

Friends of the Library Meeting - February 18, 2026 (Community Room)

Program: Library Work Day

Meeting called to order at 1:04 pm by President Steve Kankus.

Board Attendance: All present

x Steve Kankus	President
x Wayne Blann	Vice-President
x Barbara Crawford	Secretary
x Michele Merwarth	Corresponding Secretary
x Lisa Blystone	Treasurer
x Donna Merchant	Deputy Treasurer*
x Domenick Patti	Director
x Susan Blann	Director

Absent: Jackie Smith (Immediate past-president; non-voting)

* This is a non-voting position except when the Treasurer is not present.

- Recording Secretary's Report:
The minutes of the January 21, 2026 meeting of the Board of Directors are hereby approved as presented.
- Membership: As of this meeting, The FOL have 214 members.
- Treasurer's Report:
The financial report for January is hereby approved as presented.
The Treasurer's report is attached.

Old Business:

- There was a discussion comparing the fees, penalties, & required account balances for M&T's Non-Profit Checking and their Business Premium Checking (previously titled *M&T Tailored Business*).
A motion was made and seconded to switch the FOL's account from M&T's Non-Profit Checking to M&T's Business Premium Checking. The motion passed 5 to 2.
- There was also a discussion as to whether or not some of The Friends' monies should be put into a Certificate of Deposit which would draw a higher interest rate.
A motion was made and seconded to put \$3000.00 from the savings account into a 6 month CD at 2.7%. The motion passed unanimously.
Treasurer Lisa will oversee both changes to The Friends' accounts.

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- Steve checked with Sophia about a past fund request (Fall 2023) of \$3,000 for reupholstery or replacement of library chairs, and whether or not it was spent. There was no documentation that a proposal for the chairs came from Sophia or that one was funded by The Friends. Attached is a more detailed email (Jan 29, 2026) Steve sent to the current board regarding this topic.
- Sophia requested a re-purpose of funds for a vintage typewriter for National Poetry Month. (The money is from a previous fund request of \$2655.00 from June 6, 2025). Because the request was made between the FOL meetings, the discussion, motions, & votes for this request was by way of emails. **The motion to re-purpose the funds for the item(s) for National Poetry Month passed unanimously. The emails (Jan 23-27, 2026) are attached with these minutes.**
- Accepting Membership Fees via Website has been tabled until a future meeting. Steve, Michele & Sophia had met with a web designer sometime in February 2026 to discuss what the library and the FOL website would require. The project has been tabled for a future meeting until after the design company vendor presents the library & Friends with a cost analysis.

New Business:

- Request for funding from Sophia \$3485.00 for:
 - A Syracuse Stage production (\$200)
 - Stuff-a-stuffie workshop (\$365)
 - (19) Papercrafts with Alyson Esposito programs (\$1330)
 - (7) MEternally Reminiscence Kits for circulation (\$1590)

A motion was made and seconded to approve Sophia's funds request for \$3485.00. The motion passed unanimously. The funds request is attached.

- Proposed Bylaws Changes: Steve has proposed the following by-law changes. Deletions are indicated by a ~~strikethrough~~ and red text; bold text indicates additional words or **change in text** from original document. The changes are as follows:

Effective on July 1, 2026, Article VI, Officers, of the By-Laws of the Friends of Marcellus Free Library, Inc., is modified as follows:

****Section 1.** The officers of the Corporation shall be a President, a Vice President, a ~~Recording~~ Secretary, ~~a Corresponding Secretary~~ and a Treasurer. The Board of Directors may also elect such other officers or assistants and designate or employ such agents for the Corporation as it may deem necessary to carry on the activities of the Corporation. If there should be co-officers or

assistants, there shall be only one vote per office allowed. Any two or more offices may be held by the same person, except the same person may not hold the offices of President and **Recording** Secretary.

Section 5. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors, **appoint chairpersons of all committees, and act as liaison with the Library's Director and Library staff.** ~~present at such meeting shall record the~~

The President may attend all meetings of any Committee of the Board of which the President is not a member as a non-voting invitee. The President may also act as a liaison to the Board of Trustees of the Library or delegate this responsibility to another director. The President shall not be an employee of the Corporation. The President shall have general supervision of the affairs of the Board and perform all acts and duties usually incident to and required of an executive and presiding officer, as well as such other duties as may be conferred by the Board.

Section 7. The **Recording** Secretary should attend all meetings of the Board of Directors, record all the proceedings of the meetings of the Board of Directors in a book to be kept for that purpose, and shall assist the President in his or her duties as requested. If the **Recording** Secretary is unable to be present at a meeting of the Board of Directors, then another director, other than the President, designated by the members of the Board of Directors present at such meeting shall record the proceedings of that meeting.

Section 8. The **Corresponding** Secretary shall give, or cause to be given, notice of all meetings of the Board of Directors to the directors, and shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors or President, under whose supervision he or she shall be.

- Change to Article VIII, General Provisions, Finances, of the By-Laws of the Friends of Marcellus Free Library, Inc., is modified as follows:

Section 5. Each year the President shall appoint an individual(s) who has paid annual dues to the Corporation but who is not an officer to conduct an annual independent review of the Treasurer's records. The annual independent review shall be documented and presented to the Board of Directors **no later than The Friends of the Library's October meeting.**

Motion made, seconded, and passed to incorporate these changes in the document when completed.

***The board discussed modifying the language in Article VI, Section 1 regarding co-officers and assistants. Steve agreed to draft an alternative for the board's consideration at its next meeting.*

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- MFL Board Mtg Report: There is a new member on the MFL board. Steve mentioned the library report that Sophia gave to the MFL board. Steve and other FOL board members mentioned how appreciative the Marcellus Library Board is to The Friends for their support.
- Dominic reported that through NYLA & public support, Congress is increasing its funding to libraries.
- The Friends received a thank you letter from the Veterans Healthcare Network at Syracuse thanking The Friends for the books we donated to them after our fall book sale.

To do list:

- 1) Lisa will conduct bank transactions to make the approved changes to the FOL accounts.
- 2) Steve will contact Alyson Esposito regarding craft donations.
- 3) Steve to draft an alternative of Article VI, Section 1 for the board's consideration at its next meeting.

Upcoming Events:

The next FOL Business Meeting is March 18th @ 1:00 pm- 2:00 pm. (followed by a social hour)

The next MFL Board Meeting is March 10th, 5:45 pm to 7:45 pm.

Steve adjourned the meeting at 2:12 pm.

Submitted by : Barbara Crawford, Recording Secretary