

**FRIENDS OF GEORGIA LIBRARIES BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING: APRIL 29, 2011  
MACON STATE UNIVERSITY**

**Attending:**

**Voting Members:** Kathy Ash, Arlys Ferrell (rotating off board), Lorene Flanders, Claudia Gibson, Steve Kight, George Nixon, Jim Shehy, Jim Wooten, Connie Sanders, Lynn Lilly, Bede Mitchell

**Ex officio Members:** Alan Harkness, Jane Hildebrand

**Meeting called to order:** Bede Mitchell called the meeting to order at approximately 1:15 pm, following the Spring Workshop.

**Board thanks and welcome:** Bede thanked Arlys Ferrell for being the “founding” treasurer for FOGL and reminded the group that she is willing to consult in the transition. Bede announced that Claudia Gibson, George Nixon, Connie Sanders and Steven Kight had been elected to the board.

**Officer Elections:** Bede nominated Kathy Ash for the President; Claudia Gibson seconded the motion; the vote carried. Bede nominated Jim Shehy for Treasurer; Kathy Ash seconded the motion; the vote carried. Bede nominated Lynn Lilly continue as Secretary; Kathy Ash seconded; the vote carried.

Bede reminded the group that the post of Vice President is yet to be filled. The VP is presumed to be the president elect, but it is not required. He asked members to consider volunteering for the post. He also reminded the group that the next board meeting would include board orientation for the new members. With that, Bede turned the presidency over to Kathy.

**President’s priorities:** Kathy thanked Bede for his service as president, Arlys for her long service as treasurer, and Lynn for her work as secretary.

Kathy then shared her priorities for the year with the group:

1. Advocacy for libraries by individuals, local Friends groups and FOGL. This is especially important in light of library funding cuts.
2. Cold calling to local Friends groups to build membership and alert them to upcoming events. She thanked Liz Camp for her past work in that regard.
3. Increase the number of groups and individual members in FOGL.

Next meeting: The next meeting date is TBD, and will probably be held in McDonough. A follow-up email will confirm date and place.

**New business**

Grant Program: Claudia Gibson moved we investigate starting a grant process for funding local Meet the Author events. The grants would be in the \$500-\$1000 range and only FOGL members could apply for them. She stated that it would be in keeping with FOGL’s mission and also create a membership benefit that might entice more local groups to join FOGL. Bede seconded Claudia’s motion and pointed out that the Finance

Committee can begin thinking about this program as part of the fiscal plan they'll be creating. The topic will be discussed in greater depth at the next Board meeting.

COMO: Jane Hildebrand brought up that the Council of Media Organizations (COMO) would be meeting in October in Athens and that the deadline for reserving booth space is May 31. She thought FOGL might want to consider exhibiting. Arlys mentioned that past experience suggested that not many Friends groups are in attendance.

Speakers Bureau: Claudia suggested that instead of attending COMO, FOGL funds could be used to send Board members to local groups to present information about FOGL. Bede suggested beefing up the Speakers Bureau section of the website to make people more aware of the value. He also suggested we develop a message kit so more Board members would be able to make the presentation. He also said he would ask Alan Harkness and Lyn Hopper to consider joining the Speakers Bureau, and suggested FOGL could pay them a fee as consultants.

Spokesperson: Bede mentioned that Terry Kay had originally joined the board with an interest in being the public face of FOGL's work because he is a well-known Georgia author. Bede suggested Laretta Hannon, author of *Cracker Queen*, might be open to helping in that role. Kathy said she'd spoken to Laretta who is receptive.

Newsletter sign-up: Lynn suggested talking to Darin Givens, the GPLS webmaster, about putting a newsletter sign-up capability on the website, so that members and non-members could sign up to receive the newsletter via email. There's no additional expense since we're not printing and mailing, the newsletter could be a valuable resource that would entice more Friends to join FOGL. In addition, Alan Harkness volunteered to forward all future newsletters to his listserv of library directors.

Spring workshop evaluations and volunteer list: Bede said he would review the workshop evaluations and share the results. He passed the volunteer sheets on to Kathy.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Lynn Lilly, Secretary, FOGL