

**Southeast Steuben County Library  
Annual Meeting of the Membership  
June 15, 2023**

**Library Trustees Attending:**

President: Barbara A. McLean  
Vice President: Julie E. Fromer  
Secretary: Jamie Curtis  
Treasurer: Jeffrey Scott  
Lyndsie M. Guy  
Kathryn C. Mack  
Louise Richardson  
Svetlana Short

**Absent:**

Gail Bardhan\*  
Nogaye Ka-Tandia\*  
Barry W. Nicholson  
Kate Paterson

**Guests:**

Pauline Emery, Library Director  
Brad Turner, Assistant Library Director  
Lori Reenan, Library Business Manager\*  
Katherine E. Stickler, CPA - Mengel, Metzger, Barr & Co. LLP\*  
Hazel Russell, President, Friends of the Library, SCC  
Pam Smith  
Hannah Waschezyn\*

**Call to Order:**

President Barbara A. McLean called the meeting to order at 5:16 p.m.

**Welcome and Introduction of Association Members, Staff, Board Members and Director:**

Barbara McLean welcomed everyone and introduced library officers and trustees. Former trustee Geoffrey Steenberge was recognized for his past contributions. Library Director Pauline Emery, Assistant Director Brad Turner, and Business Manager Lori Reenan were commended for their work.

\*These trustees and guests observed the meeting via Zoom. Auditor Katherine Stickler reported via Zoom.

**Board Officers/Vote:**

Barbara McLean asked the voting members of the Library Association (library trustees) to ratify and approve the slate of board officers for 2023, as recommended by the Nominating Committee:

President: Barbara A. McLean  
Vice President: Julie E. Fromer  
Jeffrey Scott: Treasurer  
Secretary: Jamie Curtis

Trustees present voted unanimously to approve the slate.

**Library Director's Report:**

(See Annual Meeting presentation slides and *2022 Report to the Community*)

Library Director Pauline Emery recalled, "We were delighted to see the number of library visits continue to grow in 2022, with a more than 62% increase over last year. We love seeing our patrons in real life!" Digital checkouts rose as well, with 57,726 checkouts in 2022, compared to 46,441 in 2021. Boosted by the increase in digital borrowing, total collection use rose by almost 5%. The library's free Wi-Fi hotspot powered 40,882 sessions in 2022, up over 57% from 2021. The Reference Department assisted patrons 10,855 times in 2021, an increase of over 285%. One-on-one tech coaching sessions served 308 patrons last year. There were 89,442 library website views.

Focusing strategically on building community connections, the library offered an array of programs and services to the public last year. There were author talks and teen afterschool programming, writers groups and book clubs, outreach programs and free Movies Under the Stars. Children's programs attracted 9,621 participants, and included 86 Summer Reading events with 5,618 attendees. Construction on the Mary Lu Walker Children's Room began in October 2022. Our Children's Department and its books, moved into vacant space upstairs. The renovations were completed in the first quarter of 2023, with a gala ribbon-cutting ceremony on March 10.

The library worked with Southern Tier nonprofits to present programs, exhibits and outreach services. Collaborating organizations included Food Bank of the Southern Tier, the Red Cross, ProAction, the Rockwell Museum, Corning Museum of Glass, The Arts Council and others. "We collaborated with the Corning-Painted Post School District on Banned Books Week," Pauline Emery said.

**Audit Report/Financial Report/Endowment:**

(See 2022 Audited Financial Statements and Independent Auditor's Report)

CPA Katherine E. Stickler, audit partner at Mengel, Metzger, Barr & Co. LLP, said the library's audit yielded a "clean, unmodified opinion." Treasurer Jeffrey Scott noted the majority of income for the Operating Budget (61%) came from the library levy. Sixty-five percent of the library's operational expenditures provided services, materials, equipment and programming for the public, with only 23% for administration and business expenses, and 12% for building maintenance and debt service.

**Friends of the Southeast Steuben County Library:**

Friends of the Library, SSC President Hazel Russell said the Friends organization currently has 540 memberships, including family memberships. "We had the biggest book sale ever at the [Local 1000] Union Hall. We took in about \$32,000," she said. Friends volunteers participated in the Corning Farmers Market, giving away books, and the Friend's many other programs included Books Sandwiched In and Books for Babies. Trustee Svetlana Short praised the Friends organization, noting its recent \$25,000 gift to the library.

**Closing Statement:**

In her closing remarks, President McLean reflected, "With each passing year, the pride I feel for what we ... have accomplished together continues to grow."

Barbara McLean cited the transformation of the children's room, the return of high volume patron visits, the library's welcoming, talented staff and its innovative mix of services and programs as key elements in a very successful year.

"I also know that working in a library in today's politically charged climate can be challenging, when the whole idea behind the existence of a library, and the values it upholds, are not shared everywhere in this country or even necessarily in our own community. But it is the resolve and courage to continue to uphold the principles of democracy *in* and *for* our community - to provide resources, information, programs, services, and community spaces at no cost to all, with empathy, compassion, and respect, regardless of who you are or how you identify yourself - that makes me truly proud of and inspired by our librarians and staff and all of us who support them."

**Adjournment:**

Barbara McLean thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the Annual Meeting of the Membership at 6:01 p.m.