

Just Between FRIENDS



THE EAST SHORE
AREA LIBRARY
FRIENDS
BE A LIBRARY HERO

August 2021, Volume 1

Board Members

President

Betty Ann Petroski

Vice President

Bonnie Hindman

Recording Secretary

Barbara Eitnier

Corresponding Secretary

Kathy Hord

Treasurer

Tom Boone

2020-2021

Members-At-Large

Patricia Crawford

Anna Franco

Mel Phillips

2020-2022

Members-At-Large

Larry Geesey

Andrea Morrison

Allan Bogar

Standing Committees

By-Laws

Tom Boone

Membership

Betty Ann Petroski

Newsletter

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Publicity and Public Relations

Allan Bogar

Ways and Means

Bonnie Hindman

Kathy Hord

Web Coordinator

Andy Morrison

East Shore Area

Library Administrator

Maria Lagasca

dcls.org/esa_friends

P.O. Box 90083

Harrisburg, PA 17109

2021 Friends Annual Meeting

September 28, 2021–1:00 pm - 3:00 pm | ESA Conference Rooms A&B



You are invited to attend the 2021 Annual Meeting of the Friends, a special event for all Friends members. Nominations for officers and board members-at-large will be presented—floor nominations accepted. Current members will be voting for the slate of officers as well as for amendments to the bylaws. The current treasurer's report will be provided. Please feel free to invite a guest—all are welcome.

NOMINATION OF OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

The Nominating Committee (Andrea Morrison, Chair; Bonnie Hindman; Nancy Musmanno) met to develop a slate of nominees for officers and board members-at-large. Given the constraints upon FESAL's activities that the pandemic imposed for the past 18 months, the committee realized that the current board members did not actually spend much time in their elected roles. Therefore, the committee recommends that 10 of the current board members have their terms extended through December 31, 2022. The only vacant position is Recording Secretary*, but the committee has found a nominee who is willing

to attend. Refreshments will be served. Wearing masks may be required.

Our featured speaker will be author Sherry Knowlton whose Alexa Williams Suspense Series sets her main character and most of the action in South central Pennsylvania. Local readers have enjoyed finding places they know appear in the series. Knowlton will talk about the Alexa Williams series, why she chose to base the books in the local area, and the challenges of writing novels with a strong sense of place while keeping the story and themes universal.



to serve for the 2022 term. The general membership will be asked to elect the new secretary and confirm the extensions of the other 10 board members who have agreed to remain in office.

President—Betty Ann Petroski

Vice President—Bonnie Hindman

***Recording Secretary**—Sue Willow Wade

Treasurer—Tom Boone

Corresponding Secretary—Kathy Hord

Members-at-Large 2021-2022

Patricia Crawford, Anna Franco, Mel Phillips

Members-at-Large 2021-2023

Larry Geesey, Andrea Morrison, Allan Bogar

A Tribute to Mimi Weakland

Last year FESAL lost a very special member. In November 2020, Mimi Weakland unexpectedly passed away. She had been hospitalized. Then, shortly after being transferred to rehab, she took a turn for the worse and passed away.

Mimi was a very caring, hard-working, intelligent and wise person. As Chairperson of the FESAL Membership Committee, Mimi diligently kept meticulous records. For many years, she also coordinated updates for the FESAL website. At the FESAL book sales, she faithfully worked long hours to co-manage the

paperback section. She was also a big help in proof-reading the FESAL newsletter and other documents. At the time of her passing, Mimi was a member-at-large of the FESAL board. She and her husband Jim also volunteered at the East Shore Area branch of the library. Whatever Mimi worked on, she gave great attention to details. She made sure a job was done correctly and completely. We certainly miss Mimi, and she will always have a special place in our hearts. May Mimi Weakland rest in peace!
~Betty Ann Petroski, FESAL President



Revision of the Bylaws

~Tom Boone, Bylaws Committee Chair

The Executive Board of the Friends of the East Shore Area Library is asking FESAL members who attend the annual meeting to help improve its operations by voting on several proposed amendments to the bylaws. This will occur during the business meeting. We need at least 25 members for a quorum to vote on the amendments to the bylaws, which have not been updated since 2014.

If approved, the proposed amendments would enable the FESAL (1) to clarify the Vice President's and the Recording Secretary's responsibilities, (2) to clarify the role of the Executive Board if emergency actions are needed, (3) to provide for the uninterrupted operations of the FESAL if circumstances prevent timely elections, (4) to provide the Executive Board with an alternative to in-person voting, and (5) to establish a conflict-of-interest policy. The following sections of the bylaws would be affected:

Article VI, Section A.2, assigns the following duties, among others, to the Vice President:

- b. Co-sign checks with the President or the Treasurer. Review the Treasurer's reports and the accompanying bank statements each month and bring any discrepancies to the President's attention.

Since co-signing checks and reviewing reports are two distinct duties, combining them makes financial review seem more like an afterthought. Separating them would make financial review a new subsection c, and the two subsections following it would be designated as subsections d and e respectively. Accordingly, the subsections of Article VI, Section A.2, would read as follows if approved:

- b. Co-sign checks with the President or the Treasurer.
- c. Review the Treasurer's reports and the accompanying bank statements each month and bring any discrepancies to the President's attention.
- d. Take charge of the program for the annual meeting.
- e. Perform special duties as assigned.

Article VI, Section A.3, assigns the following duty, among others, to the Recording Secretary:

- a. Keep a record of all FESAL meetings in the form of minutes.

The subsection makes the Recording Secretary responsible for keeping the minutes of all meetings but does not make clear how that responsibility is to be carried out when the secretary is absent. The secretary may arrange in advance to have the minutes taken by someone else, not necessarily a board member, whenever necessary rather than leaving it to the board to find a volunteer. Accordingly, the amended subsection of Article VI, Section A.3, would read as follows if approved:

- a. Have the attendance and the proceedings of all FESAL meetings recorded in the form of minutes.

Article VI, Section B, now reads:

Section B. Only the FESAL officers shall be authorized to take any emergency action. A complete report of such action shall be presented at the next meeting of the Executive Board.

Although Section B calls for the officers to inform the other board members, it does not indicate that the full board has the authority to question the officers' actions or to propose rescinding actions which had unforeseen outcomes. Accordingly, Article VI, Section B would be amended to read as follows if approved:

Section B. Only the FESAL officers shall be authorized to take any emergency action. A complete report of such action shall be presented at the next meeting for the approval of the Executive Board.

Article VII now contains the following sections defining the term lengths of board members:

Section E. Officers shall be elected for a one-year term and may succeed themselves for a second elected term.

Section F. Three Members-at-Large shall be elected for a two-year term at each annual meeting but may not succeed themselves for a second elected term.

The FESAL could not hold a meeting of the general membership from March 2020 through May 2021 because of the global pandemic. Consequently, elections for the 2021 Executive Board could not be held as scheduled in September 2020; and the board members' terms were extended for an additional year. The action was consistent with a general consensus found at the *Robert's Rules of Order* Forum website in the past. Sections E and F above do not provide specific guidance regarding such circumstances. Accordingly, Article VII, Sections E and F, would be amended to read as follows if approved:

Section E. Officers shall be elected for a one-year term or until their successors are elected and may succeed themselves for a second elected term.

Section F. Three Members-at-Large shall be elected for a two-year term or until their successors are elected at each annual meeting but may not succeed themselves for a second elected term.

Article VIII now contains one section addressing how the Executive Board conducts routine business:

Section D. Executive Board meetings shall be held regularly at the discretion of the President and the board members. A majority shall constitute a quorum at such meetings.

The FESAL could not hold meetings of the Executive Board from March 2020 through May 2021 because of the global pandemic. Consequently, the board members used e-mail votes to approve numerous routine actions that could not be postponed in spite of the inability to meet in person. Recent editions of *Robert's Rules of Order* support the use of e-mail voting in such circumstances. Accordingly, Article VIII would be amended by adding Section E, which would read as follows if approved:

Section E. Any action which may be taken at a meeting of the Executive Board may be taken by written or e-mail vote without a formal meeting. Any such informal action shall be ratified at the next meeting with a quorum present.

Article VIII does not provide guidance for addressing conflicts of interest that may arise. The Pennsylvania Association of Nonprofit Organizations and the Pennsylvania Citizens for Better Libraries encourage the adoption of conflict-of-interest policies. Accordingly, Article VIII would be amended by adding Section F, which would read as follows if approved:

Section F. To avoid a conflict of interest or the appearance thereof, Executive Board members shall recuse themselves from any discussion or decision where their personal, business, or commercial interests may conflict with the interests of the FESAL. The board, with cause, may instruct individual members to recuse themselves. Any such members must provide the board with the information it may request to make a conflict-of-interest determination. Anyone nominated for election to the Executive Board shall inform the board of any potential sources of such conflicts before accepting nomination. Potential nominees shall cooperate with reasonable inquiries the board may make to reach a decision. The board shall render judgment on possible conflicts of interest within 21 days of receiving a written response to any such inquiry. Any member of the Executive Board must inform the board of any potential sources of such conflicts whenever they arise.

1. Executive board members shall recuse themselves from a conflict-of-interest deliberation if they have an involvement, or apparent involvement, in the case.
2. The Executive Board is the sole authority within the FESAL to determine whether a conflict of interest exists and, if it does, the appropriate remedy.



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P. O. Box 90083
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PAT LACASSE, NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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2021 Fall Book & Media **Sale and Collection Dates**

Please mark your calendar
for the 2021 Fall Book & Media Sale:

Collections: Thursday, September 30 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Friday, October 1 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday, October 2 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Members Sale: Wednesday, October 6 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Book Sale: Thursday, October 7 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Friday, October 8 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday, October 9 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

If you can volunteer for the sale, contact: **Bonnie Hindman**
at bonniehindman@gmail.com or 717-433-8055.

Wearing masks for the sale may be required.

