**THE SPEAKER**

FRIENDS OF LIBRARY ACCESS, INC.

FALL 2020

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**2020 FRIENDS TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS**

Below is an updated list of Board Members. Officer's positions are noted after the Board Member's name:

* Sheila Young, President
* Doug Hall, Vice-President
* Irene Hewett, Secretary
* Allen Bornstein, Treasurer

Board members

* Dolor Ginchereau
* Nancy Burgess-Hall
* Patricia A. Lipovsky
* Pam Keezel
* Paul Kurtz
* Betty Boyette
* Jeff Saunders
* Wendy Wilson

**MISSION**

To inform the public of the availability of the FREE LOAN of books and magazines in audio formats and Braille.

Show appreciation to the volunteers who perform invaluable service to the Braille and Talking Book Library by sponsoring an annual volunteer appreciation luncheon, along with providing other forms of recognition.

Purchase and donate materials that will assist the Braille and Talking Book Library in its provision of accessible media, including Braille, recorded, and electronic materials.

Advocate for improved accessibility of books and magazines, weather warnings on television, and audio description on TV and movies.

**HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

The Friends of Library Access, Inc. receives no government support**.**

We are a nonprofit corporation, and count on individuals, such as you, to become members of Friends of Library Access, Inc.

Your annual dues and generous donations enable the Friends to assist the Braille and Talking Book Library in providing equal access to information needed for independence, education, employment and pleasure to Floridians who are print impaired.

Since its inception in 1992, the Friends has helped the Bureau of Braille & Talking Book Library Services continue its service of excellence through key equipment purchases and community awareness activities. We have also sponsored annual volunteer appreciation luncheons throughout the years, with awards for their invaluable service.

In addition to membership in the Friends, we gratefully accept donations, grants, gifts of cash, and bequests.

Memberships and donations may be sent to:

Friends of Library Access, Inc.

P.O. Box 10716

Daytona Beach, FL 32120-0716

You may also visit our web site at <http://www.friendsoflibraryaccessinc.org>

For further information, contact:  Patricia A. Lipovsky, Membership and Outreach Chair at:  plipovsky@cfl.rr.com or 386-255-0288.

We thank you for your generous support.

**LOOKING FOR NEW TALENT**

The Friends is managed by a Board of twelve trustees, who are elected for 3-year terms by the membership. Each November, four seats are open for election.

Board meetings are open to anyone interested, and are held quarterly on the 2nd Saturday of February, May, August, and November. All meetings are held via telephone conference, except for our November meeting where those that can, meet in person.

Please consider serving on the Board by submitting your name and a brief letter stating your experience, expertise and goals as it pertains to the Friends. Letters of Interest may be submitted by email, print, or Braille and mailed to the Friends at:

Friends of Library Access, Inc.

P.O. Box 10716

Daytona Beach, FL 32120

Note: You must be a member of the Friends for at least one year, and have attended at least one quarterly board meeting before you can apply for a board position.

For more information, contact the chair of the Nominating Committee: Doug Hall at 386-255-0377.

**HOW ABOUT READING THE NEWSPAPER AGAIN?**

How would you like TO READ the newspaper with your morning cup of java? Well, now you can!

The NFB of Florida is proud to offer you National Federation of the Blind Newsline®, a program sponsored by the National Federation of the Blind of Florida and a grant from the Florida Division of Blind Services.

Many seniors have lost enough vision that reading the daily newspaper is no longer possible. Now, once again, they can enjoy being able to participate actively in community affairs. NFB Newsline gives subscribers access to newspapers, emergency weather updates, television listings, job ads, Target store ads, many magazines, and 14 Florida newspapers. Over 40 magazines, ranging from the arts, sciences, health and fitness, pop culture and national and International news are also available. In addition, there are multiple access methods such as the telephone, computer, NLS Talking Book player, hand-held reader, and the iPhone.

NFB Newsline has well over 300 publications and it's still growing. Four Spanish-language newspapers are available to all subscribers. The service handles thousands of phone calls each day for individuals across the country. This also enables those who cannot read conventional print to have access to all content offered on NFB Newsline when traveling throughout the United States, twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

NFB Newsline of Florida has an experienced and dedicated staff of marketers and volunteers waiting to help you. To reach Russ Davis, Coordinator for NFB Newsline of Florida, or any of the other incredible staff members, (Wendy, Sheri or Paul), just call 1-844-827-7371 and select the staff member you'd like to reach from the directory. We are available seven days a week, but ask that you call between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.

**NOMINATIONS FOR FRIENDS BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Below are the nominees who have applied for our openings for 2020. We currently have four seats open. They are each 3-year terms. Please look the applicants over carefully and select who you think would be best suited to fill these positions.

**Irene Hewett**

To Members of Florida

My name is Irene Hewett. I am asking for your consideration to serve another term on the Florida Board of Trustees. I have been a member of the Board since the organization was started in 1992. I have served as President and Recording Secretary, and am currently holding that office.

We now have a 12-member Board, with representation from several areas of the State. I am impressed with their willingness to participate in discussions, both at meetings and by e-mails, and I feel the Library is benefiting from our ongoing interest and support. I would like to continue assisting with this worthwhile effort.

I am a Library patron, and I really appreciate the ability to order and download books from BARD whenever I want.

Thank you for your attention.

**Pam Keezel**

I was born and raised in the Midwest, and moved to Winter Park, FL after graduating from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana. Besides wanting to leave the extreme cold and snowy winters in the north for the sun and beaches, I wanted to pursue an MBA degree at Rollins College. When I became employed at UCF in Orlando, the decision to seek admission at the campus where I worked each day was most logical for my needs.

Within a couple years of relocating to Florida, I met and married the man I am still happily married to today. Over 37 years we have traveled many winding roads, while having a hand in raising his two children and facing life’s challenges. Thank goodness my husband, Joe, loves dogs as much as I do and we are now the proud parents of our eighth fur baby.

I began my accounting business in 1995, and over the years have provided financial services to numerous non-profit organizations covering Orange, Seminole and Volusia counties. In 2005 I jumped at the opportunity to work at the Center for the Visually Impaired, Inc. I felt a true attachment to the philosophy of the organization, as I suffered vision loss months after being married. After being diagnosed with T1 Diabetes in 1961, I was also diagnosed with Diabetic Retinopathy in 1983. Nearly a year after my diagnosis I regained sight in one eye, however, lost all vision in the other from a detached retina.

Many times, I have wished the Braille and Talking Book Library would have been available to me during my months of blindness. Because of the isolation I felt at that point in my life, I want to give time now to this library and the Friends organization so they can properly serve the visually impaired all around our state, and beyond for many decades to come.

I have been the designated bookkeeper for Friends of Library Access, Inc. since May 2006, and would very much welcome the opportunity to remain a member of the Board of Directors for the coming year. Thank you so much for considering me for an additional term as a board trustee of Friends of Library Access, Inc.

**Paul Kurtz**

I have now served on the Friends of Library Access Board for a number of terms and consider it to be a very worthwhile endeavor and one I would like to continue.

The Talking Book Library has been a part of my life since my youngest days and I feel that reading has increased my intellect, helped me in school, and made me a better all-around person. I feel it helped my test scores as I was applying for and being accepted into under-graduate and graduate school. I feel that it also helped me through my work life to gain and keep perspective in a variety of areas.

I’ve been privileged to have 2 professional careers and be successful both as a counselor and as a computer professional. I’ve also been blessed to be able to serve on such organizations as the Mayor’s Disability Council for the city of Jacksonville, the Florida Rehabilitation Council for the State of Florida’s Division of Blind Services, and the Captain’s EEO Advisory Committee for the Fleet

Readiness Center in Jacksonville, FL. But, there’s no more important position that I’ve held than serving the Talking Book Library and I hope to be re-elected to the Board. This library does and will contribute greatly to the future of our young blind people and to the present activities of all ages.

**Wendy Wilson**

I have been on the Friends of Library Access board for 2 years. My employment positions are: Daytona State College, assisting persons with limited vision, and National Federation of the Blind Newsline® sponsor. I also wear many hats in the community. At present, I am the president of the Lions of District 35-O Hearing Program which purchases hearing aids for those in need. I am also the president of my Lions Club in DeLand, Florida. I am a volunteer for Guardian Ad Litem in Circuit 7 in Volusia County, as well as a member of HELP Animals, Inc. These are the most important positions I hold at the moment.

As far as the Braille and Talking Book Library, I have been a volunteer for many years. I am also a life member of the Friends of Library Access. I have managed to invite other members to join. I feel that being on the board is extremely important and I am grateful that I am part of it. This is a wonderful and very well needed program. We make a difference in the lives of the staff and the volunteers. Therefore, I would appreciate being a board member again for the next two years.

**APPLICATION AND RENEWAL FORM**

Membership is for the calendar year, January 1 to December 31.

All dues received after 9/1/2020 will be applied to the remainder of 2020 and the calendar year 2021.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Please complete this form and return it along with your check to: | Friends of Library Access, Inc.P.O. Box 10716Daytona Beach, FL 32120-0716 |

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Apt. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Zip\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: home: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_alternate: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY** \*required to process application

\*1. Print impaired people qualify for Free Matter for the Blind and
Handicapped from the postal service

Place check in front of text if you qualify **\_\_\_**yes **\_\_\_**no

\*2. What media do you prefer? Place check in front of text

 **\_\_\_** Large Print **\_\_\_** E-mail \_\_\_ Audio

 **\_\_\_** Braille (should the latter two become available)

\* If e-mail checked, write your e-mail address:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3. F.L.A. Membership Selection Place check in front of text

 **\_\_\_** Annual renewal ($10.00 per year)

 **\_\_\_** Contributing Member ($50.00 or more per year)

 **\_\_\_** Life Member ($200.00 may be paid in up to four installments within

 one year)

 **\_\_\_** Supporting Membership ($250.00 per year, group sponsorship)

4. I am interested in helping with Place check in front of text

 **\_\_\_** Public Relations /Education **\_\_\_** F.L.A. Board of Trustees

 \_\_\_ Fund Raising

**BALLOT**

You must be a Friends member in order to vote. If you are not a current member, please include membership dues with the ballot.

Print your name:

**Proposed Bylaw Changes**

The proposed 8 amendments are presented as follows.

Each will have the old version first, with the new change to follow.

Please check “Yes” if you agree, or “No” if you do not agree with the change.

**ARTICLE I:** **GENERAL OPERATIONS**

Section 2

\_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_No

**OLD**

D. To develop more library and information services for

people who are blind and disabled with the object of increasing their independence, usefulness and pleasure.

**NEW**

D. To assist with development of more library and

information services for people who are print impaired with the objective of increasing their independence, usefulness and pleasure.

**ARTICLE I: GENERAL OPERATIONS**

Section 2

**\_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_No**

**OLD**
E. To encourage blind and print impaired residents of

Florida to avail themselves of the valuable services provided by the Library.

**NEW**

E. To encourage print impaired residents of Florida to

avail themselves of the valuable services provided by the Library.

**ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1

**\_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_No**

**OLD**

Membership in this organization shall be open

to all individuals who agree with and desire to further these purposes.

**NEW**

Membership in this organization shall be open

to individuals who agree with and desire to further these purposes.

**ARTICLE IV: BOARD of TRUSTEES**

Section 2

**\_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_No**

**NEW**

Beginning with the election of new trustees in 2021, all newly elected trustees are limited to four (4) consecutive terms. They must wait at least one (1) year before seeking election to the Board of Trustees again.

**ARTICLE IV: BOARD of TRUSTEES**

Section 4

**\_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_No**

**OLD**

Persons interested in being nominated for election to the Board of Trustees must have attended at least one (1) meeting of the Board prior to nomination.

**NEW**

Persons interested in being nominated for election to the Board of Trustees must have been a member of the Friends for at least one (1) year and attended at least one (1) meeting of the Board, prior to nomination.

**ARTICLE V: COMMITTEES**

Section 8

**\_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_No**

**OLD**

The Nominating Committee shall solicit nominations for board members and create profiles on active candidates.

**NEW**

The Nominating Committee shall solicit nominations for board members, with the provision that, effective in 2021, any new applicant for the Board of Trustees receiving a financial benefit from the Friends shall be disqualified from sitting on the Board of Trustees. Anyone on the Board of Trustees prior to 2021 is exempt from the change.

**ARTICLE VI:** **OFFICERS and DUTIES**

Section 3

**\_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_No**

**OLD**

The President and Vice President shall not serve in the same office for more than four (4) consecutive years.

**NEW**

The President and Vice President shall not serve in the same office for more than four (4) consecutive years, and following the fourth year, may not be considered for election to the vacated office for at least one (1) year. There shall be no limit on the number of terms held by the Secretary and Treasurer.

**ARTICLE VIII:** **AMENDMENTS**

**\_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_No**

**OLD**

These Bylaws may be amended at any Annual meeting by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the membership present and voting, provided that the proposed amendment shall have been presented in accessible format at least thirty (30) days prior to the Annual Meeting.

**NEW**

These Bylaws may be amended at any Annual meeting by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of members present at the Annual meeting, and those submitting completed mail-in and electronic ballots received no later than 24 hours prior to the meeting, provided that the proposed amendment shall have been presented in accessible format at least thirty (30) days prior to the Annual Meeting.

**PLEASE CHOOSE 4 CANDIDATES for the 4 open seats.**

Place a check in front of the candidate's name of choice:

\_\_\_\_\_\_Irene Hewett

\_\_\_\_\_\_Pam Keezel

\_\_\_\_\_\_Paul Kurtz

\_\_\_\_\_\_Wendy Wilson

Write in Candidate (s):

We must receive your ballot by Thursday, November 12, 2020 unless you vote in person.

You may MAIL the ballot with your name on it to:

Friends of Library Access, Inc.

P.O. Box 10716

Daytona Beach, FL 32120-0716

Or email to: [pkk22258@aol.com](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cpac67e%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CTemporary%20Internet%20Files%5CContent.Outlook%5CG8BQAEUM%5Cpkk22258%40aol.com)

Make Your Voice Heard – VOTE!

Newsletter Editor, Patricia A. Lipovsky

Friends of Library Access, Inc.

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