

Virtual Meeting of the Friends of the Union County Library, Conducted Via Facebook Messenger

July 15, 2020

Friends in Attendance

Jackie Volk, President	Katherine Lavery	Robert Harford	Joan Dorogi
Nancy Bryant, Secretary	Connie Rosenberry	Judy Baldwin	Debra Davis
Sally Woodworth, Treasurer	Roslyn Wise	Susie Brendle, Librarian	

The meeting was called to order at 2:04 p.m. by Jackie Volk, President.

Special Guest, Heath Lee, Mountain Regional Library System Director, was welcomed.

Minutes from the January 15, 2020 meeting were approved as written with Motion by Connie Rosenberry and second by Robert Harford.

Treasurer's Report – Sally Woodworth reported that for the first six months of 2020, FOUCL had \$6,403 in income, primarily from membership dues and the *Bakeless* Bake Sale fundraiser. \$108 was received from the Amazon Smiles program. Expenditures were \$3,542, which included money given to the library staff from money donated to the Bakeless Bake Sale. Current expenses include \$360 to be given to the Ferst Foundation (which FOUCL previously elected to donate to annually), Post Office Box yearly rental of \$114, and an amount to the library, to be determined. Income is running ahead of last year, primarily due to the tremendous response to the *Bakeless* Bake Sale.

Librarian's Report –

- Susie Brendle began her report by thanking FOUCL for the generous gift on behalf of the staff during National Library Week and Library Workers Day in April.
- She reported Summer Reading is a virtual program this year. "Bean Stack" allows the participants to set up accounts on the Library portal to record books or time read. The deadline for the final tally will be Friday, July 17. FOUCL provided prizes for all participants which were party packs consisting of a book, bookmark, and other gifts. The Grand Prize winner will receive a kid friendly Android tablet- Contixo V8-2, and 8 mini golf games and 8 ice cream cones will be raffled off among participants completing their reading goals. Jackie Volk added that she and Sally Woodworth met with Susie about supporting the Summer Reading Program as FOUCL usually does each year. Discussion about this would have happened at the scheduled April meeting of FOUCL.
- Question and Answer Session with Heath Lee – Mr. Lee reported on the shorter hours now in place at the all branches of the Library due to the COVID pandemic. These hours are posted on the MRL website. They have no plans at this time to come out of this limited service model until the COVID data trends downward. Initial service was started as "curbside". Limitations in place include, limited stays within the branches, social distancing, extra cleaning for computers (of which some have been deactivated), and limited occupancy in the library. The Library follows current CDC and EOP guidelines. There are no mask requirements for patrons. The State does not allow "requiring" masks. However, the staff wear masks and gloves, and there is a three day "quarantine" hold back in on returned books. Limitation on people in the Branch at one time is 50 people, including staff. The question was raised if any patrons had been turned away? Answer: No one has been turned away. Question was raised about setting up reserves for using computers. Mr. Lee indicated that computers are isolated in a room, and they have seen significant decreases in "in library" computer usage during the COVID pandemic.

Committee Reports

- Newsletter – Connie Rosenberry hopes to include an article about FOUCL assistance with Summer Reading, a thank you to everyone for their support of the *Bakeless* Bake Sale, an article about the Bakeless Bake Sale and the FOUCL support of National Library Workers Day and Week,. Connie suggested a graphic about the usage of

the FOUCL webpage, as Amazon Smiles and Book Pages. A suggestion was made to include an interview with Mr. Lee, and he agreed to respond to an email with questions. The abbreviated newsletter is planned for August.

- Webmaster – Robert Harford provided a graphic illustrating Webpage usage January-July, 2020. He reported the lowest number of unique visitors (324 in February, 2020) superseded the highest month recorded during 2019 (187 visitors). He has added the new Amazon Smiles information to the website. Sally Woodworth asked Heath Lee if outdated information about FOUCL could be removed from the MRLS website with perhaps a reference to the FOUCL webpage. Mr. Lee said he would update the FOUCL information on the MRLS website. Robert Harford reported that he hasn't added any recent information to the Memorial Page.
- May *Bakeless* Bake Sale – Sally Woodworth reported receiving approximately \$300 in donations after the initial amount received was given to the staff. So, a total of over \$3000 was received, and all donations have been passed on the staff. Mr. Lee added that gift cards in nominal amounts given to staff are considered cash and should be reported as income. Checks are trackable as income.
- Welcome – Katherine Lavery reported a total of ten new members since January, each of whom has been contacted by either phone call or card by Katherine or Joan Dorogi. Sally Woodworth reported that FOUCL currently has 120 Members, down from 148 for 2019.
- Little Free Library/Book Swap – Connie Rosenberry stated that current quarantine restrictions have prevented her and Judy Baldwin from stocking the boxes.
- 3rd Everything Christmas Sale – Jackie Volk suggests canceling this event for 2020. She has donations stored in her home, which she will provide for the Sale in 2021.

Old Business

- Presentation of books to children at Dr. Seuss' Birthday Storytime on February 24 was facilitated by Robert and Helen Harford, Connie Rosenberry, and Jayne Sentell. "Cat in the Hat" made an appearance, and photos were made by Robert Harford. Robert plans to put some photos up on the FOUCL website.
- Susie Brendle stated that 16 children attended a curbside "Face Painting" in connection with Summer Reading. Storytimes are online, and craft videos are available on the Library website with printouts with directions. 25 craft bags with necessary materials are available at the Library each week.
- Cancellations of planned events include Movie at the Library, March 18, Quarterly Membership Meeting, April 15, Adult Winter Reading Challenge ending April 24 with a Community Read Event, May Quarterly Newsletter, World Traveler's Panel, June 17.
- Substitutions: Recognition of National Library Workers' Day, April 14, and Bake Sale, May 8, were combined with *Bakeless* Bake Sale funds raised given to the staff in May. Potluck Picnic, July 15, became an online meeting.

New Business

- Expected Future Cancellations: Prose and Poetry Reading, September 16, National Friends of Libraries Week Event, October 18-24, 3rd Annual "Everything Christmas" Sale, November 6-7, Bake Sale, November 24, December Christmas Party.
 - Doris Tilly is the Recipient of Friends of Georgia Libraries "Best Friend" Award, scheduled to be presented October 2 in Athens but may become an online presentation. FOUCL will be sending a letter of congratulations. Should the presentation become "in person" Jackie hopes some FOUCL members can attend. Doris was a founding member and first president of FOLTC, and Jackie Volk shared notable accomplishments during her association with FOLTC. Doris Tilly is now a Blairsville resident and a member of FOUCL. Connie Rosenberry suggested that past local honorees possibly be included on the webpage on an "Awards Page".
 - Feedback on the virtual meeting format was generally positive. Next meeting is October 21 at 2:00 pm. All members are invited to participate online. The meeting room at the library is in use as a quarantine area for returned books. One option for a meeting place would be a Park Pavilion, but hearing is problem for some.
- This Virtual Meeting was adjourned at 3:08 pm. Minutes submitted by Nancy Bryant, Secretary**

