

Friends of Onondaga Free Library

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board or Directors

Date: March 4, 2026

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

Staff: Susan Morgan

Members: Chris Guyer

Absent: George Bain and Barbara Leigh

The minutes were read online. There was a correction – amount spent for Nintendo Switch games was missing. It is \$135.85. A motion to accept the corrected minutes was made by Lore D., seconded by Donna Z. and approved.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Susan M.

February was a very healthy month even though we were closed for two holidays and one maintenance issue. The new floor in the Community Room looks wonderful.

Just a reminder that our Board of Trustees Annual Meeting is March 25 at 6:00PM in the Community Room. We will elect new trustees and officers. Steve Dunham, Westhill Superintendent, will replace Rob Price, OCS superintendent, and Joe Campbell, a recent retiree from Reagan Insurance Company will join the Board.

The Friend's sign for the easel has been found and will be used at all events sponsored by Friends.

The staff is very excited preparing for Retro Week during spring break in late March.

60 people attended the Valentine's Day Concert by Lake Effect Winds. They were excellent and we will have them back again. Thank you to Friends for providing refreshments.

Requests: A 9X12 rug for story time in the Community Room for \$535.37 from Lakeshore Learning. It can be rolled up and stored when not in use. A motion to spend no more than \$550.00 for the story time rug was made by Sheila G., seconded by Pam M. and approved.

Congratulations to Scott Lipkowitz and his wife who are expecting a baby boy, Elijah James, in May. Scott will be on paternity leave immediately after Elijah's birth and then again in August when Christian goes back to school.

TREASURER'S REPORT: George B. via e-mail

Here are the two-month financials. Our current checking account balance of \$3,470.77 compares to \$5,814.91 a year ago.

The difference is gifts to the library, \$16,250.74 this year vs. \$15,420.96 and memberships, 5 for \$275 this year vs. 5 for \$336.52 last year. Last year began with a balance of \$21,000, this year \$19,452.

And a reminder that the negative net total at the category summary end just means we have spent more this year than we have received.

George

The chairs were \$552.21 and George has sent the check.

LONG RANGE PLANNING: Pam M.

We have made great progress with strategic long range planning. We will have another meeting next week to wrap it up.

BROCHURE UPDATE:

Barb L. had sent an e-mail with a rough draft of the proposed brochure. Please get back to her with any suggestions for changes. She will set up a meeting with Chantal Rothermel.

IT UPDATES: Lore D.

Lore will wait until after elections to update the Board personal information.

We have had lots of social media activity with many likes.

ELECTIONS: Sue P.

The following have volunteered to remain/become directors from April 2026 through April 2029:

Chris Guyer

Naomi Kissel-Johns

Barbara Leigh

Donna Zeolla

The following officer positions from April 2026 through April 2027 are also up for election:

President: Cara Kirkby

Treasurer: George Bain

IT Coordinator: Lore DePalo

We have the positions of Vice-President/Co-President and Secretary open. Lore D. will post an announcement on social media.

There will be no changes to our posters and logo until we have completed long range planning and elections.

SHAMROCK SALE: Mary Beth R.

We will set up on Thursday, March 12. Price Chopper has confirmed that we will get the plants for \$3.99 and we will sell them for \$5.00. We will pick them up Friday morning. We have enough sales coverage.

Jerry Holbrook has donated a cutting board for the raffle. We also have gift cards from Price Chopper and Bee Kind. Cara K. will check with the gift box to see if they will donate a gift card.

MENTAL HEALTH KITS:Chris Guyer

Chris went to Petit Library to investigate their mental health kits. They have clear backpacks for Youth, Teens and Adults. They decided to use clear backpacks to be transparent about Mental Health. Each kit contains age appropriate information and books along with other activities. These kits were researched, mostly online, and put together by two members of the Petit staff. The focus is pretty general but could certainly be broken down into more specific categories. The kits go out on a three week loan with one renewal.

We decided to borrow a kit. Susan M. will do that and check out the materials. We can have one of our local schools look at it and make suggestions. We wondered if mental health professionals had any input on the material in the kits.

Many thanks to Chris for taking on this project.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35. Our next meeting will be April 1 at 1:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Parry, Secretary