



HUDSON LIBRARY & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Annual Meeting

April 26, 2026 at 2:00 pm

The 114th Annual Meeting of the Hudson Library and Historical Society was called to order at 2:07 pm on Sunday, April 26th, 2026, in the Flood Family Meeting Room of the Hudson Library and Historical Society by President of the Board of Trustees, Basil Musnuff.

Presidents Report

Mr. Musnuff welcomed all in attendance and stated that he was happy to report that the Library is healthy and operating at the highest level. This past year the Hudson Library and Historical Society received the Northeast Ohio Parent Choice Award for “Best Library” in the region.

Following the last Annual Meeting, a new Ad Hoc Committee was formed to review the Library Regulations and determine whether changes were needed. The committee’s primary focus was to examine the voting and election procedures for Board Members. As a result of the Ad Hoc Committee’s work, the Library instituted early voting three weeks prior to the Annual Meeting to accommodate those unable to attend in person to vote. The Annual Meeting was also moved from February to April, and eligibility to vote for Board Members expanded to include all registered voters in Hudson. This year, approximately 60 voters participated in early voting. In addition, a newly created Community Relations committee was created. He thanked all those Board members that participated in these committees.

Mr. Musnuff stated that the Library is entering the 5th year of a 5-year levy, passed in 2021, and noted that the Library will go before voters again on May 5th, 2026 with a renewal levy plus a 0.6 mill increase. Passage of the levy will allow the Library to maintain the types of services that this community has come to expect and appreciate.

Due to the uncertain future of state funding, local support for the Library is more important than ever. He stated that it is up to each of us to get out to vote, show our support for learning, reading, and self-improvement.

Minutes of 113th Annual Meeting

Ms. Turkovich announced that the prior Annual Meeting minutes were available on the Library website as well as copies available during the meeting, or by request.

A member suggested an edit to the second paragraph of the President’s Report to the Annual Meeting minutes. The suggested correction was the word “legislators” in the second paragraph



of the President's Report. The correction was accepted by the membership and was incorporated into the final 113th Annual Meeting minutes.

Election of Board Members

Mr. Rydquist, Chair of the Nominating Committee, stated the process of the election of Board members. He stated that the Hudson Library Board consists of nine members that serve three-year terms. Annually, there are three open trustee seats elected for three-year terms. This year we have four applicants running for the three open Board seats.

Mr. Rydquist highlighted new voting procedures, including early voting, homebound voting, and in-person voting, open to all registered voters in Hudson.

Mr. Rydquist stated that each applicant had the opportunity to speak to the membership via their recorded biography statements that were available to view on the website. The video biography of each applicant was played during the Annual Meeting in the following order; Samuel Barnett, Beverly Dorson, Basil Musnuff and Valerie Ott.

Voting ensued and the collection of the ballots occurred.

Fiscal Officer's Report

Next, Ms. Pandelli, Fiscal Officer's video presentation of the 2025 Fiscal Officer report was presented to the membership audience. Ms. Pandelli highlighted each of the three funds with which the Library operates; The General Fund, the Private Fund and the Capital Improvement and Maintenance Fund.

Ms. Pandelli stated that the Library's main operating fund is the General Fund. One significant source of income is the state's Public Library fund which brings in approximately \$1.6 million per year. The largest source of operating income for the Library is the 2.9 mil operating levy. The current 5-year levy was approved in 2021, with collection ending in 2026.

Investments for the operating funds are held in a government money market account called Star Ohio and in a portfolio with oversight from Clearstead Investment advisors.

The Private Fund comprises the donation gifts, endowments and grants, plus the investment earnings on those funds. The Friends of the Hudson Library is one major donor to the Library and donated \$36,250 in 2025.

Lastly, the Library's Capital Improvement & Maintenance Fund is used for large building improvements and capital replacements such as roofing, upgrades to the air conditioning &



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heating system, lighting enhancements, painting and carpeting. Each year, money is set aside from the General Fund to save for these items. In 2026 and 2027, a significant portion of this fund will be used to repair and replace portions of the roof. The balance at the end of the year in this fund was just over \$2.1 million

The Library administration, staff and Board of Trustees, work hard to be good stewards of the funds we receive, while maintaining a high level of resources and programs for our community.

Ms. Pandelli noted this is a summary of the Library's financial position and more information is available in the Fiscal Office.

Baldwin Babcock Report

Ms. E. Leslie Polott, Executive Director and Curator spoke next via recorded video presentation about the Baldwin Babcock Lecture Series. Ms. Polott stated that Caroline Baldwin-Babcock was the driving force behind the creation of Hudson Library and Historical Society in 1910. After her death in 1921, 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 a variety of programs presented in 2025 such as David Baldacci and Lisa Gardner.

Due to our founder's foresight, the Hudson Library has been able to hold the Baldwin-Babcock lecture series for over 100 years.

Report of the Friends of the Hudson Library

Ms. Rosanne Thomas presented the highlights of the Friends of the Library. She highlighted that the total donation to the Library exceeded 2024 amounts, supporting programs and materials for all patrons. The funds come from the hard-working volunteers who sort, shelve and work the three weekly book sales.

Executive Director's Report

Ms. E. Leslie Polott, Executive Director and Curator, spoke next via recorded video presentation. She thanked everyone for joining the Annual Meeting.

Ms. Polott stated that libraries contain the heritage of humanity—a record of our triumphs and failures, our shared intellectual and collective memory. They are far more than repositories of the past. Libraries preserve who we have been, while helping to shape who we might become.

In 2025, the Library's commitment came to life in many ways. We expanded our collections, strengthened our programming and created new pathways for connection, learning and



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creativity. We welcomed animal programs, magicians, wellness activities and visits from award-winning children's authors and performers. Our Summer Learning Program expanded.

In 2025, we hosted 678 juvenile programs onsite, and more than 24,000 children and families attended. We conducted 131 outreach visits to educational partners. Our historical society offered rich programming featuring renowned historians and led numerous walking tours highlighting local history. The Library also hosts numerous adult programs featuring , political figures, award winning authors, journalists and much more.

The Hudson Library and Historical Society is always rising to the challenge, continuing to adapt to changing community expectations.

The upcoming levy is an investment in sustaining this vital work, ensuring the Hudson Library can continue to grow and serve, today and for generations to come. Thank you for your continued support over the years.

Election Results

Mr. Rydquist returned to the podium of the Annual Meeting at approximately 2:51 pm .He announced the results of the election naming Mr. Samuel Barnett, Mrs. Beverly Dorson and Mr. Basil Musnuff as the trustees elected to the three open seats.

Closing Remarks and Swearing-in of Library Trustees

Mr. Musnuff thanked all for attending and supporting the library. Mr. Musnuff thanked Valerie Ott for her application and encouraged her to run for the Board of Trustees in the future. The re-elected Board Members gathered at the front of the Flood Family Meeting Room to be sworn in by the Library's legal counsel.

The Annual Meeting adjourned at 2:53 pm.

Trustees were sworn in by legal counsel, Jim Toth at 2:55 pm at the front of the Flood Family Meeting Room.

The Board of Trustees Organizational Meeting to follow.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Musnuff, President
Board of Trustees

Ms. Marie Turkovich, Board Secretary
Board of Trustees