FRIENDS OF THE GEORGETOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
September 16, 2026, 10 a.m.

PRESENT: President Karen Harrison; Treasurer Mary Ouellette; Assistant Treasurer Connie Mayes; Secretary Kathy Yancy; Directors Ricki McMillian; Don Ballard; Mindy Klein; Angela Bryant McGlothin; Sheryl Westwick; Janet MacFarland; and Library Director Sally Miculek.

Call to Order: The annual membership meeting of the Friends of the Library took place on Wednesday, September 16, 2026 in the Friends Room. There were about 87 attendees. President Karen Harrison called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. and welcomed everyone, thanking them for celebrating the organization and helping it to succeed. She described the library as the "crown jewel of Georgetown."

State of the Library: Library Director Sally Miculek spoke about our Growing Community, both within and outside the library walls. For example, in 2022 there were roughly 34,000 active cardholders; now that number is 47,723. In addition, the number of visits to the library has grown 8 percent from last year, to about 114 visits per hour.

Next, Sally mentioned the "outside services" that the library provides: The Words on Wheels bookmobile (WOW!mobile) and home delivery van (WOW:HD), as well as the GPL Xpress locker system at Carver Center for Families. All of these services are made possible by financial support from the Friends, enabling the check-out of thousands of items a year.

The Friends also assist with refreshing the furnishings in the library and supplementing the supplies and equipment so necessary to operations. As just one example, Sally demonstrated the reading magnifiers that the Friends provided last year through the Eric Lashley Trailblazer Award. Any of these devices is available to patrons for use at home, allowing folks to remain a part of the 'reading community.'

Another technology supported by the Friends is the new RFID (radio frequency identification) equipment, which enables library staff to quickly inventory and check in/check out library materials. The use of this technology allows the staff to provide more personalized service to patrons.

Finally, Sally mentioned the forthcoming Lucky Day Collection, a group of current bestsellers that will be available on a first-come-first-served-basis. This, too, will be provided by the Friends. In summary, Sally said, "The Friends elevate the library experience."

A question was asked regarding possible expansion of the library. Sally described the Long Range Plan, currently in the design phase, and financially supported by the Friends. At present, the plan involves minor renovation on the second floor and significant rearrangement of the first floor. City Council will discuss and approve any changes.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Mary Ouellette provided a financial summary of the fiscal year to date. Revenue for the first eleven months is $197,285, or $109,446 after expenses, with grants to the library totaling $77,846. Cash on hand and CD total roughly $330,100 and the investment account equals about $183,426; this brings total FOL assets to $584,198. (All numbers rounded to whole dollars.)

For fiscal year 2027, Mary's budget estimate is $194,600 in revenue and expenses of $131,925.

Team reports from the coordinators:

Fundraising: The Giving Season fundraiser provided $52,659 last year and came in above expectations. For the upcoming campaign, this year's goal is $52,000. Diane Sandlin spoke about past and future Hill Country Authors Series events and thanked Barbara White for her tireless work, as well as fellow member Diane Mouskourie. As a member of the City Arts and Culture Board, Diane S. told us that other non-profits in town are envious of our success. Our next author event will be on November 12th.

Membership: Coordinator Mindy Klein provided a report of FOL membership – 1,310 individuals from 914 households, some in surrounding communities. To her knowledge, ours is the largest Friends group in Texas. Mindy showed us the new brochure, which is more colorful and easier to read. In addition to membership drives in October (National Friends of Libraries Week) and April (National Library Week), our FOL also participates in the Sun City Non-Profit Fair. For the first time this year, we exhibited at an elementary school carnival in conjunction with library staff, and we also collaborated with the Palace Theatre production of "42nd Street."

Volunteer Orientation: Ricki McMillian remembered our Volunteer Coordinator, Kathy Olmstead, who passed away recently. Don Ballard, Mindy Klein, Janet MacFarland, and Sheryl Westwick stepped in to continue the orientations. Mindy, Janet, and Sheryl will serve as the team going forward.

Book Sales Operations: Elisabeth Aulwurm, assistant to Team Leader Janet Thompson, spoke about the dedicated volunteers who meet every week to sort through the huge quantity of donated books, preparing them for sale. Numerous individuals do this work, in addition to the many volunteers who staff the bookstore.

Book Sales via all methods amount to $93,372 so far this fiscal year (an increase over last year). That figure includes $60,112 in Second Hand Prose and $24,325 in online sales, as well as $9,035 from the book carts in the lobby.

Communications: Communications Team Coordinator Angela Bryant McGlothin reviewed the main accomplishments of the team during the year, such as FOL website updates, and optimizing email function. Key tasks include refining and enhancing our website, standardizing the appearance of our website/emails/social media, and making it easy to find out about the Friends via any medium. The quarterly digest reduces the number of emails. And – good news – there are openings for those interested in helping with Communications!

Q & A: This segment of the meeting was devoted to Questions and Answers. One member inquired about the Sales Tax line on the Statement of Activity, and Mary explained that we owe this tax on the dollar amount of books sold through Collectors Corner. We pay no federal income tax. Another question concerned Credit Card Fees – Mary responded that we pay to process credit cards, as do all merchants. A member questioned why he was told to hold off on donating boxes of books. Elisabeth reminded us about the limited work space for storing books, and Sally mentioned the safety hazard of huge piles of volumes waiting to be examined. There are limits on the number of boxes of books that can be brought in, for these reasons.

Don Ballard pointed out that roughly 2/3 of FOL's income is derived from Second Hand Prose.

Personal Impact Stories/Volunteer Recognition: Three members spoke about the importance of the library in their lives. Cheryl appreciated the Hill Country Authors Series events and the memories of spending time there with her mother. Dora spoke about how valuable the magnifiers have been in her reading. Agnes enjoys the Sunday concerts and the new afternoon film matinees.

We watched a slideshow of photos of Volunteers in Action (assembled by Don Ballard). We viewed a tabulation of the current recorded volunteers' hours: 4,564 hours! Barbara White thanked everyone for giving their limited time here at the library and having fun doing it!

Nominating Committee: Polly Herriott reviewed the slate of current officers and directors, showing which were up for election and which were still fulfilling their terms of office. Returning directors are Mindy, Janet, and Wayne. Also returning are the five presiding officers Angela, Mary, Connie, and Kathy plus new President Don Ballard and Past President Karen Harrison. New board members are Sheryl Westwick and Virginia Chasey. All nominations were approved unanimously.

Eric Lashley Trailblazer Award: The award winner, Rachael Pattillo, talked about the importance of making art accessible and how her project does that. Her Creative Art Kits feature stamp making, weaving, and wearable button pins. The kits are portable and adult/kid friendly. Rachael's award of $1,000 was presented by Karen Harrison.

Door Prizes: Karen announced the winners by drawing their names from a (large!) bag. Little Lemon Bakery gift cards were won by Ingrid M. and Suzanne W. Fish City Grill gift cards were won by Sharon L. and Ricki M. Palace Theater tickets were won by Monica R.

Karen bid farewell to the outgoing members of the board: Ricki McMillian, Chuck Collins, and Josie Talbot.

Acknowledgements: We appreciate the Special Events team who organized this meeting – Mary B., Rosemary D., Sumathy, and Barbara. Thank you! And special recognition goes to new volunteer Patrick Sackal, who ran the technical aspects of the meeting. We couldn't have done it without you, Patrick!

Adjournment: There was no further business, adjourned the meeting at 11:29 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen S. Yancy September 17, 2026

Secretary