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## **In Transition and Needing You**

As is usual generally for Boards at the first official meeting of a new year, the Murrysville Community Library Foundation (MCLF) Board transitioned into 2024 by electing new officers and reaffirmed purpose and commitment at its January 25<sup>th</sup> meeting. This Board meets monthly, except, typically, in December. A slate of 2024 officers was put forward by the Governance Committee and approved unanimously by all seven Directors.

The slate is changed from that of 2023 in two important ways. First, Connie Cauvel, who had been President since 2008, and under whose leadership so much good has been done (see archive #131 at <https://www.murrysvillelibrary.org>), has orchestrated a freshening such that George App is the new President. He thereby vacates the position of Treasurer, to which he brought so much professional discipline as an accounting professional. His role as Treasurer has been assumed by Charles Greenberg, who brings the will and other Library Board Treasurer experiences without accounting experience otherwise. He'll do his best, with George's guidance.

The slate of five 2024 officers is as follows, with Connie in a newly created official position for which she has so much passion and expertise:

George App, President  
Linda Galinski, Vice President for Board Operations  
Connie Cauvel, Vice President for Donor Development  
Charles Greenberg, Treasurer  
Susan Greenberg, Secretary  
At-large Directors: Jennifer Price and Deb Wohlin

This Board has two main challenges ahead. The first has to do with populating the Board itself with fresh ideas, new skills, and challenging perspectives. To do simply that is a problem that many non-profit Boards seem to have in this modern world of busy people. MCLF Bylaws call for the Board to be composed of a "minimum of seven (7) and a maximum of fifteen (15) members." Presently there are just the seven, the minimum, with one or two applications from others in the pipeline. So, if you believe as Andrew Carnegie did that "A library outranks any other one thing a community can do to benefit its people," then you are our applicant.

And if you hesitate because you think that the Internet has come to displace the value and purpose of Library, let us convince you otherwise. Libraries have even more place in this electronic world than ever they did.

If you choose to apply, come prepared to help us build endowment especially. That is the second main challenge, about which I wrote last week. Suffice it to say here that endowment is the cushion against the vicissitudes of funding from a tax base.

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Once again that was evident with the 2023-24 state budget, which, first of all, was only approved in December, months late. The budget year for state funding is supposed to go from July 1 of one year to June 30 of the next. Besides that, the Public Library Subsidy is unchanged from the previous cycle, which has often been the case, no matter the level of inflation.

So, the MCLF Board has endowment-building to do over the next several years, and you might like being a part of that kind of non-profit enterprise. All applications go to our Governance Committee ([foundation@murrysvillelibrary.org](mailto:foundation@murrysvillelibrary.org)). Consider applying to become part of our transition team.

Charles B. Greenberg  
Board Director, Murrysville Community Library Foundation