

Annual Members' Meeting Information Letter

As required by the Susquehanna County Historical Society and Free Library Association's Articles of Incorporation, an annual members' meeting will be held on January 17, 2026. The meeting will begin at 1:00 pm in the Montrose Branch Community Room for the purpose of providing an annual overview of the financial status of the Association, sharing highlights from 2025, and to cast votes for each of this year's candidates for the Board of Trustees, in accordance with the well-established annual procedure.

The 2025 Fund Drive is still underway and will close on December 31, 2025. Members of the community interested in attending the January 17, 2026 Members' meeting and participating in the election of Trustees for 2026 must make a contribution to the Library or the Historical Society by December 31, 2025. Simply stop at your local branch to drop off your tax-deductible contribution and complete a pink 2025 Support Drive form or click the Donate button on the Association website: www.susqcolibrary.org.

The following candidates were named to the Board of Trustees within the last year to fill vacancies and are consequently listed on the ballot:

Aaron Boyce, Esq.: Member at Large. Aaron Boyce is a Vice President of enterprise technology risk for Morgan Stanley Law Firm with 10 years of experience in the financial services industry. After acquiring a Bachelors in Economics from NYU and a Juris Doctor from Brooklyn Law School, Aaron became a member of the New York State Bar and joined JP Morgan Chase.

Aaron possesses a broad skillset that benefits the Association and as a Union Dale resident, is particularly passionate about supporting the Forest City branch library.

Steve Hinds: Treasurer. Steve is a lifelong Montrose resident and has 40 years of experience as a local business co-owner, helping Hinds Energy grow into a successful family-owned business. He has a BA in Business Administration and has extensive working knowledge, not only with finance and budgeting, but all aspects of management including advertising, human resources, benefits and more. As Treasurer, Steve has spent countless hours working to provide practical advice and financial stability to the Association.

Ginny Lewis: Historical Society Representative. Ginny is a lifelong resident of Susquehanna County and is an experienced counselor with over a decade of experience as a Crisis Counselor in the Elk Lake School District. She earned a BA in Psychology and Sociology from Wilkes University and has a Home and School Visitor certificate from Marywood University. Her experience in education, background in counseling and love of history have proven to be an asset to the current Board. The Historical Society is her 'happy place' and Ginny is very involved there as well as elsewhere in the community. She currently works for The Community Foundation.

Margot Parsons: Susquehanna Representative. Margot is a life-long advocate for children with 27 years of experience as a Special Education teacher and over a decade as a public school administrator focusing on Special Education. Margot also has a Masters in Literacy and is pursuing her doctorate at Binghamton University. She is an obvious lover of learning and her experience in education, particularly her background in special education and leadership give her a valued and worthwhile perspective that makes the Board better.

Eric Powers: Member at Large. Eric brings over 25 years of experience in public education, teaching English, Social Studies, Psychology and serving as a high school administrator. He combines a love of

literature and history with a background in management, including hands-on experience with budget, policy, human resources and community relations. Eric is as passionate about our community as he is about education, and wants to see our libraries, the Historical Society and county thrive as a whole. He is currently employed by Bridgewater Church.

In addition to sharing a commitment to helping the Susquehanna County Historical Society and Free Library Association regain its footing and find stability, these candidates are all proud parents (and most are grandparents)! They recognize the importance of family and community, and are all service-oriented - volunteering for a variety of organizations beyond this association. Their work with children, experience with finance, law, policy, grant-writing, public relations, human resources and more, have benefited the Association in 2025. They would appreciate your support as they look forward to serving the Association again in 2026 and partnering with the other Trustees, valued employees, Association members and other amazing volunteers!

Several of the Association's 2025 accomplishments:

- First year since 2020 that the Association's income was higher than its expenses. The Auditors communicated to the Board of Trustees in 2024 that within 2-3 years the Association would not have the funds to continue. The 2025 independent auditor's report was extremely positive and encouraging.
- Net gain of over \$100,000 in our endowments in 2025 (compared to a \$990,000 reduction of assets over the prior eight years).
- Record-setting profit for the Blueberry Festival! A sincere thank you to all of the sponsors and volunteers, a special thank you extended to Steve Spero for his leadership in this event.
- Restored parental rights to have full access to their minor children's library records with an updated library card policy.
- Expanded fundraising efforts including a Love Your Library auction, Christmas in Montrose food tent, participation in NEPAGives and more, earning over \$12,000.
- Updated the library phone system (while reducing expenses) and purchased new computers for patrons.
- Improved the Historical Society and Library's organizational/leadership structure to promote efficiency and maximize current staff's skills and abilities.
- Promoted historic sites in Susquehanna County as well as many special programs at both the Historical Society and the library that were informative and enjoyable.
- Maintained a high level of programming and customer service while decreasing overall expenses

Please mark your calendars for January 17, 2026 at 1:00 at the Montrose Library to come out and vote. There will be light refreshments as well as an overview and opportunity to celebrate the Association's 2025 accomplishments.

The current Board of Trustees vision is:

1. To promote a neutral environment that is a welcoming resource for everyone and a platform for no one.
2. To continue to forge a path of financial improvement and stability while maintaining a commitment to build back the endowment funds.
3. To increase the compensation of our dedicated staff to competitive levels.