

Youngstown Free Library
Annual Meeting of the Library Association
Agenda
January 27, 2025, 6:30 PM

The mission of the Youngstown Free Library is to be a community center which inspires learning and provides access to a vast range of information and resources for patrons of all ages.

Meeting of the Library Association Called to Order

Nomination of President and Secretary Pro Temp

Public Comment

Minutes of the Annual Meeting January 22, 2024 presented for approval

Election of New Board of Trustees

Annual Reports

President's Report	Karran Swayze
Financial Report	David Smith
Library Director	Sonora Miller
Friends of the Library Report	Kim Winning
Other Reports	

Old Business

New Business

Approval of authorization of prepaid or reoccurring expenses David Smith
-Pre-approval of the following schedule of recurring obligations for the 2024 fiscal year,
so that they may be paid as they become due,
without further action from the Board

The schedule comprises:

- All personnel expenses relating to salaries, wage and other wage-related compensation
- All expenses relating to accounts, payroll preparation, and payroll tax payment
- Credit card
- Internet and phone
- Alms fees
- Housekeeping
- Postage

These are expenses that we are obliged to pay as soon as they become due, and pre-approval provides for them to be paid in as timely a manner as possible.

Trustee signatures need to be provided on the following forms:

- Code of Ethics
- Conflict of Interest
- Whistleblower Protection

Trustee signatures are also required on the following documents, signifying support for the Collection Development Policy approved in 2022:

- Library Bill of Rights
- Freedom to Read Statement
- Freedom to View Statement

Trustees are reminded of the State policy requiring 2 hours of training in the duties or responsibilities of Library Trustees which was approved in 2023.

Adjournment

YOUNGSTOWN FREE LIBRARY
Minutes of the 74th Annual Meeting of the Library Association
Date: January 22, 2024 Time: 6:30 pm

The mission of the Youngstown Free Library is to be a community center which inspires learning and provides access to a vast range of information and resources for patrons of all ages.

Present: Karran Swayze, Mary Clinch, Dave Smith, David Brooks, Shawn D’Luhy, Dr. Nancy Askins, Peter Pfohl, Director Sonora Miller

Absent: Barb Costello, Bill Siddall

Call to order: By Karran at 6:33 pm

- A motion was made by Dave Smith and seconded by Shawn to approve Karran as President pro tem, and Mary as Recording Secretary pro tem. The motion passed.

Comments from the public: None

Minutes: The minutes of the January 23, 2023 Annual Meeting were presented for approval.

Karran proposed two changes to make to last year’s minutes:

1. Modify the term of David Brooks to state it is the 1st 3-year term
2. Correct the date of the 2024 annual meeting date to January 22, 2024

- A motion was made by Dave Smith and seconded by Shawn to approve the changes. The motion passed. Mary will make the updates and post an updated file to Dropbox.

Election of new board members:

The following individuals were put forth for approval for the following terms:

Mary Clinch	Board of Trustees - 1 st full 3-year term 2024 – 2027
Shawn D’Luhy	Board of Trustees – 1 st full 3-year term 2024 – 2027
Dave Smith	Board of Trustees – 2 nd 3-year term 2024 - 2027
Dr. Nancy Askins	Board of Trustees – 1 st full 3-year term 2024 - 2027
Peter Pfohl	Board of Trustees – 1 st full 3-year term 2024 – 2027

Bill Siddall is retiring from the Board. Barb Costello is also retiring after two full 3-year terms. Both were thanked for their service and support.

- A motion was made by Dave Smith and seconded by David Brooks to approve the slate of nominations. The motion passed.

President’s remarks – Karran Swayze:

- Karran welcomed all returning and new members of the Board and thanked everyone for their commitment to the Library.

- Karran asked that all Trustees call attention to the Library's mission statement, and recommended that it be added to any letterhead, stationary, and documents that the Board produces or uses (including meeting minutes, reports, etc.).
- Karran thanked Sonora for her excellent leadership and commitment to the Library and its staff in 2023.

Financial report – Dave Smith:

- Dave Smith presented information provided in his annual report, highlighting:
 - Revenues of \$148,732.91 in 2023, which were driven by the Town of Porter funding, Friends of the Library contributions, generous donations from the Annual Drive and other gifts to the Library. This exceeded anticipated revenues by \$5,403.
 - Operating expenses slightly exceeded budget (\$147,867.05 vs. a budget of \$143,300). Higher spend was seen in unemployment tax, subscriptions and memberships, and office supplies. Adjustments were made to the 2024 budget to account for increased prices. All other expenses were in line with budget.
- In addition to the Christmas basket raffle and a booth at the summer Porter-on-the-Lake event, Dave Smith proposed that the Board sponsor one or two more community-based events to raise money and increase visibility in the community. A few ideas were raised, including an electronics recycling event and an event around the upcoming solar eclipse.
- Dave Smith thanked Sonora for controlling costs well in 2023, and for continuing to make the Library a cheerful, clean, inviting space to utilize and enjoy.
- Karran thanked Dave Smith, Sonora, and Maggie Steyn for their work in completing grants.

Director's report – Sonora Miller:

- Sonora shared the history of the creation of the Library's strategic plan, and how the Board voted in 2023 to extend the strategic plan to the end of 2025.
- Sonora described the tasks accomplished in 2023 that match to the various goals defined in the strategic plan. Highlights are included here; for full details please see the Director's Report in the Annual Meeting Packet:
 - Goal 1: Sustainability
 - In the area of funding, Sonora shared the details of the 7 grants received in 2023 that were used to support various programming and to expand the Library's collections. The Library was able to complete the initial funding requirement for the Youngstown Free Library Foundation, managed by the Buffalo Community Foundation.
 - Much work was done on the air conditioning system in the Library to continue to ensure a comfortable, sanitary physical space.
 - Trustees represented the Library at various community events and meetings.
 - A Memorandum of Understanding between the Friends of the Library and the Board was signed.
 - Board bylaws were updated to better reflect our current mission.
 - Goal 2: Responsiveness to the Community
 - The Library welcomed 18,113 people through its doors during 1,832 hours of operation in 2023; this is a 12% increase in foot traffic over 2022, averaging out to over 10 people visiting the Library in person every hour.
 - Nearly 30% of people (1,708) in the Library's service area (4,899) have a library card.
 - Multiple book clubs were sustained (and some reactivated), reading programs and challenges were held, and a tabletop gaming programs were initiated.

- The Library was able to expand the audiobook and digital library collections, and also saw circulation numbers continue to grow. Additional services (including hotspots, SAD sunlamps, etc.) continued to be popular items to check out. Dave Smith asked about progress with Hoopla; Sonora stated it has been going quite well. Over half of the newly purchased titles have been checked out in the past few weeks, and more titles are to be purchased.
- Goal 3: Transparency and Communication
 - The Library continued to operate an active and responsive presence on social media networks, and continued to share information in a transparent manner with the community.
 - The Library continued to participate in local organizations and programs (such as the YBPA and One District, One Book event), and was recognized as a community organization by the YBPA in 2023.
- Goal 4: Partnerships and Collaboration
 - Several of the Library's programs are held in cooperation with local organizations (such as the Lewiston Senior Center and The Children's House).
 - Connections with local government leaders were strengthened, which allowed the Library to receive support for grants and in the form of advocacy for state library funding.
 - Local business and organizations provided great support for the Library in 2023, with Ray's Tavern, the Stone Jug, and Bandana's all organizing stand-alone fundraising events to benefit the Library. Multiple organizations donated items or gift certificates to the basket raffle.

Friends of the Library Update – Sonora Miller (on behalf of Bill Siddall):

- New officers for the Friends are pending election; Maggie Steyn will stay on as Treasurer.

Old Business: None

New Business:

- A motion was made by Shawn and seconded by Dave Smith to approve the schedule of recurring obligations for the 2024 fiscal year. The motion passed.
- Sonora reminded the Board that each Trustee must sign all required forms, including the Code of Ethics, Conflict of Interest, Whistleblower Protection, Library Bill of Rights, Freedom to Read Statement, and Freedom to View Statement.
- In addition, Trustees are required to complete two hours of continuing education training; Mary will research options for 2024 and communicate them to the Board. Mary will send Sonora a compiled list of training completed in 2023.
- A motion was made by Shawn and seconded by Dave Smith to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed; the meeting was adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

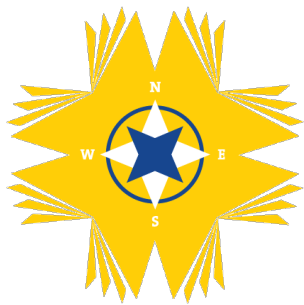
The next Annual Meeting will take place on January 27, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

Mary Clinch

Recording Secretary Pro-Tem, Youngstown Free Library Board of Trustees

REVENUE	2024 Budget	AS OF MAR. 2024	AS OF JUNE 2024	AS OF AS OF SEPT. 2024	ACTUAL BUDGET 2024	Notes
TOWN OF PORTER	\$70,000	\$70,000	\$70,000	\$70,000	\$70,000	
NIAGARA COUNTY	\$6,950	\$0	\$0	\$6,954	\$6,954	
VILLAGE OF YOUNGSTOWN	\$1,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,000	
LOC. LIBRARY SERVICE AID	\$1,260	\$144	\$144	\$1,487	\$1,487	
LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVE	\$0	\$0	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	
FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY	\$22,000	\$15,500	\$17,000	\$17,000	\$25,957	Does not include \$5,543.29 deposited in January 2025 and shifted to 2025 budget
FINES/ COPIER/ FAX	\$1,500	\$451	\$821	\$1,111	\$1,287	
INTEREST	\$5,000	\$341	\$2,478	\$2,827	\$3,156	
GIFTS	\$10,750	\$2,156	\$5,225	\$5,242	\$5,979	
ANNUAL DRIVE	\$29,000	\$5,375	\$5,870	\$5,870	\$22,065	
MISCELLANEOUS	\$250	\$78	\$147	\$197	\$233	
GRANT FUNDS	\$5,000	\$620	\$3,620	\$3,620	\$4,080	
OTHER INCOME	\$2,000	\$0	\$750	\$750	\$750	Ruby Carey scholarship
TOTAL REVENUE	\$154,710	\$94,664	\$126,055	\$135,059	\$162,949	
EXPENDITURE	2024 Budget				Final 2024 Budget	
PERSONNEL						
SALARIES (GROSS)	\$90,363	\$19,674	\$42,885	\$64,537	\$88,977	
HEALTH BENEFIT	\$5,000	\$1,144	\$2,490	\$3,644	\$4,990	
SOCIAL SECURITY & MEDICARE	\$7,229	\$1,505	\$3,281	\$4,937	\$6,851	
CONTINUING EDUCATION & NETWORKING	\$100	\$0	\$32	\$32	\$32	
NEW YORK STATE DISABILITY /SUTA FUTA	\$2,550	\$894	\$1,349	\$1,627	\$1,417	
WORKER'S COMPENSATION	\$850	\$0	\$109	\$109	\$883	
Inservice/Memberships	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$170	\$170	
SALARIES (Christmas bonus)	\$500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$579	
TOTAL PERSONNEL	\$106,592	\$23,217	\$50,145	\$75,056	\$103,900	
LIBRARY MATERIALS						
HOOPLA (Digital Materials)	\$6,200	\$2,232	\$4,478	\$7,923	\$9,859	
AV MATERIALS	\$3,500	\$1,689	\$2,241	\$2,556	\$3,575	
BOOKS	\$6,500	\$2,682	\$4,136	\$5,345	\$7,976	
SOFTWARE	\$350	\$0	\$430	\$430	\$430	
Suscriptions/Library Memberships	\$4,000	\$1,517	\$1,542	\$4,159	\$5,355	
BOOK PROCESSING & SUPPLIES	\$1,300	\$576	\$1,182	\$2,129	\$2,619	
PROGRAMMING	\$2,800	\$68	\$2,926	\$3,714	\$3,776	
PUBLICITY & PROMOTION	\$150	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
COPIER LEASE & USAGE	\$840	\$268	\$508	\$708	\$1,033	
POSTAGE	\$45	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25	
INTERNET & PHONE	\$330	-\$34	\$196	\$420	\$644	
TOTAL LIBRARY MATERIALS	\$26,015	\$9,023	\$17,665	\$27,409	\$35,291	
OPERATING EXPENDITURE	2024 budget				Final 2024 Budget	
ALMS FEE	\$8,202	\$2,051	\$4,101	\$6,152	\$8,202	
OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$1,500	\$427	\$1,041	\$1,589	\$2,131	
HOUSEKEEPING	\$90	\$21	\$35	\$35	\$77	
INSURANCE	\$4,500	\$0	-\$26	\$4,901	\$4,901	
RENT	\$1	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
MAINTENANCE (SPACE)	\$700	\$0	\$0	\$401	\$2,192	includes Foyer Painting
COPIER LEASE & USAGE	\$840	\$268	\$508	\$708	\$1,033	
POSTAGE	\$45	\$25	\$35	\$35	\$35	
INTERNET/PHONE	\$330	-\$34	\$196	\$420	\$644	
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURE	\$16,208	\$2,757	\$5,890	\$14,240	\$19,216	

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE						
TECHNOLOGY	\$1,113	\$165	\$165	\$165	\$165	
OTHER - SPACE etc	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	\$1,113	\$165	\$165	\$165	\$165	
MISCELLANEOUS						
ACCOUNTING & PAYROLL SERVICES:	\$3,562	\$815	\$1,995	\$2,515	\$3,555	
BANK FEES	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4	\$4	
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES - AUDIT etc	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES - LEGAL etc	\$470	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
MISCELLANEOUS Foundation/Scholarship	\$750	\$0	\$0	\$819	\$820	
TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS EXPENDITURE	\$4,782	\$815	\$1,995	\$3,337	\$4,378	
TOTAL OF PERSONNEL, LIBRARY MATERIALS, OPERATING, CAPITAL, & MISC. EXPENDITURES	\$154,710	\$12,735	\$25,715	\$45,075	\$162,949	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$154,710	\$35,977	\$75,859	\$120,208	\$162,949	
Net Income (Loss)	\$0	\$118,733	\$50,196	\$14,851	\$0	Does not include \$5,543 FOYL)



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Director's Report

Annual 2024

In 2024, the Library accomplished tasks from each of its four goals in its 2018-2025 Strategic Plan.

Goal 1: Sustainability

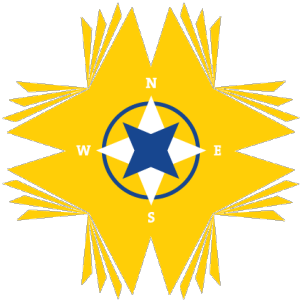
Ensure that the library is well-positioned to provide for the needs of current and future generations of members of the community of the Youngstown Free Library.

1. Ensure sustainable Library funding for the long-term future.

- a. The Board of Trustees reinvested its 2024 dividends back into the Youngstown Free Library Foundation, managed by the Buffalo Community Foundation.
- b. State representative Angelo Morinello facilitated a \$20,000 grant to the Library that was received in April 2024.
- c. In March 2024, the Library was awarded a \$400 grant from Nioga for summer reading programs for children and teens.
- d. In May 2024, the Library was awarded a \$1,500 grant from Dollar General Literacy Foundation. This was used for summer reading programs for children and teens.
- e. In June 2024, the Library was awarded a \$1,500 grant from Legislator Irene Myers through the Niagara County Community Partnership Fund. This was used for summer reading programs for children and teens.
- f. In October 2024, the Library was awarded a \$230 mini-grant from Nioga for adult outreach. This was used for adult large-print bestsellers.
- g. In October 2024, the Library was awarded a \$230 mini-grant from Nioga for youth services. This, along with \$2,000 in private gifts, was used for juvenile audiobooks.

2. Ensure sustainable building and physical needs for the long-term future.

- a. The foyer ceiling, walls, and trim were painted in October 2024, and the ceiling was repaired in the Magazine Room.
- b. Air-conditioning units were serviced in summer 2024.
- c. Medify air purifiers continue to run during all open hours to provide a more sanitary library environment.
- d. The carpets in the office, foyer, and children's room were washed several times in 2024.



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- e. Since its purchase in December 2021, the Roomba i3 has been supplementing vacuuming in conjunction with spot vacuuming by the library director. It is proving to be an efficient and easy-to-use solution.

3. Recruit and maintain well-qualified Board of Trustee members who will use their tenure to represent, promote and fundraise on behalf of the Library.

- a. Trustee education programs were offered on Dropbox access, Google calendar access, open meeting law, and more.
- b. Trustees independently and ably represented the Library at community meetings, groups, and fundraisers, where they were able to connect with the community and local lawmakers.
 - i. Friends' events like fall and spring book sales, Stone Jug 5K, Chili Cook-off, bake sales, Jubilee Tea, and Christmas dinner
 - ii. Programs like the eclipse event and 75th anniversary celebration
 - iii. Advocacy events like Summerfest, legislative visits, and YBPA meetings

4. Support the health and work of the Friends of the Library.

- a. The Memorandum of Understanding between the Friends and the Trustees was signed in March 2024.
- b. The Library Director and Trustee Liaison attended Friends meetings in 2024.
- c. The Library Director and Trustee President regularly submitted articles for the Friends' quarterly newsletter.
- d. Trustees and Director volunteered at Friends' fundraisers in 2024 such as the fall and spring book sales, the Chili Cookoff, and the Jubilee Tea.

5. Ensure that the Library policies and by-laws are kept current.

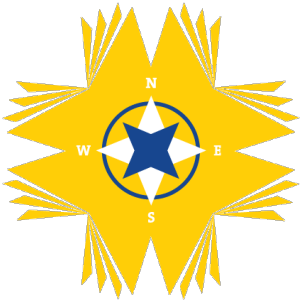
- a. Policies updated in 2024: inclement weather/emergency closings policy, evaluation process of director, director's job description
- b. Library trustees, in accordance with NYS requirements, each took continuing education workshops in 2024.

Goal 2: Responsiveness to the Community

Integrate community needs with Library offerings.

1. Create an environment that encourages all members of the community to participate, making it a valuable center of the community.

- a. The Library welcomed 19,723 people through its doors during 1,773 hours of operation. This is an increase from last year's 18,113 patrons, a



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9% increase in traffic through the Library's door, even as the Library's open hours decreased slightly by 3%.

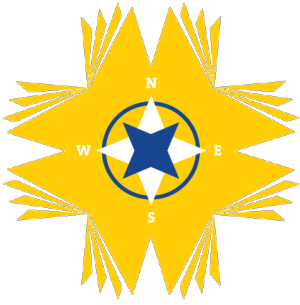
- b. In July 2024, the Director and Board of Trustees updated the Library policies to erase past fines and eliminate late fines on Youngstown items going forward. Fines create undue feelings of shame and many folks are unable to pay them; both issues prevent people (often families with children) from returning to the Library. Patrons will still be charged for lost or damaged items, which provides a good balance of social responsibility and social equity.
- c. The coffee, hot chocolate, and tea station welcomed patrons to relax and rehydrate at the Library in 2024.
- d. As of December 2024, Youngstown Free Library had 1,571 patrons. The Library serves a population of 4,646, so 33% of the people in its service area has a library card at Youngstown (this does not include people who live here but hold a library card at a different library).

2. Provide or host Library programs that respond to community requests and interests.

- a. The Eclipse Celebration in April provided an important chance to gather as a community.
- b. Evening Book Club and Afternoon Book Club met monthly in 2024. Non-Fiction Book Club, created by community request, continued to meet bi-monthly in 2024.
- c. The Summer Reading Program and Reading Challenge welcomed children and teens in 2024.
 - i. Summer Reading Programs 2024: 43 programs were offered for children, teens, and families, with 2,127 total attendees.
 - ii. Summer Reading Challenge 2024: 55 participants read 129,254 minutes in the ten weeks of the Challenge
- d. The Library has maintained its Zoom access to Evening and Non-Fiction Book Clubs in 2024. This expanded access has met continued community requests for those homebound, vacationing, and out-of-town patrons.

3. Provide Library materials that respond to community interests and requests.

- a. Thanks to several community grants, the Library has expanded its audiobook and digital library collections in 2024, better serving those of all ages with visual disabilities, those desiring 24/7 access to their library, and homebound patrons.
- b. Thanks to a gift from St. John's Episcopal Church, the Children's Room is now home to our updated browsing bin collection. Eight sturdy bins each contain a collection of picture books on an abstract topic that addresses young children's needs in this day and age. Themes include belonging, emotional regulation, grief, making good choices, and more.



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- c. Staff ran inventory of the Library's 22,000+ items in the collection; this project every five years corrects cataloging errors, cleans up lost records, and keeps our digital collection records matching our physical items on the shelves.
- d. 2024 checkouts from digital collection: 3,878 items, a 28% increase over last year
- e. 2024 items from Youngstown's collection sent to patrons from other libraries: 3,917 items, a 9% increase over last year! This continues to justify the fact that we have items that not only our patrons want, but that patrons from other libraries also want!

4. Provide Library services that respond to community needs.

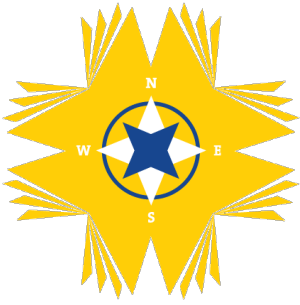
- a. The Library began offering complimentary naloxone kits and fentanyl tests strips in the bathroom in 2024. These supplies are made possible by the Erie County Department of Health.
- b. The Library began offering complimentary period products in the bathroom. A grant from Nioga provided the dispenser and the initial order of supplies.
- c. The Library continued its annual display of free tax forms and instruction booklets for checkout in 2024.
- d. Hotspots and computer passes provided access to needed Internet service. Together, they were checked out 385 times in 2024.
- e. Faxing, scanning, printing, copying, and battery recycling services continue to be frequently used services.
- f. The Nearly New Book Sale continues to offer brand new books for one dollar each, a popular request by both locals and tourists in our community. A total of 231 books were sold in 2024.

Goal 3: Transparency and Communication

Inform, listen and communicate openly with the Youngstown community on all matters.

1. Originate, facilitate and operate a broad cross-community information exchange to enlighten and inform the community.

- a. The Library operates an active and responsive presence on social media networks. News, programs, community alerts, and photos continue to enlighten and inform this growing community.
 - i. Facebook saw an increase from 1,442 followers to 1,571 followers: <https://www.facebook.com/youngstownfreelibrary/>
 - ii. Instagram saw an increase from 700 followers to 760 followers: <https://www.instagram.com/youngstownfreelibrary>



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2. Ensure all modes of dispersing information about the Library are accessible, transparent, up-to-date and accurate.

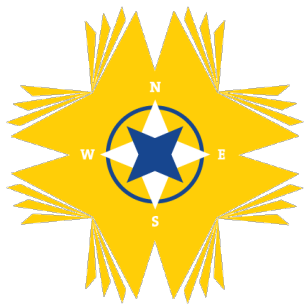
- a. The Library updated its profile to a Gold Seal of Transparency from Guidestar in 2024. Sharing information about the Library's finances and leadership allows more people to have access to quality information about the Youngstown Free Library.
- b. The Library's website posted board packets of agendas and reports prior to library board meetings (<https://youngstownfreelibrary.org/library-board-reports.html>) in 2024.
- c. Information about Library programs and services were shared in the quarterly Friends of the Library newsletters in 2024.
- d. Email newsletters were distributed to over 500 community members who have opted in to receive direct information from the Library.

3. Anticipate and provide for community information needs.

- a. The Library applied for a grant for 1,000 eclipse glasses from the Space Science Institute in preparation for the April 2024 solar eclipse.
- b. Social media was used to share local information from community groups, local governments, and snow emergency information with the community.

4. Develop working relationships with local leaders, organizations and community groups within the Youngstown Free Library service area.

- a. The Library was an active member of the Youngstown Business and Professional Association, meeting regularly with local government leaders, organizations, and community groups.
- b. The Library received the Robert J. Uplinger Distinguished Service award from the Youngstown Lions Club in June 2024. This award is given "in appreciation of 75 years of dedicated service and contributions to our Youngstown community that have enriched our lives."
- c. In the Library's anniversary celebration in November 2024, its history was recognized with proclamations from the Village of Youngstown, the Town of Porter, Niagara County, and New York State.
- d. A seventh year of "One District, One Book" was held in winter and spring of 2024. This annual, district-wide reading program partners schools with community businesses and libraries to read a single book together. As a member of the committee, I organized book voting at the Library, attended Reveal Night and Family Literacy Night, and represented the Library throughout this successful program for *The Lion of Mars*.



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Goal 4: Partnerships and Collaboration

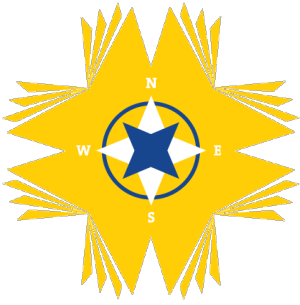
Strengthen the position of the Library within the Youngstown community with ongoing partnerships and collaboration with government, organizations, businesses and individuals.

1. Cooperate with local organizations to offer programming to the community.

- a. The Library hosted the eclipse-viewing event for the whole Youngstown community, in cooperation with the Youngstown Lions, the Village, the Town, and local law enforcement agencies. Prior to that, we received a grant for and then distributed 1,000 eclipse glasses to the community, giving them out at the Front Desk and at eclipse programs.
- b. The Library Director presented a program at the Lewiston Senior Center prior to the eclipse. Eclipse glasses were distributed to all.
- c. The Afternoon Book Club met monthly at the Lewiston Senior Center, and that partnership with the Senior Center has increased the visibility of the Library in the senior community.
- d. Bi-weekly storytimes during the school year were provided to the toddlers and preschoolers at The Children's House Montessori program at the First Presbyterian Church.
- e. The Lewiston Writers' Group met biweekly at the Library in 2024, and their authors have donated copies of their published books to the Library's collection.
- f. The Tabletop Gaming Group met weekly at the Library in 2024, and they collaborated with the Library to provide summer reading programs for pre-teens and teens in 2024.
- g. The Friends' funding allowed the Library to purchase family memberships to Old Fort Niagara, Aquarium of Niagara, and Empire passes, so we are honored to be able to extend access to these local attractions to our library patrons.

2. Strengthen connections with local government leaders individually and as a group in order to facilitate camaraderie and partnerships.

- a. In the Library's anniversary celebration in November 2024, its history was recognized with proclamations from the Village of Youngstown, the Town of Porter, Niagara County, and New York State.
- b. The Youngstown Free Library hosted a legislative advocacy meeting in November 2024 for State Senator Robert Ortt. Library board members and Friends' members attended to advocate for NYS funding for libraries in the next budget year.



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- c. Library Director Sonora Miller met with Assemblyman Angelo Morinello in December 2024 to advocate for NYS funding for libraries in the next budget year.

3. Collaborate with local businesses and individuals for Library fundraising opportunities that will lead to financial sustainability.

- a. Local businesses and organizations rallied to support the Youngstown Free Library with fundraiser partnerships in 2024. Ray's Tavern, Stone Jug, and Bandana's organized and held stand-alone fundraisers to benefit the Library.
- b. The Friends of the Library and the Lewiston Service Guild organized a new joint fundraiser, Jubilee Tea, to support both the Lewiston Service Guild and the Youngstown Free Library.

Respectfully submitted,
Sonora R. Miller
Library Director