

Members Present: 16

Kathy Burrer, Wendi Zwaduk, Debby Krejsa, Eileen French, Linda Chapin, Cindy Klinect, Sylvia Hack, Kevin Collins, Marcia DeJonge, Theresa Henderson, Mary Karleskint, Iris Tewksbury, Jen Starkey, Deb Kretschmer, Linda Gribben, Sherry Marang. Guest: Natalie Schmidt.

- I. CALL TO ORDER - Wendi Zwaduk, President, called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES from July 17, 2025, Meeting – Kathy Burrer made a motion to approve the 7/17/25 minutes. Debby Krejsa seconded the motion. Vote on the Motion: Unanimous Approval.

Before Reports were given, Mike from the Marketing Department of the EPLS took a group picture because Friends of EPLS Keystone are going to be highlighted in the October issue of the library publication.

### III. REPORTS

A. President Report – Wendi Zwaduk  
Nothing to report.

B. Vice President/Membership Report – Kathy Burrer

- Kathy Burrer reported that there are no new members; there was a loss of one corporate member, because the business is closing. Total of 33 yearly members, 5 Corporate members, and 18 Lifetime members. Total members as of 9/18/25 is 56.

C. Treasurer Report – Marcia DeJonge

- Marcia presented the Treasurer's report: The beginning balance was \$11,119.27. Deposits included \$18.81 in membership dues. Expenses included \$170 to the Village of LaGrange for the facility rental for the 2026 Author Event; and \$87.96 to Wendi for reimbursement of cost for cart tires. Total expenses 257.96. The ending balance is \$10,880.12.
- Marcia received a statement for our CD at Buckeye Bank. The account earned \$201.58 in interest for a current total balance of \$22,053.71. This CD expires in November.

D. Sunshine Committee Report – Mary Karleskint

- Three cards were sent out.
- A former member's spouse passed away, and discussion followed about a memorial gift. It was decided to give \$50 to EPLS in memory of her husband.
- Funds are needed to replenish the funds. Discussion followed and donations were accepted.
- The fund had a balance of \$103.02 prior to the donations.

E. Finance Committee Report – Marcia DeJonge The Finance Committee will make an annual budget for 2026 and will meet on their own to perform an internal audit.

F. Book Sale Committee Report – Zwaduk/Burrer

- All is going well with book sorting. Donations will be accepted until the end of October.
- Kathy was able to get paper bags from IGA before they closed, which will be used for the book sale.

## Meeting Minutes - DRAFT 1

FRIENDS OF EPLS KEYSTONE

Thursday, September 18, 2025, 6:30 p.m.

- With the local business closing, we will potentially lose one raffle basket for the book sale. Discussion followed. Kathy will see if it may be possible to get a basket before the store closes. A total of at least four raffle baskets is needed for the book sale.
- Linda Gribben will do the sign-up sheet for the book sale.
- 30 tables have been reserved.
- The set-up schedule will be Monday and Wednesday, November 10 and 12, as that Tuesday is Veteran's Day and the Village building will be closed.

G. Nomination Committee Report – Paula Pietch The committee plans to meet at 9 am on Monday at book sorting.

H. EPLS Director Report –Jen Starkey

- Jen introduced Natalie Schmidt, the new Children's Librarian at Keystone.
- Jen Starkey announced that Jen Harmon will be the new Deputy Director of Lorain County Reads. The person who will fill Jen Harmon's current position has not yet been announced.
- Jen Starkey made a request for \$600 to help fund the Christmas Event. These funds will purchase supplies from K&J Baking for the cookie decorating portion of the event.
- Jen also made a request for \$400 to add a Marble Run toy that will hang on the wall in the Children's Room. This will include a magnet board so that the marble run can be on the wall but is also removable when needed. This will add a fun item to the Children's Room as well as a draw for children to return.
- Kathy Burrer made a motion to give \$600 to the Keystone Library to purchase supplies from K&J Baking for the Cookie Decorating at the Christmas Event. Deb Kresja seconded the motion. Vote on the motion: Unanimous approval.
- Kevin Collins made a motion to give \$400 to the Keystone Library to purchase the magnet board and marble run for the Children's Room. Eileen French seconded the motion. Vote on the motion: Unanimous approval.
- Jen gave an update on some legislative issues in Ohio. There is a bill which proposes to permanently eliminate all continuing levies by 2030. New levies would require 60% Yes to pass.
- The re-brand campaign rolled out successfully.
- Jen may not be able to come to meetings for the next several months, but Carrie Tilley will speak in her place when Jen is not in attendance.

## IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Book Collection and Sorting

- Paula Pietch reported that 883 books were sorted in July/August. We have a total of 3,642 books boxed, with 3,615 books left over from last year. Children books not included.
- Seven new boxes are at the hall ready for sorting.
- The next sorting days are September 22, October 6, and October 20, at 9 am.

B. Membership Tree/Bookcase: Kevin Collins had no progress to report.

C. Backpack Giveaway: As of July 1, 2025, three backpacks full of supplies were donated. The backpacks included pencils, pens, crayons, folders, markers, dry-erase markers, notebooks, paper, colored pencils, rulers, pencil pouches and more. The Friends donated \$60 toward the backpacks. Wendi spent \$70 on the three backpacks of supplies, including the backpacks.

There were 77 entries: 27 single entries, 12 double entries, 6 triple entries, 25 quadruple entries, 0 quintuple entries, 12 sextuple entries. Of the three winners, one had entered 6 times, one had entered 4 times, and one had entered one time.

Takeaways:

- The Friends did little to no publicity for this. Usually we have an article in the Rural Urban and something on Facebook in multiple groups. Now that we have no real publicity committee or chair, this wasn't done.
- We had 94 entries last year, and this year the total was only 77.
- The Librarians did a fantastic job of promoting this within the library, reminding the patrons to enter as well as having the backpacks on display in the children's section.

What could we do better? More promotion on our part. We need to have a publicity committee and chair in place for this sort of event to be more successful. This is the biggest issue.

For 2026: Wendi used the tax-free weekend to purchase the supplies for three backpacks for the 2026 giveaway, spending \$55. The Friends can contribute to the cost of those and eventually the backpacks for next year.

D. Author Event

- The gym of the Village Building has been reserved for July 24 and 25, 2026.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Logo: After some discussion, it was decided that no changes would be made to our logo at this time.
- B. National Night Out: The Village of LaGrange cancelled this because of the Founding Celebration.
- C. Christmas in the Village: No date announced yet. The library will participate with this event.
- D. Library Flower Beds: The flower beds look like they could use some mulch and extra care. Discussion followed about what the Friends may be able to do to help. Jen Starkey shared that the EPLS has plans to address the landscaping at all library branches next year. It was decided to wait for EPLS, since plans are in place.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Kathy Burrer motioned to adjourn the meeting. Kevin Collins seconded the motion.

Vote on the motion: Unanimous Approval.

Wendi Zwaduk, President, adjourned the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Sherry Marang, Secretary.