



FLLS 65th Annual Meeting

You're invited! Join us in-person on Friday, October 13 from 10am-1pm at the [Hilton Garden Inn in Auburn](#) for our 65th Annual Meeting. (Please note there will not be a hybrid option.) We'll start with a quick business meeting, followed by remarks by FLLS Board President Marty Toombs. We'll be voting on a simple bylaw change followed by voting in new trustees. (See article below.)

Our guest speaker, [Darcy Lipp-Acord](#) will be presenting, *Librarians Under Scrutiny: Steps to Staff Empowerment* where she'll:

- Identify common strategies used by book-challenging groups
- Discuss strategies for front-facing staff in responding to potentially abusive behaviors in patron interactions
- Explore administrative strategies and policies being employed by book-challenging groups and discuss ways to protect staff

Darcy has been the Youth Services Librarian at Campbell County Public Library System in Gillette, WY, since 2016. For the last two years, she and her staff have been dealing with a well-organized community effort to censor books and discredit the library and library staff.

Attendance at our Annual meeting is a great networking opportunity and fulfills the [Trustee Education requirement](#). We hope you'll join us.

2024 FLLS Board of Trustees Nominations Sought

There are four open seats on the FLLS Board of Trustees to be voted on at the FLLS Annual Meeting on October 13th:

- **Cortland County** – 2 representatives to fill in the remaining two years of two five-year terms
- **Tioga County** – 1 representative for a five year term.
- **Tompkins County** – 1 representative for a five year term.

Nominees must reside in the county they will be representing. Nominees do not need to be a trustee on a library board. Nominations of individuals with diverse personal and professional backgrounds are welcome and encouraged. Self-nominations are also welcome.

Interested persons can request a nomination form from Sarah Glogowski, FLLS Executive Director. Please submit by email to sglogowski@flls.org by Friday, September 8, 2023.

Board Calendar

Planning for a Library Construction Project Webinar

Tuesday, September 12 from 2:00–3:30pm. [Registration is now open](#)

Trustee Handbook Book Club:

- **Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Access & Justice**

Tuesday, October 17, 2023 | 5:00–6:30pm [REGISTER](#)

- **Financing & Managing Construction Projects**

Tuesday, December 19, 2023 | 5:00–6:30pm [REGISTER](#)

Board Best Practices: Executive Session

[Open Meetings Law](#) is rooted in the principle that "the public has the right to attend meetings of public bodies, listen to debate and watch the decision-making process." Accordingly, all libraries-association and public-must follow Open Meetings Law. However, there are times when your board has business that is best done in executive session.

What is executive session and who can attend?

Executive session (ES) is a portion of an open meeting that is **closed** to the public. ES is not held prior to or separate from the open meeting. All board members, library director, your lawyer, and FLLS staff can be present during an ES.

When can a board enter executive session?

There are limited reasons for a board to go into executive session:

- The medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person

- Discussions regarding proposed, pending or current litigation
- Collective bargaining (TCPL and FLLS)
- Acquisition, sale or lease of property

How do we enter executive session?

During the open portion of the meeting, a motion must be made and voted upon. ES should be placed on the agenda if it is anticipated.

The motion must be specific. Be sure to identify the subject(s) to reflect to the public that you are entered ES for a proper reason. Simply stating "personnel matters" is too generic. You need to be more precise.

For example, state that it's for the promotion, reviewing applications for the director, disciplinary issues. You do not need to identify the person.

Do we have to keep minutes?

If the board only has a discussion in executive session, no minutes are required. If formal action is taken and a vote occurs, minutes must be taken and published within one week.

Board Recruitment

Since we'll be voting in new board members at the Annual Meeting in October, it seemed like the perfect time for a word about board recruitment. A healthy board is key to a strong, sustainable organization. However, finding board members can be challenging for many libraries. Planning for board recruitment ensures a seamless process for finding and selecting new members as other members term out or leave.

While your [library type](#) will determine some procedures, here are a few general considerations:

- What are your board's strengths and challenges?
- Are there skillsets or diverse views that your board could benefit from?
- What community connections would be beneficial to your board?

A board analysis can help answer these questions.

Remember, developing a board is more than just filling seats; it's about finding people who can carry out your library's mission and vision.

Further Food For Thought:

- Is the culture of your board welcoming to potential members?
- Does your board reflect the community your library serves?
- How are new members oriented to the workings of the board and library?

Resource:

[BoardSource Board Recruitment](#)



FLLS building in Ithaca circa early 1960s.