

Meeting of The Friends of the Union County Library

January 19, 2022

Friends in Attendance

Jackie Volk, President

Nancy Bryant, Secretary

Roslyn Wise

Connie Rosenberry

Judy Baldwin

Susie Brendle, Librarian

Katherine Lavery

The Meeting was called to order at 2:03 p.m. by Jackie Volk, President. She asked for any amendments to the Minutes from the November 17, 2021 Meeting. When none were presented, Motion was made by Katherine Lavery to approve the Minutes with Second by Roslyn Wise.

Treasurer's Report –

- In the absence of Sally Woodworth, Treasurer, Jackie Volk presented highlights from “Friends of Union County Library Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2021, “Friends of Union County Library Profit and Loss Detail January through December 2021, and “Friends of Union County Library Profit & Loss Prev Year Comparison January through December 2021”, all of which are attached to these Minutes and made a part thereof. Details reported as to income were “Bakeless” Bake Sales donations of \$2,348.59 (total for 2021), as well as Amazon Smiles fourth quarter donation of \$58.25. Jackie added that over an approximate eight-year period, donations from Amazon Smiles to FOUCL has amounted to \$1,076.03.
- She recognized individual donations from FOUCL members - Robert Harford (shortbread cookies), Lee Cromwell (additional donation for children’s December picture books), Jane Manuszak (postage for Membership renewal letters), and Michael Ward for his generous additional contribution with his 2022 Membership renewal. Arlene Gray will be contacted to write thank you notes.
- During 2021, FOUCL donated a total of \$3,487.49 to the Union County Library. The donations were made in increments - \$1000 in February, \$1200 in April, \$500 in August, and \$300 in October. \$487.49 was contributed to the Union County Library for support of reading programs. FOUCL purchased Christmas gifts for Library staff in December.

Librarian's Report –

- Susie Brendle encouraged FOUCL members to join with patrons in taking a heart from the basket placed at the front desk in the Library on which to write the name of their favorite book. These hearts will be used to decorate library windows during the coming weeks.
- Susie reported that the Library’s attendance continues to increase and the Union County Library averaged 54% of total circulation among the four libraries within the Mountain Regional Library System during 2021.
- Betty is the newest staff member at UCPL, which makes a total of six staff.
- Susie proposed an idea for a possible funding contribution from FOUCL during the coming year. The Union County Library is working with the University of Georgia to put local newspapers dating back to the 1890s on microfilm for the Heritage Room. Funds for this project were previously largely supplied by SPLOST. Work is basically completed through 1989 editions of local newspapers. She estimates that one reel of microfilm would cover one year of newspapers, and the cost for one roll is approximately \$36.00. This gives an estimate of what it will take to complete the project through the present. SPLOST money has been reserved to purchase the microfilm reader.
- Susie presented her budget for 2022, - \$3500.00, representing FOUCL’s annual contribution to the Union County Library of \$3000 plus an additional \$500 to cover miscellaneous expenses. This support will be given to the Union County Library per the schedule and amounts adhered to in 2021. The annual contribution amount for the year 2022 of \$3500 was unanimously approved by FOUCL members present.

Committees

- Welcome – Katherine Lavery reported no new members during the month of December, 2021.

- Newsletter - Connie Rosenberry requested the Librarian's Report, as well as any photos taken of FOUCL activities, for the upcoming Newsletter by the end of January.
- Webmaster – In the absence of Robert Harford, Jackie Volk presented his graphic report and noted that the month of December, 2021 showed the highest number of visits to the website during 2021. Discussion followed as to the possibility of placing part of this graphic in the Newsletter. Connie Rosenberry will add it, clearly captioned.

Old Business

- The 2022 Officer Installation is complete, but Jackie noted a continuing vacancy for Vice President.
- Jackie reported that picture books were distributed to Union County Public Library families during December 2021 with help from the Cromwell donation previously mentioned.
- Union County Public Library staff received FOUCL provided Christmas gifts during December, and Jackie shared thank you notes received from staff.
- Jackie thanked FOUCL members who worked to get out membership renewal letters during the first week in January 2022. These members included Nancy Bryant, Katherine Lavery, Barbara Rivera, Jackie Volk, Tom Volk, and Sally Woodworth.
- Discussion followed on efforts to get additional name recognition and publicity for FOUCL throughout the community during 2022. Suggestions and things currently being done include signs posted on the Friends workroom door with announcements of upcoming FOUCL activities, and possible encouragement of FOUCL members and patrons to write notes of appreciation to Library staff. Yard signs, previously discussed, are expensive and were deemed to have less exposure for publicizing FOUCL due to the many members living where yards are somewhat isolated, off main roads. A suggestion was posed as to providing buttons to current members and given to new members with slogans such as "I Love Libraries" or "I'm a Member" with the owl logo. Jackie would provide the equipment to make the buttons.
- The FOUCL brochures have been updated with special thanks going to Connie Rosenberry, Judy Baldwin, and Sally Woodworth for their work on these. They are available outside the Friend's room, and Susie reported that she gives out 40-50 brochures per month to new patrons. Suggestions included putting these at the Union County Chamber offices and possibly putting on the FOUCL website. A calendar of FOUCL events with photographs is in the Library lobby. Suggestion was made to put a page of photos over the area where the FOUCL newsletters are available near the FOUCL workroom.
- Jackie Volk will be presenting information about FOUCL to a Circle at First Methodist Church in Blairsville on March 2.

New Business

- Dr. Seuss' Birthday is March 2, with Storytime participants celebrating on February 28. Jackie presented summaries of four Dr. Seuss books, *Dr. Seuss Book of Colors*, *Horton Hears a Who*, *The Foot Book*, and *Mr. Brown Can Moo*. Discussion followed concerning purchase of 25 of one of these titles to be presented to Storytime participants and Library families using the library. After discussion, it was suggested that the Dr. Seuss book, *Horton Hears a Who*, (approximate cost: \$9.79 each) would be most appropriate for reading with a parent for the Story time group as well as for the school age children who come into the library with their families during that week. Judy Baldwin made a Motion to purchase 25 copies of the book, and Connie Rosenberry provided a Second.
- Recognition of National Library Workers' Day will take place on Tuesday, April 12, 2022. FOUCL members were presented with options for gifts for Union County Library staff. These included mugs, cosmetics bag and mirror, and various gift baskets with popcorn, fruit, nuts, and chocolates (possibly for a group gift). Connie Rosenberry made a Motion to purchase six mugs (cost: \$23.45 each) as individual gifts and one group gift of a "Harry and David" gift basket (cost: \$54.99). Judy Baldwin seconded the Motion.
- A May Bake Sale is planned. Traditionally this Sale has taken place on the Friday prior to Mother's Day which this year would be May 6 (10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.) with drop off to take place on May 5 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00

p.m. Sally Woodworth has agreed to Co-chair this event, but a volunteer is needed to assist her. Roslyn Wise volunteered to help as the other Co-chair.

- A possible "Travel Tips" Program would feature a panel discussion in the Library Community Room by individuals traveling by different modes of transportation. Suggested dates are June 1 at 1:00 pm or June 2 at 4:00 pm. Alternate dates that could be considered would be July 1st or 2nd as well as early as March. March may be problematic due to Covid numbers which are currently on the rise in Union County. This subject will be revisited and discussed at the next FOUCL meeting.
- Daughters of the American Revolution will be presenting an Orientation in the Library Community Room on January 22.
- A Blairsville restaurant group provided coupons for Members present.

After no other business was presented, this Meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m. The next meeting of Friends of the Union County Library will take place April 20 at 2:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Nancy Bryant, Secretary