



ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES 2026
April 22, 2026 | 6:00 PM
Ohio County Public Library Classroom (Ground Floor)

FOCPL President Dr. Chuck Julian called the meeting to order. A quorum was present.

President Julian welcomed attendees and invited each person to introduce themselves. Minutes from the April 23, 2025, Annual Membership Meeting were distributed in advance and included in the meeting packet. Following a brief review, President Julian asked for corrections or discussion. Hearing none, the minutes were accepted as presented.

Treasurer's Report

On behalf of the treasurer, President Julian reported a cash balance of \$12,176.42 as of April 18, 2026. Membership currently includes 134 individuals and one business. Additional payments received by mail and at the start of the meeting indicate continued growth. Julian noted that the organization's financial strength reflects both generous donor contributions above membership levels and the success of the Spelling Bee for Grown-Ups. The treasurer's report was accepted as presented.

Old Business

President Julian reminded members of the opportunity to participate in the Kroger Community Rewards program, which donates a percentage of purchases to FOCPL at no cost to participants. To date, \$103 has been received in the first quarter of 2026.

The transition from PayPal to zeffy for online payments was highlighted. zeffy offers lower costs, expanded capabilities, and improved financial reporting and communication tools.

Vice President Julie Coraccio reported on the second Spelling Bee for Grown-Ups, held February 21, 2026. Hosting the event at the library reduced costs and improved navigation, though attendance was limited by capacity (and perhaps by the no alcohol policy of the OCPL). Sponsorship support, including the Elizabeth Stifel Kline Foundation and private donors, contributed to the event's success. A total of \$3,630.64 was raised. The FOCPL Board will donate \$4,000 to the library's summer reading program in July 2026.

Coraccio also reported that the FOCPL Facebook page has been instrumental in outreach efforts, though additional volunteers are needed. The goal is to recruit six volunteers to manage two months of posting annually. Wheeling Park High School (WPHS) students assisted with content, including launching an Instagram account. While they committed to April and May coverage, posting has been inconsistent due to end-of-year demands. Coraccio will work with a WPHS teacher in the fall to provide additional structure.

An additional membership benefit was noted: early access to the Book Sale, including a small reception with light refreshments. The event will be held April 23. Volunteers are welcome.

New Business

Bylaws Revision

Article 7, Section 4 currently establishes three-year terms for board service. The board proposed reducing terms to two years to encourage broader participation. Julie Coraccio moved to approve the revision; Linda Comins seconded. With no discussion, the motion passed unanimously. The revised terms will take effect January 1, 2027.

Nominations and Elections

President Julian presented the nominating committee's slate: Vice President, Julie Coraccio; Treasurer, Tessa Weisenborn; Secretary, Cory Barack. No candidate for president was identified; the vice president would likely serve in that role. President Julian called for nominations from the floor. Hearing none, nominations were closed and the slate was elected unanimously.

Julian then presented nominees for board directors: Kimberly Adams-Francis, Georgia Tambasis, and Christine Villamagna. Following discussion, Julie Coraccio moved to amend the ballot; Tessa Weisenborn seconded. With no discussion, non-current members were removed by unanimous vote.

President Julian called for nominations from the floor. Anna Fonner and Bridget Carver self-nominated, with Coraccio seconding both. Candidates were given the opportunity to introduce themselves (Ms. Villamagna was not present). Nominations were then closed.

Following discussion, Michael Hires moved to rescind the previous vote; Linda Comins seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

A revised slate was presented:

- President: Julie Coraccio
- Vice President: Anna Fonner
- Treasurer: Tessa Weisenborn
- Secretary: Cory Barack
- Directors: Bridget Carver, Georgia Tambasis and Christine Villamagna

President Julian called for additional nominations. Hearing none, nominations were closed. Michael Hires moved to approve the revised slate by acclamation; Brie Sinder seconded. The motion passed unanimously, and the slate was elected.

President Julian informed members of a change to the IRS tax code for the 2026 tax year allowing "above-the-line" charitable deductions of cash gifts up to \$1,000 for individuals and \$2,000 for couples filing jointly who do not itemize. As a qualified organization, FOCPL is eligible to receive such contributions. Members were encouraged to consider giving if applicable.

Presentation

Amy Kastigar, Director of the Ohio County Public Library, presented a State of the Library update. She thanked FOCPL for its \$4,000 contribution to the summer reading program, which served 157 adults and 705 children in 2025 and continues to grow. Library usage has surpassed pre-COVID levels, contrary to national trends.

Kastigar emphasized the importance of community support and highlighted the success of the "Library of Things," which has increased circulation and introduced new users to library services.

She noted the positive impact of last year's soft furniture donation to the Children's Area and described ongoing programming for youth. Enhancements are underway in the Young Adult section, with teens helping design the space. The Young Adult Book Club recently celebrated its second anniversary, with 20 participants last year.

Kastigar discussed the impact of the City of Wheeling's streetscape project on access, noting expected completion this summer. The library will then begin installing a new elevator at the 16th Street entrance to meet ADA requirements. The project is expected to take six months and cost approximately \$1.4 million, funded through library capital reserves.

In response to questions, Kastigar addressed the possibility of restoring Sunday hours, citing staffing, scheduling, security, and utility considerations. The library aims to reinstate Sunday service when sustainable funding is

secured. She also noted the need for a full-time archivist. Regarding censorship concerns, Kastigar reported none but confirmed that policies are in place if issues arise.

Upcoming events include *Eat Your Words*, the Book Sale, and a June carnival promoting the summer reading program.

President Julian thanked Kastigar and library staff for their continued support and partnership.

The meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Hires