



HUDSON LIBRARY & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Annual Meeting

February 23, 2025 at 2:00 pm

The 113th Annual Meeting of the Hudson Library and Historical Society was called to order at 2:03 pm on Sunday, February 23rd, 2025, 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 the library is healthy and operating at the highest level, as a pillar of the community.

Mr. Musnuff highlighted that library staff is committed to meeting the needs of the community. Noting revenue challenges, he stated that the library receives 2/3 of library revenues from the tax levy and the remaining 1/3 from the Ohio Public Library Fund (PLF). The PLF had been increasing yearly but in 2024, the library received 7.5% less than in 2023, due to the State of Ohio having a smaller tax base from which to distribute revenue. He stated there is a concern regarding a group of legislatures in the Ohio House who are working to cut library funding through the PLF. This would be detrimental to us and potentially fatal to 20% of Ohio libraries where the PLF is the only source of funding.

Mr. Musnuff stated that the library is entering the 4th year of a 5-year levy, passed in 2021 and noted that the library would be seeking to go before voters again in May of 2026.

Mr. Musnuff highlighted the recent Independent Auditors report that was completed in 2024. The library obtained a clean report. He congratulated the Administration and Staff with the funds entrusted to them.

Mr. Musnuff commented that in the year ahead, a newly formed Ad Hoc Committee has been formed to review the regulations of the institution to see if changes are necessary. The suggested revisions to the regulations will then be brought to the membership to decide upon their adoption. Mr. Musnuff then highlighted the upcoming Anniversary Celebration commemorating 20 years in the library building at 96 Library Street in June.

Outgoing Board members Ms. Walters and Mr. Clarke were thanked for their service to the Hudson Library and Historical Society and their work on the Philanthropy and Finance Committees.



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Fiscal Officer's Report

Next, Ms. Pandelli, Fiscal Officer, presented a brief update of the 2024 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.

Ms. Pandelli stated that all operating revenue and expenses are processed through the General Fund. A significant source of income is the state's Public Library Fund, which brings in approximately \$1.6 million per year and makes up over 1/3 of the library's total operating revenue. In 2024, due to decreases in the state's personal income tax, the PLF revenue was 7.5% or approximately \$130,000 less than what was received in 2023. The Operating Levy, which expires at the end of 2026 is our largest source of operating income. In 2024 the levy brought in \$2.8 million and makes up approximately 60% of the library operating revenue.

The Private Fund comprises the donation gifts, endowments and grants, plus the investment earnings on those funds. The Friends of the Hudson Library generously supported additional resources and programming, the Brewster Café, and the future purchase of a library vehicle for outreach services by giving \$38,000 in 2024. With this fund, the library can supplement a significant portion of the operating funds.

Lastly, the library's Capital Improvement & Maintenance Fund is used for significant building improvements and capital replacements such as roofing, upgrades to the air conditioning & heating system, lighting enhancements, painting and carpeting. Each year, \$90,000 is set aside from the General Fund to save for these items. At the end of 2024 the balance in this fund was almost \$1.3 million with the majority held with Clearstead Financial Advisors. In 2024 we used this fund to upgrade our paging system.

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 that more information is available in the Fiscal Office.

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 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 2024 such as Chris Christie, former Governor of New Jersey, and Author Annie Jacobson.



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

Dr. Lynn Remly, President of the Friends of the Hudson Library, presented an update on 2024 activities. Dr. Remly stated that the Friends were able to donate \$39,000 to the library, more than in 2023 by \$1,000. She stated donations to the library normally support programs and materials but this past year, donations were also used toward the purchase of vehicle to be used by staff for delivery of resources to patrons and other uses.

Dr. Remly highlighted the source of funds that come primarily from book sales from over 1,500 donations of multiple books. Volunteers work carefully to sort, clean and list the books in an organized manner on the shelves. In 2024, volunteers logged over 3,000 hours of time. Online sales are supported by a small group of volunteers since 2018, with almost \$8,500 in online sales of books that would not normally sell in the physical bookstore.

She highlighted the enjoyment of working with these dedicated volunteers and asked all to join in on the fun by becoming a member offering applications to attendees. Mr. Musnuff thanked the Friends of the Hudson Library volunteers for their efforts.

Executive Director's Report

Ms. E. Leslie Polott, Executive Director and Curator, spoke next. She highlighted the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II and the events that the library will be hosting to commemorate this date in history. She stated that during this time in history President F.D. Roosevelt pointed to America's library's as indispensable allies in the fight against tyranny and symbols of freedom.

Ms. Polott stated that the Hudson Library and Historical Society, founded in 1910 has throughout the decades remained a cornerstone of our community, as the heart of our town. The Hudson Library offers a welcoming space to gather, explore, imagine and seek answers to life's pressing questions.

Ms. Polott highlighted attacks on the fundamental ideals that libraries uphold at both the federal and state level through funding cuts and censorship. The Hudson Library remains committed to patrons and their families to ensure access to unbiased information. We will continue to leverage staff expertise to develop new initiatives to meet users ever-evolving needs. We will expand our tech offerings to include training, a new podcast and video production, and coding.



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The Hudson Library offers something for everyone. We have been unwavering in our commitment to provide free and open access to knowledge, ideas and information for all. With the continued support of our community and those in the Ohio Statehouse we can continue to uphold the values to ensure we provide high quality services for generations to come.

Mr. Musnuff expanded on the need of a vehicle to assist with outreach efforts of the Hudson Library. On a daily basis the library visits schools, daycares, senior living facilities to bring the library to those who cannot come into the library.

Election of Board Members

Mr. Rydquist, Chair of the Nominating Committee, stated that 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 eight applicants running for the three open Board seats.

Mr. Rydquist invited each applicant to speak to the membership about themselves and on why they would like to be a Board member. Applicants were invited to speak in alphabetical order: Woodrow Ban, Courtney Cahoon White, Laura Erwin, Robert Gerling, Keenan Jones, Jessica Rasmussen, Robert Swedenborg, and Nicole Zetzer.

Voting ensued and the collection of the ballots occurred.

The Minutes of the 112th Annual Meeting

Mr. Musnuff announced that at this time we normally read the minutes of the prior Annual Meeting of the Membership, stating there were copies available online.

Ms. Carleen Welch made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes, if there were no proposed revisions. No proposed revisions were brought forth.

Ms. Carleen Welch restated the proposed motion to dispense with the reading of the Minutes of the 112th Annual Meeting. Mr. Sam Barnett seconded, and the motion passed with a voice vote of the Membership.

Election Results

Mr. Musnuff stated that ballots are tabulated by three staff members who are nonresidents of Hudson with oversight by library legal counsel, Suzanne Hanselman. He announced the results of the election naming Mr. Woodrow Ban, Ms. Cahoon White and Mr. Rob Swedenborg as the trustees elected to the open terms.



HUDSON LIBRARY & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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.

The Annual Meeting adjourned at 3:47 pm.

Trustees were sworn in by legal counsel at 3:50 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