



## JANUARY 2019 | ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING SUMMARY

The Friends annual business meeting and volunteer appreciation dinner was held on January 18, at the First United Methodist Church in Loveland. Our annual report was distributed, and you can find a copy on our website, linked from our Documents and Policies page at [https://friendsofthelovelandlibrary.org/documents\\_policies](https://friendsofthelovelandlibrary.org/documents_policies). Our new strategic plan, referred to below, is also posted there.

See photos from the evening on our website at:

<https://friendsofthelovelandlibrary.org/Membership-Meeting>

Co-President Lisa Blankenship opened the evening with remarks about our 2018 accomplishments and our 2019 plans. Highlights from last year included:

- a very successful Loveland Loves to Read event featuring Pulitzer Prize winner Anthony Doerr and his novel *All the Light We Cannot See*
- record-breaking book sales in April and October
- a well-attended Loveland Lights event in the library
- the creation of a new strategic plan by the Friends Board, with input from representatives from the general membership, as well as community members

We anticipate a busy year ahead, with opportunities and challenges:

- We will be able to stay in our current Sorting Place building through our 2019 book sales. However, we'll still be on the lookout for a new venue. We may need to move out after our October book sale.
- We recently gained our first Business member, the Weedin Agency, and we're very happy to welcome them as Friends. We now hope to put forth an effort to attract more business support from our community.
- Some new fundraising efforts are anticipated, including more outlets for selling used books. You'll hear more about these plans throughout the year.
- We're making changes in our communication methods. We've been mailing fewer paper copies of our newsletter, and so we decided to improve our electronic communication, focusing on email, our website, and our Facebook page. We'll be advertising our events in the printed Program Guide that you can pick up in the library. Reports like this will be sent out by email, and will also be posted on our website under "News".

The meeting continued with a buffet dinner catered by Dickie's Barbeque Pit, followed by a bit of entertainment before our business meeting. Friends member and writer Cheryl Miller Thurston penned three original, humorous songs just for us, celebrating the lighter side of the book sorting process, and thanking our volunteers for their service. She was joined by a group of performers, and they did a great job of lightening up the evening and making us laugh.

Co-President Harry Love presided over the business meeting. He gave an overview of our strategic planning process, and noted that the plan itself is available on our website. Voting was conducted for three agenda items, all of which passed unanimously:

- Treasurer Jon Kindschy presented the 2019 budget for approval. (See the annual report for an overview of the budget.)
- Three by-laws changes were brought forth by the Board for approval. (See the annual report for the description of the changes).
- Three new board members, Nancy Arndt, Nancy Baker, and Janice Benedict, were elected for three-year terms. (See the Annual Report for information about the three candidates.)

Three of our board members, Peggy Kindschy, Lynn Moriarty, and Ellen Shepherd, ended their terms. Kathy Keeler will also leave the Board following her year as Past-President. We are appreciative of their excellent service.

Outgoing Vice-President Ellen Shepherd presided over the volunteer appreciation activities. This year, 256 volunteers contributed 9,286 hours to our various activities, and each one warrants a big thank you! Special awards were presented to three deserving recipients:

- Donna Oswald presented an award to longtime volunteer Kathy McMillan, for her efforts of many years in working with children's materials at the Sorting Place and the book sales.
- Ellen Shepherd and Carol Morganti presented an award to Pauline Denning, thanking her for her many years of work producing our newsletter. Everyone who helped in the effort to create the newsletter and make it available will truly miss the opportunity to work with Pauline.
- Harry Love presented the Annis Askew Volunteer Award to Art Grotenhuis. This award, given at the Board's discretion, honors a volunteer for longtime and outstanding service. Art certainly qualifies, having volunteered with the Friends since 2004. He worked with the book sales and the sorting operations, served several years as Treasurer, and served on the Architectural Review Committee for the Library Expansion Project, while playing an integral role on the Committee for the Capital Campaign that raised \$2 Million for the expansion of the Library in 2012.

We hope that you'll be able to join us for our membership meeting next year!