**Friends Nominees for Board Positions**

The following statements are now required by the Friends by-laws for those nominated to run for the Board. Nominations can be made from the floor with the permission of the person to be nominated. That person will need to be prepared to make a brief statement to those who will vote regarding his/her reason for wanting to serve on the Board.

Frances Benham

from Brentwood (St. Louis), MO

I have served as Friends Treasurer for the last four years. In that role I established an automated accounting and management system. I have tried to be responsive to our members by quickly processing memberships and acknowledging them. I developed written guidelines and procedures for our financial accounts, led the Finance Committee to secure our investments during the economic recession, and worked with the Board to plan for and conduct our hoodie sales. As required by our by-laws, I oversee each year a professional audit of our finances. My duties take an average of four to six hours a week with more hours as we close out one membership year and begin another.

As a retired library director, I have time to conduct these services. As a Wolfner patron whose quality of life would be greatly diminished without Wolfner's wonderful services, I am happy to help in any way the Friends wish.

Zeze Miller

from Jefferson City, MO

I have been a Wolfner patron for 24 years and rely heavily on its services. As Older Blind Services Program Manager for the Department of Rehabilitation Services for the Blind, I introduce many people to Wolfner services. I also strongly support the services to children and am very pleased that the Friends support the Summer Reading Program and purchase children's audio and print/Braille books. I recall with joy the Friends purchase of cassette copies of the Harry Potter books as they were published so that our young patrons could keep pace with their sighted friends. The Friends have made an important contribution for improved information services for Missouri blind and physically handicapped citizens. I pledge to work to continue our programs if elected to the Board. We need Wolfner and the Friends to work together. I'll do that with pleasure since I cannot imagine my own life without Wolfner services.

Karen Skender

from St. Louis, MO

I enjoyed my service this year as Friends President. My main goal for the Board was to build membership. All but two Board members came close to or met my challenge to bring in ten new members. I also was pleased with Board decisions to continue to enhance Wolfner patron services by awarding the Library $11,600 for specific program requests.

As Volunteer/Event Coordinator for the St. Louis Society for the Blind and Visually Impaired, I have provided services for 15 years. This includes making sure those qualified for Wolfner services know about them and receive support for obtaining them. All of us at the Society are strong advocates for Wolfner services. As we celebrate 100 years of service to the St. Louis community, we include information about Wolfner in all of our activities.

I am happy to serve on the Board and with your support I will be pleased to continue for another term.

Jerimiah Wells

from Kansas City, MO

I have been a Wolfner patron since 1973 when I moved to Missouri. I download my own books now and really enjoy being able to get books when I want them. I greatly appreciate the new digital book program and thank the Friends for providing blank cartridges to Wolfner for those of us who want to download. I am also active in Missouri's NFB programs as well as the Lion's Club. I was involved for 29 years in the Missouri Vending Program. Now that I am retired from the business world, I have time to contribute more to the Friends whose programs are so important to the success of Wolfner patron services. I enjoy working with others and would very much appreciate the opportunity to serve on the Friends Board. Thank you for considering me for election to this important organization.

Bob Williams

from Mountain View, MO

I have been an active Wolfner patron since 2002. Before that I taught chemistry at Lincoln University in Jefferson City. I taught at the college level for almost 20 years after earning my PhD degree from Baylor University in Texas. My career in teaching ended with a stroke that took away my ability to speak and much of my sight. Wolfner Library services played an important role in my recovery. Today I download my own books and greatly appreciate the digital readers and improved recording quality. The Friends made the Wolfner transition to the digital world better by their purchase of extra digital cartridges. Their support of patron programs for all age groups is so important. I want to encourage that all these efforts continue. Today I have regained my ability to speak and have become active in one of the bind consumer groups. Now that I know the challenges that the blind and physically handicapped face on a daily basis, I want to use my education and experience to improve their lives. I will be honored to serve if you elect me to the Friends Board.