s net worth was \$56,635. Gross income was \$32,877. Expenses totaled \$23,423.80. Net income for 2011 was \$9,489.05. Fundraising increased by 26% from 2010. Book sales are the primary fundraising source. Membership dues income also increased. Assistance to Kailua Kona and Kealahou Public Libraries totaled \$15,868.81. Barbara noted that in the last five years the board has never refused a librarian's request. She also stated that F.O.L.K. and the librarians use an Amazon visa card to purchase books and other items. A \$250 gift certificate accumulated from these purchases was given to Barbara Sosna to purchase books for the F.O.L.K. book club. \$20,000 was moved to the Friends of the Libraries, Hawaii investment account. The treasurer's report was accepted.

BOARD POSITIONS: **President Pamela Wang** introduced the 2012 officers:

President: Pamela Wang

Vice President for Programs: Barbara Hussey

Vice President for Activities: Barbara Sosna

Vice President for Membership: Alice Goo

Vice President for Ways and Means: Ken Guerra

Vice President for Publicity: Joyce Kimball

Historian Vice President: Marilyn Koschella

Treasurer: Barbara Isley

Secretary: Shirley David

Pamela stated there is always room for more members on the board as offices may be shared so that the workload can be spread out. She encouraged members to seek office as the board meetings are fun because we spend money.

WAYS AND MEANS: **Vice President Ken Guerra** explained his job is to raise money. Primary income is from book sales that would not be possible without the many volunteers especially the pit crew who sort donations and prepare books for sale. Each month Ken sends notices to members to volunteer for the lanai book sale. We are grateful for all the volunteers including the many snowbirds. In 2011 the lanai sales space was rearranged by moving the checkout area outside the library entrance. The new arrangement frees up space for book displays and improves the flow. A cash register was purchased to ring up purchases and charge sales tax at point of sale. Ken compared sales from 2009 – 2011. Both lobby and lanai sales have continually increased. Cheryl King asked about the impact from the closing of Borders Books. Ken responded that our best source of books is Kona Bay Books who only stock a couple copies of used best sellers. Vacationers donate books they have read and people continue to purchase books from Costco, Amazon.com, and Kona Stories.

PROGRAMS: **Vice President Barbara Hussey** has been recruiting and coordinating programs for both Kailua-Kona and Kealahou libraries during the last nine months. They have been very well received and donations to help defray program expenses have been generous. Barbara announced the upcoming programs and noted that programs are posted on the F.O.L.K. website and library bulletin boards.

PUBLICITY: Publicity Vice President Joyce Kimball shared with the membership how F.O.L.K. publicity reaches the community. She also said she tries to get the website newsletter out early enough so members can plan to come to the various programs. The F.O.L.K. Charity Tree theme this year was "fishing for a good read". Charity tree volunteers Helen Verma and Blanch Gouveia decorated the tree. Joyce just received the charity tree check for \$160 before she came to the meeting. Joyce encouraged members to check the F.O.L.K. website for the library calendar which includes not only the F.O.L.K. events but also the libraries' hours and holiday

closures and the libraries' events. Joyce also shared an email from Ann Rothstein, the daughter of Judy and Jerry Rothstein. The Rothstein's died in an automobile accident seven years ago. Judy worked at the Kailua-Kona and Kealahou libraries for many years and Jerry was an active F.O.L.K. member, who jump started the F.O.L.K. book sales. Ann encouraged members to plant a tree in the Rothstein's memory or at least plant a seed of a good deed on February 8, the date of the Festival of Trees.

BOOKS ARE BUILDING BLOCKS: Pamela called up Shirley David to report on the Books are Building Blocks Family Read Aloud Program. BBB is in its third year and during 2011 coordination has been shared by Pamela, Ken and Shirley. Shirley outlined the program. Since September National Honor Society students have been reading to the kindergarten and first graders. Gerrie Anderson impresses upon parents the importance of reading to their children even after they learn to read. Shirley said that we have many dedicated volunteers but what we need is more participants. F.O.L.K. has also started to reach parents through business connections. For example: Costco supports literacy programs so they are now providing the pizza for the BBB sessions and encouraging their employees to volunteer and bring their children to the BBB sessions. McDonald's is advertising to their managers in their managers' newsletter and by posting BBB fliers on their staff bulletin boards. Pamela asked members to help advertise BBB by spreading the word to friends and neighbors with children.

SCHOLARSHIP: Shirley David also reported on the MLIS scholarship established by F.O.L.K. in 2011. The first scholarship will be awarded in June 2011. Candidates must be Hawaii residents, who are candidates for a Masters of Library and Information Sciences degree at the University of Hawaii. The scholarship will be announced in newspapers. The information was also sent to the University of Hawaii library and information sciences department and financial aid department. The scholarship application procedures and application are available on the F.O.L.K. website.

MEMBERSHIP: Vice President Alice Goo noted there are currently 230 members which is an increase of 20 members since 2010. New memberships were recruited at the lanai books sales. Members receive a 20% discount on lanai book purchases.

ACTIVITIES: Vice Chair Barbara Sosna thanked bookclub members for their contributions large and small including arranging for the food at the annual meeting. One to two people attending the bookclub each month join F.O.L.K. She said there continues to be excellent attendance at the meetings. The book club selections are set for 2012 with a wide variety of genres. Barbara distributed the 2012 booklist to members.

HISTORIAN'S REPORT: Marilyn Koschella invited members to look at the historical binder which includes events and press during the year.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Pamela Wang closed the meeting with a quote from Walter Dean Meyers, National Ambassador for Young People's Literature. In an interview with NPR he said, "We must get kids to understand that reading is not optional." Pamela noted there are many programs at libraries but reading is their mission. Many groups are presenting read aloud programs in the schools. F.O.L.K. is not in competition with these programs but giving parents another opportunity to learn how to make reading a priority in their homes.

ADJOURNMENT: President Wang thanked members for coming to annual meeting and encouraged everyone to stay and enjoy the refreshments. Pamela thanked Barbara Sosna and her volunteers for providing the decorations and refreshments. The meeting was adjourned at 11:21 a.m.

Minutes prepared by:
Shirley David
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F.O.L.K. Secretary