

F.O.L.K. ANNUAL MEETING, JAN. 29, 2013

The meeting was called to order by President Pamela Wong at 10:05 a.m. Board members present were: Pamela Wang, Penny Lum, Marilyn Koschella, Barbara Isley, Ken Guerra, Joyce Kimball, Lynn Waterhouse, Barbara Sosna, and Shirley David. There were eight guests from the community.

Pamela welcomed everyone by saying that for a small organization, we are doing very well. She drew attention to the “Orchid,” which is printed and sent out annually, and to the fact that the F.O.L.K. Board has now expanded to eleven members.

Secretary’s Minutes

The minutes of the 2012 Annual Meeting were read by Penny Lum. One correction was made concerning the date on which the scholarship was awarded—June 2012. The minutes were approved. MSA

Treasurer’s Report

Barbara Isley reported that the total income for 2012 was \$45,696. The bulk of that was received from the lobby and lanai book sales. She itemized and explained F.O.L.K.’s various expenditures, i.e. business expenses, scholarships, cost of sales, programs and events, and administrative disbursements.

Barbara further explained that F.O.L.K. has never had to turn down a request from our librarians. Categories of library assistance include: discretionary funds; equipment, supplies, and furnishings; maintenance; programs and events; materials; and meetings and conferences. The largest item under expenses was the new carpet for the Kailua-Kona library. The second largest category of expenses included books, CDs, DVDs, and programs. Our total expenses for the year amounted to \$58,558.

After paying for the new carpet, our balance in the bank account is approximately \$32,000. Barbara also updated us on the status of our \$20,000 investment in the FLH (Friends of the Library Hawaii) Endowment Fund. She explained that the board was not satisfied with how the fund was managed and that we withdrew our money on December 12, 2012. Interest for the year amounted to \$383. The board feels we can better invest our money, and a committee has been formed to discuss better options. Barbara addressed the general audience and asked for a retired volunteer from the financial world, who might be of assistance to us. The treasurer’s report was approved. MSA

New Board Positions

Pamela explained the reorganization of the F.O.L.K. Board. Former Vice Presidents are now called Directors. The Bylaws were updated and the Duties and Procedures Documents are now separate from the Bylaws. All documents are kept in the library for the general public to see.

Programs

Pamela welcomed our two newest members to the Board: Bev Stehley and Lynn Waterhouse. She explained that Bev's absence today was due to a family emergency.

Lynn told us that she joined F.O.L.K. through the Book Club. Her background is in science and so she will help Bev in the planning of science programs for Kona's youth. In April a ranger from the Volcano National Park will talk to the children about Kilauea and vog. In May Nancy Tashima from the Onizuka Space Center will be a guest speaker. Other programs in the planning stages are marine biologist, Keoki Stender, and a Super Nova program geared to younger children.

Pamela encouraged those in attendance to please notify the board of any ideas they might have for future programs. Barbara Isley noted that we paid out \$525 in honorariums this year, but collected \$476 in donations at the various events.

Scholarship Grants and Books are Building Blocks

Shirley David is temporarily filling in for Bev Stehley and announced that a musical ensemble, Magic Strings, will be performing at the library this evening at 5:30 p.m.

Shirley reported that F.O.L.K., instead of awarding a \$1,000 scholarship to one awardee, decided to award \$2,000 to three people. Joy Holland, one of the awardees, was present today and spoke to the group, describing how her \$1,000 scholarship assisted her in moving back to the Big Island and securing her present position as Executive Director of Kona Historical Society. She is close to completion of her Master's Degree in Library Science from the University of Hawaii.

Two other awardees were not present. They are Mara Peio of Waimea, who has often volunteered at our lanai book sales, and Anna Marie Aweo from Hilo. Anna has moved to Honolulu to finish her degree, which will be completed in December. She plans to be an archivist.

Many thanks to Gerri Anderson who helped select the awardees.

Shirley also updated us on Books are Building Blocks. Jeannie Kutsunai has been working closely with Shirley and has been the main coordinator for 2012. The theme of BBB has been "Seeing the World Through Books." Each month, a speaker representing a different country, has worked with the children. Gerri Anderson has continued to lead a parent group while the children are in their respective groups.

F.O.L.K. is very grateful to businesses in the community who have contributed to the program. Costco has donated pizza and encouraged their employees to support BBB.

We have also received grants from Target and Iron Man. The Iron Man grant is being used towards the second grade “Bus” program, which will soon be expanded to include fifth graders from south Kona.

Book Sales

Ken Guerra reported on the proceeds from our lobby and lanai book sales. Our monthly book sales probably comprise the most widely known activity of F.O.L.K. as far as the general public is concerned. We average \$1,100 to \$1,200 per month from our lanai sales alone. Profits from the lobby sales have grown from \$8,226 in 2010 to \$15,092 in 2012. Our lanai sales have grown from \$11,324 in 2010 to \$16,037 in 2012. Total income from book sales for 2012 is \$31,129.

Ken has been able to draw from a pool of approximately 110 volunteers. A small crew, also known as the “pit crew” loyally works several days a week sorting through all the books that are donated and then sold in the library lobby and in the monthly lanai sales. Our chief sources of books are Kona Bay Books, estate sales, and donations from local residents and “snow birds.”

Ken reiterated that the financial situation of our public libraries in Hawaii is not good. Librarians more and more rely on auxiliary aid, such as Friends of the Library.

Publicity

Joyce Kimball reviewed our means of advertising: our website, flyers that are distributed in the schools, the monthly newsletter, West Hawaii Today, several radio stations, and our annual “Orchid.”

Joyce has graciously been in charge of decorating a tree in the annual Christmas Charity Tree event held at the Mauna Lani Hotel every year. This year Friends of the Library Waikoloa was the first place winner. Joyce also added that she is resigning from this post and so we need someone to volunteer to replace her if we wish to enter the competition again in 2013.

Advertisements for our 2012 programs were on the bulletin board in the library, in our monthly newsletters, West Hawaii Today, and radio stations. Joyce gave us a summary of the 2012 programs held at both the main library and the Kealakekua Branch. These included: Damron Dancers, Sakura Ensemble, Casablanca Quartet, Aloha Performing Arts, Chris Yeaton Slack Key, Fen Shui Clear Englebert, Soap Making Kona Natural Soap, Ukelele Music Kealakehe School, Needle Felt Craft, and Kona Celtic Connection.

Membership

Alice Goo was not able to be present today, but Pamela reported that our present F.O.L.K. membership exceeds 240.

Book Club

Barbara Sosna gave us the list of books to be read in 2013. Titles include:

Beneath the Linden by John Emerson, Daughters of Fire by Tom Peek, Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore by Robin Sloan, Home by Toni Morrison, Gone Girl by Gillian Flynn, Cleopatra by Stacy Schiff, The Marriage Plot by Jeffrey Eugenides, Blonde by Joyce Carl Oates, The Woman Who Fell From the Sky by Jennifer Steil, Fish Can Sing by Halldor Laxness, and One True Thing by Anna Quindlen. The book club meets the third Tuesday of every month except for August.

Barbara informed us that the book club generates at least one new F.O.L.K. member at each meeting. She also expressed a need for a substitute when she has to be off island periodically.

Marilyn Koschella

Pamela introduced Marilyn as our new (one and only) Vice President, who will preside over board meetings in Pamela's absence. Marilyn was our historian, but because so much of the news concerning F.O.L.K. appears on our internet publications, we will use these newsletters as our historical record of events for the year. A display of the historian's binder for the past year was available for everyone to see today.

Closing

Pamela asked the audience if there were any comments or questions, and Gerri Anderson did suggest the Board look into inviting a well known author to speak to our book club, BBB, and perhaps even some of our schools to share the cost. She said this has been done in other Friends of the Library groups nationally with much success in drawing in more people from the community. Pamela thanked the general public for attending and urged everyone to be our "eyes and ears" in the community for program and event suggestions and to encourage friends and neighbors to enter our pool of volunteers.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Penny Lum
Secretary