

Friends of Onondaga Free Library

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors

Date: January 7, 2026

Present: Directors: Lore DePalo, Sheila Graudons, Cara Kirkby, Barbara Leigh, Naomi Kissel-Johns, Pamela McLaughlin, Susan Parry, Mary Beth Roach, Mary Taylor and Donna Zeolla

Staff: Susan Morgan

Members: Chris Guyer

Absent: George Bain

The meeting opened at 1:30PM. We welcomed Chris G. and introduced ourselves. The minutes from December were read online. A correction was noted to the new clerk's name: Ann should be Anna. A motion to accept the corrected minutes was made by Lore D., seconded by Mary T. and approved. Sue P. said that NRD Media has disbanded his business so we do not have an Amazon seller for our book sales. Nate is looking into a few possibilities for us.

Director's Report: Susan M.

We are still finalizing data from 2025 but the stats look great for the year.

Susan M. thanked us for contributing to the brunch and the monetary gifts for 2026. George B. was prompt at sending the checks as usual.

The whole back page of the library newsletter is devoted to Friends. It looks terrific and is very much appreciated.

The Nintendo Switch is very popular as are the busy boards. The group that was learning Mahjong now is meeting at the library.

We had 100 people here for the New Year's Eve Party.

Book sale dates: Spring Donations accepted: May 29, 30, June 1 and 2

Sale: June 3-6

Fall Donations: September 25, 26, 28 and 29

Sale: September 30, October 1-3

Treasurer's Report: George B. via e-mail

Here are the final Friends financial reports for 2025.

We finished the year with a balance of \$19,452.89 (compared to \$20,994.51 on Dec. 31, 2024). The year was memorable for the \$23,470.62 we gave to the library, the most ever. Comparable figure for 2024 was \$16,920.85. We have no transactions yet in 2026, so the balance has not changed.

The used book sales and memberships also set records last year.

Here are comparable income totals for 2025 and 2024. All income figures are totals net of expenses.

	2025	2024
Festival of Trees	\$1986.20	\$2341.83
Memberships	\$10,638.42	\$9900.90
Online book sale	\$216.21	\$814.89
Shamrocks	\$278.02	\$328.07
Used book sales	\$9677.61	\$7805.97

Expenses not included in any of the income categories totaled \$867.46, compared to \$1,030.63 for 2024, which included three items that didn't produce any income and were not repeated last year, bookmarks, spring plantings and a winter basket raffle.

Basic expenses are bookkeeping, insurance and postage.

December transactions included one adjustment, to reissue a damaged reimbursement check.

I am also notified by the USPS that the bulk mail entry unit hours will change as of Feb. 25. The new hours will be Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

George

We received lots of praise from George B. for a terrific year.

IT Updates: Lore D.

Lore D. will begin training Naomi K-J. as her back up next week.

Lore D. has updated the IT director's role and projects. This has been sent to Pam M. for the Bylaws

Bylaws Updates: Pam M.

Pam M. has received the information from Lore D. and sent it to Cara K. and Mary Beth R. for review. It will then be placed in the section of the Bylaws pertaining to officers and their duties in that role and sent out to all the directors.

Membership: Kathy DeSanctis via e-mail

We have 134 members with donations totaling \$9337.00 and the average donation being \$69.68.

Stools: Susan M.

Hannah Bewsher is looking at vendors with a better price point to replace the stools in the children's room.

Festival of Trees Wrap Up: Mary T.

The Festival went very well – it was our second biggest year ever.

Mary T. thanked Chantal Rothermel who does an amazing job of taking photos of each tree and getting them posted to social media websites. She always goes above and beyond to help make the Festival such a success each year. Thanks also went to the circulation desk clerks who sell tickets and those who sold tickets during events at the library. One gentleman bought 20 tickets and donated them to the children's librarian. The kids were thrilled and that encouraged parents to buy tickets.

Next year will be our 20th anniversary for this event and we need to plan something special.

The price of trees continues to go up each year. Mary T. is asking for \$500.00 to be spent on trees, tickets and other incidentals for this year's Festival. A motion to spend no more than \$500.00 for trees and incidentals for the Festival of Trees was made by Donna Z., seconded by Sheila G. and approved. Perhaps we can find a corporate sponsor to pick up the price of the trees for 2027.

Winter Blues Basket:

Donna Z. and Sue P. will shop for items for the basket. A motion to spend no more than \$100.00 for the basket was made by Donna Z., seconded by Sheila G. and approved.

This is a thank you to Friends members and only they are eligible to win. If someone wants to do a promotion for the basket let Mary Beth B. know.

Staff Appreciation Activities: Mary Beth R.

At our planning meeting we thought a \$500.00 yearly gift for staff appreciation to be used toward the brunch, lunch on staff development day and another activity in keeping with our mission was an idea. A motion to spend \$500.00 on staff appreciation activities was made by Mary Beth R., seconded by Donna Z. and approved.

Shamrock Sale: Mary Beth R.

This activity does not generate much income, but it is popular with the patrons and helps us engage with the community so we decided to do it. Mary Beth R. will contact Price Chopper to get prices. The sale will be March 13-14 during library hours. If anyone wants to contact local business for raffle gifts, please let Mary Beth R. know.

Strategic Planning:

How can we beef up our group?

Pam M will head this up by looking at the library's strategic plans as well as those of other Friends groups. We will have a directors' meeting on Wednesday, January 21 at 1:30 here to brainstorm and then break into small groups to work on the ideas.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15. Our next meeting will be February 4 at 1:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Parry, Secretary