

MINUTES OF THE 2010 F.O.L.K. ANNUAL MEETING

Held on the Kailua Kona Library Lanai

January 16, 2010

WELCOME: President Pamela Wang called the meeting to order Lanai at 10:10 a.m.

In her opening remarks **President Wang** announced that at their meeting the previous Wednesday, the board voted to purchase a microphone system for use at F.O.L.K. meetings and F.O.L.K. and library programs. Thanks to Amazon.com the system arrived in time to use at the annual meeting. **President Wang** also mentioned that F.O.L.K. has a new website at: www.folkhawaii.com. The site includes copies of the Orchid Newsletter.

MINUTES: **President Wang** introduced **Shirley David** who was elected at the January board meeting to complete the term of the vacant secretary's position. **Secretary David** read the minutes from the 2009 annual meeting. The minutes were approved with the following corrections: correct typos and the meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m. not 11:10 a.m.

TREASURER'S REPORT: **Treasurer Barbary Isley** reported that 2009 was a very good year. Income was up so there was more money to sponsor programs and to give to the libraries. Income for the year was \$29,281 which included \$8,264 in grants and donations. Total expenses were \$26,405 which included \$19,365 for library assistance.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: **President Wang's** report focused on volunteerism. She said she addressed a conference of foreign exchange students the previous week on the topic of volunteerism. In most countries these students are from, voluntary community service is not practiced. But while the students are in the United States, they must volunteer at least 30 hours. If they volunteer 100 hours, they receive a presidential letter of commendation from the President of the United States. **President Wang** stated that some F.O.L.K. members volunteer over 40 hours per month. **President Wang** offered to give a presidential letter of commendation to any F.O.L.K. member who asks for a commendation who volunteers 100 hours during the year. This year the board is paying tribute to the Pit Crew. Four copies of the newly published *Big Island Journey* were purchased, one each for the Kealahou and Holualoa Libraries and two copies for the Kailua-Kona Library. Each has a bookplate with the names of the Pit Crew members.

President Wang asked each member to bring in one new member so that F.O.L.K. has more volunteers. In particular the board would like to find someone who likes scrapbooking to document the activities of F.O.L.K. during the year. One of the positions on the board has been that of Historian. The board decided the Historian position at the board level was not necessary. Instead a volunteer could put together the activities scrapbook.

The board members were introduced. There was no need for a vote because the by-laws adopted in 2009 included a change in officers' terms to two years with biennial elections.

PROGRAMS REPORT: **Vice President Bev Stehley** highlighted some of the 2009 programs. Over 500 people attended programs during the previous twelve months. Scheduled for the first part of 2010 are: Estate Planning for Unmarried Couples, Celtic Connection, Golden Girls Tap Dancers, and a Jazz singer who will explain what makes jazz jazz. "Check Us Out" is the publicity arm of the F.O.L.K. programs. Upcoming programs are announced in the *West Hawaii Today* coming up section, *Big Island Weekly*, *Kona Web*, *Hawaii 24/7*, F.O.L.K. e-mailers, and flyers in the library. Grants are now also the responsibility of the programs vice president. \$3,000 in grants from Target, Ford Ironman and Young Brothers funded the buses that brought over 300 second graders to the Ready to Read: Ready to Succeed program at the Kailua-Kona Library. Grants also fund a selection of new children's books for the libraries. **Vice President**
2/16/10 draft

Stehley asked for program ideas. A member said that Facebook has a meet-up function. Anyone who subscribes, get notices. It was also suggested that Ann Klimke could do a music program. The “your ideas” suggestion sheet was left out for members to suggest ideas after the meeting

HISTORIAN’S REPORT: **Jan Prokopovich** and **Shani Dutton** put together the 2010 FOLK activities scrapbook which was available for members to review. **Jan** has resigned her position and **Shani** has taken on other responsibilities on the board.

BOOKS ARE BUILDING BLOCKS: **Vice President Shani Dutton** talked about the “Books are Building Blocks” program which was started by Lisa Thomas in 2009. Research indicates that reading to children at home drops off when they start school. “Books are Building Blocks” brings readers, parents and children together once a month. The volunteer readers are former teachers and education sorority members. **Vice President Dutton’s** unscientific survey for the last program indicated that people really liked reading together and that they love the library. **Vice President Dutton** encouraged F.O.L.K. members to attend the next program on February 2 from 5-7 pm at the Kailua-Kona Public Library to at least observe. **Vice President Dutton** introduced an opportunity for F.O.L.K. to raise money from helping the community “go green” with an Exchange Program to phase out incandescent bulbs. **Vice President Dutton** asked for a volunteer to investigate and launch the program for F.O.L.K.

WAYS AND MEANS: **Vice President Jim Monk** presented charts highlighting F.O.L.K.’s \$29,281 income during 2009. Grants and donations increased by 160%, dues increased by 7%, book sales by 50%. The largest money maker is lobby book sales. Books sales outlets increased during 2009 to include regularly scheduled sales at Kona Coast Shopping Center. The Kona Coast sales were discontinued when the shopping center eliminated the book storage space. The Kailua-Kona Library lanai sales schedule was changed in late 2009 to be monthly instead of quarterly to accommodate the large number of quality books donated by Kona Bay Books. In 2010 the lanai sales will be every month except August and December. Currently there are four people who sort all the donated books. They could use more help. There is also the need for someone to coordinate the sorting and stacking of books for the lobby sales. Currently lobby sales volunteers come in whenever it is convenient for them. The lanai sales work schedule was changed so that four to five strong people come in early to move the cartons of books to the lanai instead of using students.

Ken Guerra was introduced as co-vice president for Ways and Means. **Vice-President Guerra** was seated on the board at the January board meeting to fill the position left open when Lisa Thomas moved. He is taking on the task of volunteer coordinator.

PUBLICITY: **Vice President Joyce Kimball** stated that F.O.L.K. is using more electronic outlets for advertising F.O.L.K. activities. She said the *Orchid* newsletter is sent to members via email and only limited hard copies are printed. **Vice President Kimball** requested members to set their email to accept F.O.L.K. information so the newsletter and other items are not bounced back as junk mail. She also showed pages from the website. The charity tree at the Mauna Lani was redesigned using an alphabet blocks theme to fit in with the Books are Building Blocks program. **Vice President Kimball** said whenever she checked on the tree there were always children around it. She also asked for volunteers for public relations, website development, *Orchid* articles and the charity tree.

A member suggested that *101 Things to Do* may be a good place to advertise lobby books for tourists looking for inexpensive reading.

MEMBERSHIP: **Vice President Alice Goo** noted there are currently 170 members -- increased from 160 in 2008. She recommended each member take a membership brochure to give to a friend. Each new member brings in money and a potential volunteer.

ACTIVITIES: Vice Chair **Barbara Sosna** welcomed book club members noting that five of the current board members are or have been book club members. She also noted that the active Book Lovers membership list is one page long. Several copies of the current month's selection are purchased for members to share. The available books are put on the file cabinet next to the circulation desk and a sign-out sheet is used to keep track of the books. One does not have to read the book to come to a meeting. Vice President **Sosna** gave leis to the volunteers who were responsible for the arrangements for the annual meeting.

SHOP FOR A CAUSE: President **Wang** introduced **Mary Ann Rouse** representing Shaklee products who is teaming up to raise funds for F.O.L.K. Mary Ann stated that a percentage of each Shaklee product purchased through the F.O.L.K. website will be given to F.O.L.K. **Mary Ann** has also provided Shaklee gift baskets at the lanai book sales and at the annual meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: President **Wang** announced that F.O.L.K. joined the Kona Kohala Chamber of Commerce. Board members have been asking chamber members to sponsor the Books are Building Blocks program. She also called members attention to several items: lists of books the libraries have purchased with F.O.L.K. funds, thank you letters from children who visited the library through the "Friendly Bus" program, libraries' wish lists will be posted, and the days the libraries are closed for furloughs are posted on the F.O.L.K. website calendar. Kipapa Kahelahela, the new acting branch manager at Kealahakua Public Library encourages members to visit the library. The library has undergone many changes.

ADJOURNMENT: President **Wang** adjourned the meeting at 11:30 p.m.

Minutes prepared by:

Shirley David
F.O.L.K. Secretary