



HUDSON LIBRARY & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Annual Meeting

February 26, 2022 at 2:00 pm

The 110th Annual Meeting of the Hudson Library and Historical Society was called to order at 2:00 pm on Saturday, February 26th, 2022 via Zoom Video Conference and streamed on the Library's YouTube channel, by President of the Board of Trustees, Basil Musnuff. Mr. Musnuff welcomed all viewing the meeting, stating that viewers could leave comments in the chat feature, and they would be addressed near the end of the meeting. Marie Turkovich was introduced as Secretary of the Board of Trustees, to read last year's 109th Annual Meeting minutes and the Special Meeting of the Membership minutes of December 4th, 2021.

Presidents Report

Mr. Musnuff stated he was happy to report that the library is fiscally strong. With the passage of the library renewal levy in May, it would be properly funded for the next 5 years. He thanked all that came out to vote in support of the library. He touched on the highlights of the year that included the achievement of the 5-star rating from the American Library Journal for the 9th consecutive year. Other highlights included updating the library salary schedule to keep pace with peer libraries and stay competitive in the employment marketplace and establishing two new programming funds. The first was created in memory of William Eldredge, a longtime supporter of the library and past Board President. This fund was established from donations received in his memory as well as \$15,000 that was contributed from the library's Private Funds. The second was created in honor of E. Leslie Polott's 25th Anniversary as Executive Director of the Library. The E. Leslie Polott Speaker Series will receive \$10,000 annually from the Private Funds. Mr. Musnuff then read the resolution passed to establish the Leslie Polott fund in honor of her achievements and dedication.

Mr. Musnuff commented that typically at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting the election of the open Trustee seats would occur. For the second year, the Annual Meeting is being held virtually and the Trustee elections have been postponed until April 9th, 2022, to allow them to be held in person, per the library regulations. He stated that current Board members have agreed to extend their terms until the election is held.

Fiscal Officer's Report

Next, Ms. Pandelli, Fiscal Officer, presented the Fiscal Officer report giving a snapshot view of the library's 2021 finances. She stated the library operates with three separate funds, The General Fund, the Private Fund and the Capital Improvement and Maintenance Fund. All operating revenue and expenses are processed through the General Fund. The state's Public Library Fund makes up over 31% of total operating revenue and the largest source of income is the 2.9 mil



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operating levy that makes up 2/3rd of all operating revenue. She thanked the voters of Hudson for supporting the renewal levy in May of 2021. She stated the conservative approach taken by the library during 2021 while still providing the programming and resources that customers expect, allowed the library to roll over \$2.9 million into the 2022 operating budget.

Ms. Pandelli next reviewed the Private Funds, stating they are comprised of gifts, endowments and grants, plus the investment earnings on those funds. A major donor of the library, the Friends of the Hudson library, give generously each year to allow for additional resources and programming. Ms. Pandelli highlighted that this fund includes the named endowment funds, allowing the library to carry a healthy balance of operating funds. The year-end value held in this fund was over \$3.2 million.

Next the library's Capital Improvement and Maintenance Fund. This fund is used for large building improvements and capital replacements such as roofing, and heating and air conditioning systems. Each year \$90,000 is set aside from the General Fund to cover these improvements. During 2021 the library did not use any of these funds, leaving a balance in this fund of over \$990,000.

Baldwin Babcock Report

Ms. Polott, Executive Director, spoke next about Caroline Baldwin-Babcock, who helped found the Hudson Library and Historical Society in 1910. The Baldwin Babcock Lecture Series was established through a provision in Mrs. Babcock's will that stipulated a trust be set up for the library where interest income earned each year be spent on a series of culturally enriching programs in both the arts and humanities. Ms. Polott noted some of the 2021 programs presented included Historian Jon Meacham; Today Show Host and Meteorologist Al Roker and Best-selling author James Patterson. She stated that the library is grateful for our founder's foresight, making these programs possible.

Report of the Friends of the Hudson Library

Dr. Lynn Remly, President of the Friends of the Hudson Library, presented an update on 2021 activities. She highlighted the commitment and loyalty of Friends volunteers. She noted an example of the Friends volunteer commitment. Dr. Remly stated that in February of 2021 the Friends began to again accept donations. Using their own cars and waiting in the winter cold outside of the library, they gathered donations, quarantined and later sort and shelved in the Friends room. In April 2021, sales began on a limited basis and online sales continued with the efforts of one tireless Friends volunteer, who brought in over \$4,000 in online sales alone.

The Friends 2021 donations to the library were \$18,000, noting that this is about half of what has been donated in the past years, but 2021 was not a typical year. Dr. Remly stated that



currently the Friends have 30 loyal volunteers who have contributed over 1950 hours in the last 10 months. Dr. Remly emphasized how proud she is of the Friends work for the library.

Executive Director's Report

Ms. E. Leslie Polott, Executive Director and Curator spoke next. She highlighted the history of libraries stating that during WWII, when the future of democracy was at risk, President Roosevelt described libraries "as great symbols of the freedom of the mind", and "essential to the functioning of a democratic society". As beacons of public knowledge, over the years, libraries have continued to nurture and educate citizens by providing access to information from all points of view. She stated that today public libraries are indeed at the center of both our communities and, our democracy.

The Hudson Library and Historical Society is continually adapting our collections and services to meet the communities' evolving needs. She stated that despite the enormous challenges of the pandemic, the Hudson Library was still able to offer a wonderful array of programs reflective of the diverse tastes and interests of our customers such as art history and music programs, cooking programs, business and entrepreneurship workshops and nationally recognized speakers and authors. The speaker series included historian Jon Meacham, former Speaker of the House of Representatives John Boehner, environmental activist Erin Brockovich, Bill Nye the Science Guy and Pulitzer Prize Winner Isabella Wilkerson.

As advocates for Hudson's Youth, the library promotes literacy, a love of reading, and academic success. To accomplish this, we expanded resource collections in a variety of formats. Implemented engaging programs to enhance user skills, including multiple STEM programs. The Youth Services division also received a LSTA grant to create a Storywalk.

To support Hudson's economic success, the library's Burton D. Morgan Center for Entrepreneurship Research conducted year-round business and entrepreneurship workshops including ETSY programs to teach product marketing online and provided on-on one mentor opportunities.

Ms. Polott stated that last year the Hudson Library made strides in making information accessible to all by expanding wireless access outside of the building and continuing to provide high speed connectivity. Efforts were made to Increase awareness, access to both established and emerging technologies through virtual workshops and classes, databases and digital podcasts, and circulation of technology devices.

Ms. Polott highlighted that the Hudson Library was recognized for the 9th year in a row as one of the nation's finest libraries. Designated 5 Star for the 9th year, this ranking has placed us in the



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top 1.4% of libraries in the nation. She thanked staff for their hard work, creativity and commitment, the Hudson Library Board of Trustees for their leadership, and the Friends of the library, and our donors for their support.

Closing Remarks

Mr. Musnuff stated the success of the library is a result of the great teamwork of the staff, and the community's support of the library. He thanked fellow Board Members and the Friends for their dedication and encouraged all to consider joining this great organization. Lastly, he reminded all watching of the upcoming Trustee election to be held on April 9th and thanked all for their support.

The meeting adjourned at 2:51pm.

Attendees of meeting via YouTube channel chat- none

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Musnuff, President
Board of Trustees

Ms. Marie Turkovich, Board Secretary
Board of Trustees