

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARIES, KONA

F.O.L.K. ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES - JANUARY 14, 2020

The duly noticed 2020 annual meeting of the Friends of Libraries, Kona was called to order on January 14, 2020, at 9:52 a.m. on the Kailua Kona Public Library lanai by President Pamela Wang. All officers were present, as were Board members Suzanne Dmytrenko, Fred Hornbruch III, Joyce Kimball, Donna Monti, and Mardee Richardson; librarians Denise Stromberg (Kona) and Judy Andrews (Kealakehe) also attended. Board member Ken Guerra was excused.

Kona Head Librarian Denise Stromberg was recognized to present a special request to the Board. The matter of engaging a contractor to clean the library windows had been raised at a prior Board meeting with general agreement that the cost should not exceed \$200, but the matter not voted upon. Denise has located a qualified contractor who can do the job before the end of January and will charge less than the amount specified and requests Board approval. MSA

At 10:00 a.m. President Wang called the official annual meeting to order. She summarized the minutes of the 2019 annual meeting, copies of which were distributed and which were adopted without amendment. MSA

President Wang introduced the officers and Board members who had been elected to two-year terms last year. Special thanks were extended to Lynn Waterhouse who has retired from the Board this year for her dedicated years of service. Officers and Board members continuing service for 2020 are as follows:.

Officers

President:	Pamela Wang
VP/Historian:	Shirley David
Treasurer:	Barbara Isley
Secretary:	Arne Werchick

Directors

Programs:	Suzanne Dmytrenko
Science programs:	position vacant
Publicity:	Joyce Kimball
Membership:	Mardee Richardson
Ways and Means:	Ken Guerra
Outreach/At Large:	Fred Hornbruch,00 III
Book Club/Books for Babies:	

Donna Monti

Treasurer Barbara Isley reported that 2019 income from grants, sales and donations totaled \$51,009; taxable sales income was \$27,560, membership income \$4,055. Administrative expenses were \$4,393. Scholarships were awarded in the amount of \$6000. Monthly events cost \$2078. Ongoing programs cost \$6,545. Total expenses for library assistance (including such things as subscriptions, purchases of special books, equipment, furnishings, supplemental maintenance) were \$35,066. The Treasurer's report was approved. MSA

Vice President and F.O.L.K. Historian Shirley David displayed and presented the historical binder for 2019. F.O.L.K. has awarded scholarships totaling \$25,000 since the program started in 2012. Applicants are now accepted who will do distance learning using programs from around the country, not limited to attending classes locally, as long as the applicant is a Hawaii resident and enrolling in a program approved by the American Library Association. The first scholarship awarded was for \$1000; now the amount can be up to \$6000. An anonymous donor provides \$2000-3000 per year, thus far matching what F.O.L.K. appropriates. Chezlani Cesar, a prior recipient of a \$2000 scholarship, now occupies the new position funded by Hawaii State Library as roving librarian for days or months at branches as needed. Rob Dahlke is school librarian at Kealakehe High School and was also a F.O.L.K. scholarship recipient.

Shirley also works with distributing children's books; it is a regular issue deciding what to do with the many donations. Shirley specially acknowledged the work of Auntie's Angels donating books to West Hawaii elementary schools to reward children for advances in reading.

Shirley pointed out that the annual history book shows what F.O.L.K. has done this year, including our newsletters and other memorabilia.

Joyce Kimball reports regarding F.O.L.K. publicity and the monthly newsletter. In 2019 she completely redid the F.O.L.K. website (www.FOLKHawaii.com) after we switched to a new server this year, not without lots of initial glitches and start-up pains which are pretty much resolved now. She explains some of the information which can be gleaned from the website. The undersigned notes that we have added QR Code access to F.O.L.K. bookmarks and other items, increasing ease of access to the website.

Mardee Richardson discusses membership. She again extends special thanks to Eleanor Pearson for her tireless efforts in recruiting new members. She additionally expresses F.O.L.K. thanks to Roma Johnson for recruiting volunteers and involving Kona Elks to help with our lanai book sales. Lastly, special thanks also to Karen Bird who works at Kona Hospital and who volunteers to update our membership Excel spreadsheet. We averaged about 400 members each month for 2019; about 330-340 in good standing. We added 78 new members from January - November 2019; 174 renewing during that same period. Seventeen members

joined or renewed at levels \$50 to \$500 which are acknowledged with a book plate in the library in a volume selected by librarian Denise Stromberg.

Fred Hornbruch discusses his efforts promoting the library in general, including having done public service announcements on radio and preparing bios of volunteers in the monthly newsletter. On Wednesday mornings he has been supervising Pit Crew activities in Ken Guerra's absence. He summarized book sale results for 2018 and 2019: \$22,423 in 2018, \$25,418 in 2019. Lanai book sales average over \$1200.

Suzanne Dmytrenko reports regarding 18 events hosted at the Kona library in 2019, four of which were science events, and nine were music events. She has created an alliance with cable access channel Na Leo to video record many culturally significant programs to create a cultural and historical archive for the library; DVDs of these programs are available for sale or can be checked out at both branches.

President Wang discusses the Community Seed Library whose members have donated \$815. Donations received at book club meetings were \$177; donations received at F.O.L.K. library programs were \$355. President Wang introduces John Kitchen, former editor of West Hawaii Today and a forty-year Kona resident, who is interested in joining the F.O.L.K. Board to fill the position of Science Program chair. Upon nomination, MSA

Donna Monti, who joined Board this year, discusses the Book Club. Former long-time Board member Bev Stehley is still involved in Books for Babies and remains interested in Book Club. F.O.L.K. buys the books for the Book Club so increased donations for book buying would be much appreciated. We have donated 500-600 bags of board books and information to new parents at Kona Community Hospital in the Books for Babies program; Donna gratefully acknowledges the support of Kona Elks who have donated \$1000 to the program and donates the bags used for the program.

Judy Andrews, Kealahou librarian, thanks F.O.L.K. for major assistance for the Kealahou branch. She is proud to report 900 summer program participants last year. She notes F.O.L.K. funded a baby changing table for the branch, paid for music programs and speakers, and book funding for summer gap months. There are many more programs and activities in progress.

Head Librarian Denise Stromberg, observes that she came to the first F.O.L.K. book sale and joined F.O.L.K. in 1990. Thereafter she was hired as the first children's library in the new building in 1992. She has announced her retirement for this year and will continue as a F.O.L.K. regular member. She was the first Public Librarian of the Year in 1997. She discusses the importance of F.O.L.K. support over the years, making our library a center of the community. Denise' last day as Head Librarian will be February 29th.

Barbara Isley notes we must acknowledge the Atherton Grant of \$4000 last year for the F.O.L.K. Friendly Bus was \$4000, almost \$3000 of that amount already having been spent and many more second grade (and some third grade) school visits pending; \$1250 will be spent on Friendly Bus visits in January and February 2020.

President Wang notes the Friends Affiliates will be meeting in Oahu on March 6th and invites anyone interested in attending to discuss the matter with her. She concluded the meeting by pointing out that Barbara Isley calculated that that in the past ten years F.O.L.K. has raised and spent over \$309,000 to benefit the libraries.

There being no new business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 *sine die*.

Respectfully submitted,

ARNE WERCHICK
FOLK Board Secretary