

To: Media

From: Rosemary Probasco, Friends of Tiverton Libraries

Re: Friends of Tiverton Libraries Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony

Date: March 2, 2015

PRESS RELEASE

At the 2015 Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony of the Friends of Tiverton Libraries held at Tiverton Town Hall on February 25, the Friends board elected Debra Darkow and Kathy Gallagher, both of Tiverton, as co-presidents replacing outgoing President Kathy Ryan who served on the board for over 10 years. Wenonah Clarke-Smith of Tiverton was elected vice-president. The ceremony included the presentation by Rhode Island legislators Walter Felag and Jay Edwards of an honorary proclamation to Ryan along with a gift of a flag that had been flown over the State House.

The Friends presented several Golden Sneaker Awards for ‘going the extra mile’ for the Tiverton libraries in 2014. Phil Schuyler received the Friends member award for his help with the Annual Booksale ETC and for his involvement in several library groups, including service as Trustee, Foundation President, and Building Committee Chair. He walked over 20 sites before recommending the Bliss Corners location at Tiverton’s geographic center.

The library staff award went to Pam Poli, another book sale volunteer. Without a work space, Poli graciously provided quick and responsive services to the Friends, particularly with online communications. Nick Souza received the teen award for his two-year commitment serving as Friends Archivist which involved organizing and indexing files and boxes of valuable historical records related to the Friends work with the new library.

Business partner awards were presented for donating the work space at the former Liss location at Bliss Four Corners used by the Friends for sorting books. The late George Brenner of Brenner Realty of Fall River received a posthumous award for generously providing site access. Brenner worked with former owner Manny Costa who approved the donation. The current owner, Kenneth Mongeon, has continued that support. Both Costa and Mongeon received Silver Sneaker Awards for support from local businesses.

Community awards were presented to Rhode Island State Representative Jay Edwards and to State Senator Walter Felag. Edwards has been a library supporter since the beginning of his tenure on the Tiverton Town Council in 2006. After the library’s losses related to the 2010 flood, Edwards secured a grant to help replace materials. Felag has obtained a legislative grant for the library each year in office. His grants provided staffing in connection with hosting summer reading programs which, due to space constraints, were held at schools and at the Knights of Columbus.

At the close of the meeting, the Friends held a raffle drawing for a Kindle Fire HD in which all new and renewed members for the calendar year 2014 were automatically entered. Friends member Kay Hughes won the Kindle.

The Friends of Tiverton Libraries is a 501-C3 non-profit association whose purpose is to expand and promote library services. The Friends meet on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, 7:00 pm, at the Essex Library at 238 Highland Road. New Friends are welcome. For membership information or to volunteer, see <http://www.tivertonlibrary.org/friends/join-the-friends>.