

**Crown Council Report
April 2016
Gustavus Library Associates**

Although our focus remains steadfast: “learning, literature, and the Folke Bernadotte Memorial Library”, 2015-16 has been a year of change for GLA.

1. Our long-time Executive Director, Dean Wahlund, retired, and we are now working with the capable and lovely, Dana Lamb.
2. We have a new Advancement liaison, Bill Kuehn, and it’s great working with him.
3. We have tried moving board meeting times and locations around, so that more of our board members are able to attend. We are seeing an increase in meeting attendance.
4. Our NAB was disbanded this year, due to the fact that we are an event-focused fundraising group.
5. We have a team re-evaluating our method of communication with our at-large members. Do we keep our long-standing *Ex Libris* newsletter, which gets mailed out, try a monthly Blog, or do something else entirely?
6. Our annual Books in Bloom became a biennial event, with the off years becoming a “Bloom where you are planted non-event”. We sent a mailing with a request for donations to the library endowment.

State of affairs:

1. Our other fundraisers and friend-raisers, Festival of St. Lucia, Author Day, and A Royal Affair continue to be successful. Proceeds from these events go directly to the library’s endowment fund.
2. We continue to encourage membership in the GLA, as all membership dues go directly to library acquisitions, which ultimately benefit all departments and students on campus.
3. Since we are a “working board”, we strive to recruit new Board members.
4. At the most recent A Royal Affair, we honored several ladies who “embody the spirit and values” of GLA’s original founders. The 2015 Founders’ Spirit Award went to Elaine Brostrom, Lee Jaeger, Evodia Linner, and Mignette Najarian.

Moving forward:

1. We continue to look for opportunities to grow and strengthen GLA using a strategic plan. Our main goals are to increase awareness of GLA, to enhance memberships, to support fundraising efforts, to develop events, and to strengthen our organizational structure.
2. A Royal Affair will continue biennially, and will see some exciting improvements in 2017 and beyond. We will now be a larger event, working in conjunction with Gustavus to make this an even more successful event.

Please visit our website, www.gustavus.edu/gla or check us out on Facebook.

Submitted by Lynn McGinty, GLA President