

Friends of Delaware Libraries Board Meeting Minutes

February 9, 2026 (via Zoom) – *Approved 3/13/2026*

Meeting overview

Present: *Vivian Erickson, Tiffany Lydon, Marlene Biddinger, Kay Bowes, Mary Chute, Skip Dye, Sue Gooden, Theo Loppatto*

The February 2026 FoDL Board meeting focused on:

- Documentation of monthly meeting discussions
- Timing of Membership drive and dues increases
- Strategies for utilizing remaining brochures and planning and design for new brochure
- Topics for upcoming county meeting(s)
- Schedule for upcoming meetings
- Format and scope of regular newsletter or update

Summary

Secretary's Report

The group approved the December and January meeting minutes. December motion made by Sue Gooden and seconded by Theo Loppatto. January motion made by Theo Loppatto and seconded by Kay Bowes.

The group discussed maintaining a separate to-do list and a “parking lot” for tracking action items and future areas of interest. The possibility of implementing a rolling agenda system was suggested. Some (or all) of these items could be included on the agenda but not the minutes.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's report was presented and approved with an ending balance correction.

The group addressed the need to track the donation of in-kind hours of work contributed.

The donor letter was agreed upon.

It was agreed that donor information including amounts would be retained internally but without public disclosure.

Old Business

- New membership rates were approved.

- Friends of DE Libraries brochure was discussed. The approximately 150 remaining brochures may be updated via stickers/labels. There will be a subcommittee to review and update content for the next iteration. Ideas should be submitted to the subcommittee.
- Planning for the 2026 County Friends Meetings. First up will be Sussex County. Tentative topic will be working in collaboration – with libraries and with other Friends groups. The group already has a tentative speaker in mind. Working with the proposed speaker the group will determine precise topic, date, and location. The plan would be to encourage small group breakout sessions that could be focused on pre-created guiding questions but also could be driven by real-life initiatives.
- Establishment of a quarterly “Newsletter”/“ Update”. The group decided to pilot a quarterly message. They agreed to start with a simple one-page update focusing on upcoming events and membership information, with plans to post it on their website, Facebook page, and email listserv. As they move forward, they will investigate identifying an FoDL Board member, an FoDL member, or a volunteer who might take on responsibility for initial formatting, and distribution list development.

New Business

- FODL Google Drive – The link will be resent. Members should acknowledge if they are able or not able to access.
- EveryLibrary pilot fundraising program – no new input.
- FoDL article for DLA Bulletin was successfully submitted
- Kudos to all!!

Strategic Plan

- To what do we continue to dedicate our efforts? As the “Strategic Plan” is planned to be a standing item on the agenda, the group wants to assure our efforts advance its goals. During the course of this meeting the agenda topics demonstrated that FoDL is striving to advance two key themes from the plan – promoting collaboration (as exemplified in the planning of the Sussex County meeting) and furthering marketing and public relations (by establishing a regular means of updating and promoting FoDL activities in a quarterly update).

Upcoming Meetings

- There was some discussion regarding adjusting the scheduling of regular FoDL Board meetings. For the time being the 2nd Monday of each month at 1 PM will be retained as the regular convening time as it currently best suits the majority of members.
- However, due to the full day Library Legislative Day activities in Dover on Thursday, March 12, the next FoDL Board meeting will be rescheduled from March 9 to March 16th at 1 PM.

- The Sussex County Friends Groups meeting is planned for late April.