



# HUDSON LIBRARY & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Annual Meeting

February 25, 2024 at 2:00 pm

The 112<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Hudson Library and Historical Society was called to order at 2:05 pm on Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024, in the Flood Family Meeting Room of the Hudson Library and Historical Society by President of the Board of Trustees, Basil Musnuff. Mr. Musnuff welcomed all in attendance.

### **Presidents Report**

Mr. Musnuff presented the President's report. He welcomed all and stated with the expanded library hours this year's Annual Meeting has returned to its traditional Sunday time.

Mr. Musnuff stated the fiscal health of the library is strong as it enters the third year of the five-year levy that passed in 2021.

Mr. Musnuff highlighted the events of the preceding year, including successes such as the ability of library staff to adjust to changing conditions and evolving with technological advancements adding new database offerings such as STAT+ and the return of Sunday hours. He stated the Historical Society is an integral part of the services offered at the Hudson Library with the popular walking tours and preservation efforts of many historical items- such as the Mammoth tusk, Armada chest, Saddlebags and Town Band relics.

He noted for the past ten years we had the pleasure to inform everyone of our place on the 5-Star ranking from the Library Journal. This year the Library Journal did not do this ranking for any institution due to a lack of data. He stated to support the library please come out and use and enjoy it, check out items, vote for Board candidates, donate time or funds or volunteer. The more we use the library the better off it will be in the long run.

Mr. Musnuff thanked the community for their support of the library and highlighted the Mission statement of the library and its commitment to intellectual freedom, with the full support of the Board of Trustees.

### **Fiscal Officer's Report**

Next, Ms. Pandelli, Fiscal Officer, presented the 2023 Fiscal Officer report highlighting each of the three funds with which the library operates; The General Fund, the Private Fund and the Capital Improvement and Maintenance Fund.



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Ms. Pandelli stated that all operating revenue and expenses are processed through the General Fund. The state's Public Library Fund, which is distributed through each county, makes up over 36% of total operating revenue. The largest source of operating income is the 2.9 mil operating levy and makes up almost 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of all operating revenue. Investments for operating funds are held in a government money market account called Star Ohio and in an investment portfolio with oversight from Clearstead Investment Advisors in Hudson , OH.

Ms. Pandelli highlighted the Private Funds stating they are comprised of donations, endowment funds and grants, plus the investment earnings on those funds. The Friends of the Hudson Library supplement the library's General Fund budget for programming and resources. The investment portfolio for this fund was valued at over \$2.7 million at year end.

Next she reviewed the library's Capital Improvement and Maintenance Fund, noting an annual transfer of \$90,000 from the General Fund to fund large building improvements and capital replacements such as roofing, heating and a/c upgrades, painting and carpeting. The balance at year end in this fund was almost \$1.1 million.

Ms. Pandelli stated that copies of financial reports are furnished upon request in the fiscal office. She thanked the staff, the Board and the community for their support of the library.

## **Baldwin Babcock Report**

Ms. Polott, Executive Director, spoke next about Caroline Baldwin-Babcock. Caroline Baldwin-Babcock was the driving force behind the creation of Hudson Library and Historical Society in 1910. After her death, 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 2023 thanks to the income generated from this fund including environmentalist Jeff Goodell and former Congressman Adam Kinzinger.

## **Report of the Friends of the Hudson Library**

Dr. Lynn Remly, President of the Friends of the Hudson Library, presented an update on 2023 activities. Dr. Remly stated that the Friends were able to donate \$37,000 to the library, \$2,000 over the 2022 donation, the best year for the organization.

She highlighted that the Friends of the Hudson Library have 30 (before covid we had 50) committed volunteers working tirelessly to sort, shelve, clean and list books for sale, donating almost 3,465 hours of their time to the library in 2023, many of whom do so year after year.



Dr. Remly stated that the online sales were proposed by one of the Friends of the Hudson Library volunteers to sell on Amazon about five years ago. Today there are two dedicated volunteers that have been listing and learning and have generated \$28,000 to date with \$7,000 in 2023. She stated that online sales allow books to be sold that otherwise would never be sold in the Friends store. The Holiday Book sales along with the help of Lady Luck in December allowed the Friends to have a tremendous end of year push, over 2022 donations.

The dedication of the Friends caught the attention of the city. The Mayor of Hudson, Jeffrey Anzevino issued a proclamation last fall declaring October 21-27 "Friends of the Library Week," in recognition of the groups commitment to raising funds to support the Hudson Library and Historical Society.

Dr. Remly thanked all in attendance and invited all to learn and join the Friends of the Hudson Library.

### **Executive Director's Report**

Ms. E. Leslie Polott, Executive Director and Curator, spoke next. She highlighted the importance of the library as the one place where everyone can come together to explore and imagine endless possibilities. Library's serve as a community gathering place, a gateway for ideas and they serve as a catalyst for change. For over 113 years the Hudson Library and Historical Society has made our community stronger by continuously adapting its collections, services and programming to meet the community's evolving needs.

Ms. Polott stated that in 2023 the library greatly increased its in-person and virtual offerings with a rich assortment of free events. These included: musical performances, baking demonstrations, national profile speakers and Best-selling authors such as Ruth Ware and Kate White. Actors and actresses including Geena Davis and Andrew McCarthy, classes on health and wellness and lectures by historians and scientists. The library offered technology and business classes as well as expanded our database and streaming service offerings.

As champions for Hudson's youth, the library collaborated with local schools and preschools to promote literacy and a love of reading by providing outreach programming and resources. She stated the Youth Services department worked to expand its enrichment programs and resources to help children strengthen their reading skills and exposing them to art, music, dance, science and great literature. The Burton D. Morgan Center, in partnership with the Morgan Foundation worked to foster economic growth and job creation by promoting entrepreneurial success by offering year-round programming and one-on-one business mentoring, workshops and cutting-edge resources including a popular Pitch Night competition for both adults and youth.



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Ms. Polott stated that looking forward to 2024 the library will build upon its successes and develop new initiatives and services while promoting our core values to support intellectual freedom, and the pursuit of knowledge in an inclusive and nurturing environment that will empower users and welcome all.

## **Election of Board Members**

Mr. Musnuff in Mr. Barnett's absence as Chair of the Nominating Committee, stated that the process of the election of three Board members will begin.

Mr. Musnuff 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 six applicants running for the three open Board seats. He stated that members should vote for no more than three candidates and the top three would be our new Board members. He introduced each of the nominees as they were given the opportunity to introduce themselves and speak on why they wanted to serve as a trustee in the order as follows; Mr. Woodrow Ban, Mrs. Lynda Grieves, Mr. David Lehman, Ms. Maggie Mooney, Mr. John Rydquist and Mrs. Carleen Welch.

Mr. Musnuff encouraged all in attendance to stay after the collection of ballots in case there is a run-off between candidates necessitating a second ballot and count.

Voting ensued and the collection of the ballots occurred.

## **Reading of the Minutes of the 111<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**

Mr. Musnuff introduced Ms. Turkovich, Board Secretary to read the minutes of the prior Annual Meeting of February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023 while the ballots were collected and counted.

## **Election Results**

Mr. Musnuff returned and announced the results of the vote and the new trustees; Ms. Mooney, Mr. Rydquist and Ms. Welch.

## **Closing Remarks and Swearing-in of Library Trustees**

Mr. Musnuff thanked all for attending and supporting the library. The new Board Members gathered at the front of the Flood Family Meeting Room to be sworn in by the Library's legal counsel Sam Toth.

The meeting adjourned at 4:16 pm.



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The Board of Trustees Organizational Meeting to follow.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Musnuff, President  
Board of Trustees

Ms. Marie Turkovich, Board Secretary  
Board of Trustees