

Virtual Meeting of the Friends of the Union County Library, Conducted via Facebook Messenger, October 21, 2020

<u>Friends in Attendance</u>	Jackie Volk, President	Nancy Bryant, Secretary	Robert Harford
Sally Woodworth, Treasurer	Katherine Lavery	Connie Rosenberry	Debra Davis

The meeting was called to order at 2:02 pm by Jackie Volk, President.

Minutes from the July 15, 2020 Meeting were approved as changed with Motion by Robert Harford and second by Connie Rosenberry. Change to be in Minutes of current meeting. Change in *Committee Reports Little Free Library/Book Swap* from “stocking the boxes” to “project didn’t move forward due to Covid.”

Treasurer’s Report

- Sally Woodworth emphasized that income does not reflect the \$20,000 in CDs which is for future use when the new library is constructed. FOUCL contributed over \$30,000 needed during the previous library renovation.
- A donation of \$1000 was received from Peach State Federated Credit Union with another \$1500 to be contributed over the next three years. Sally noted that without SPLOST money this donation may need to be used to fill in for future budget gaps after Susie Brendle presents her 2021 Budget in November.
- FOUCL currently has a net income that is up over \$2,000. Membership dues income is slightly down, and it may continue to be over the next year. Jackie Volk added that FOUCL received Amazon Smiles for the Quarter, and FOUCL gave the usual annual donation of \$360 to FERST Readers. FOUCL also bought prizes for Mountain Regional Library System Staff Development Day.

Librarian’s Report – In the absence of Susie Brendle, the Report was read by Jackie Volk President.

- Library attendance and circulation are increasing each month. We’re only about 25% less this year than last year even though we’re open 12.5 hours less each week. UCPL is currently doing at least 50% of Mountain Regional Library System’s circulation for our 4 library system.
- We began hosting weekly virtual storytimes on Facebook Live on August 17th. We also provide craft kits each week to go along with the storytime that young readers can pick up outside the Youth Room.
- We switched from RBDigital to Overdrive Libby on October 1st. After a few minor glitches, it appears to be working great. We have pamphlets at the Circulation Desk that help explain how to create an account if needed. Staff have also been fielding many questions about this eBook and eAudiobook service.

Committee Reports

- Welcome Committee – Katherine Lavery reported no new memberships since the last meeting. Comment was made by Connie Rosenberry and Sally Woodworth added that new memberships are usually sporadic after the Annual Membership Drive at the first of every year. Jackie Volk stated that, historically, new memberships are added during fundraisers which FOUCL has been unable to do right now. An article is coming out in the local paper which will serve to further publicize FOUCL. The website is also available.
- Newsletter – Connie Rosenberry noted that while it was predicted in the July 15th Meeting that the Newsletter would be “abbreviated”, she ended up with a full six pages even without the two pages normally used for current information. She printed out all six pages, and thirty to forty copies were distributed. A November Newsletter is planned, and you may submit articles to her through email at granberry2@hotmail.com. She thanked Jackie Volk for her contributions.
- Webmaster – Robert Harford presented a graphic with statistics from the 3rd quarter of 2020. It showed that while September, 2020 did not show the highest number of unique visitors, it did show September, 2020 had the highest number of visits (722) and highest number of pages viewed (1,588) for the year. August, 2020 was low in both number of visits and pages viewed. He has added a new item for “Awards” and has supplied information about Doris Tilly receiving the Best Friend Award from Friends of Georgia Libraries. He has not gotten the information for adding Lamar Paris to the Awards section of the Website. (After Meeting Note from

J. Volk: Lamar Paris provided a photo of his Charles Beard Library Advocacy Award and this, along with Lamar's photo, are now included on our website.) It was suggested that the local Fabulous Friends plaque could be hung in the Library outside the FOUCL room with a picture put on the Awards page of the website, along with perhaps an article written by Arlene Gray, a previous winner, about the Award. (After Meeting Correction and Note from J. Volk: The Best Friends plaque does hang outside the FOUCL room. The nominating letter from Donna Howell - then Director of Mountain Regional Library - was located in FOUCL's files, and a photo of the plaque and reproduction of the letter are now on our website.)

- Nominating Committee – Debra Davis presented the slate of nominations for 2021 officers as follows: President - Jackie Volk; Vice President – Vacant; Secretary - Nancy Bryant; Treasurer – Sally Woodworth. Motion was made by Connie Rosenberry to accept the slate of 2021 officers with second by Katherine Lavery. The vote for the 2021 officers will take place at the November 18 meeting.

Old Business

- National Friends of Libraries Week October 18-24, 2020
- Working together with the Friends' groups in Towns and Fannin Counties, FOUCL gave a donation of prizes for Mountain Regional Library Staff Development Day on September 30, 2020. There were nine prizes, one for each staff member. 2 owl face masks, 3 packages of notecards by local artist Helen Sturgeon, 2 bookshelf mugs with Cabin Coffee Breakfast Coffee and tea bags from Robert, 1 storybook jigsaw puzzle, and 1 apron donated by Sunflowers on the Square.
- The Doris Tilly Best Friend Statewide Award from Friends of Georgia Libraries was planned as virtual, but Jackie Volk understands that the Award was presented to her in Blairsville in person. (After Meeting Note from J. Volk: Doris Tilly was nominated by The Friends of Towns County Libraries, and the award was presented in Young Harris, GA in the Fellowship Hall at Sharp Memorial United Methodist Church on October 29.)

New Business

- Jackie Volk reported on the donation commitment of \$2,500 from Peach State Federated Credit Union. An article and picture of this donation presentation was placed in the newspaper with the picture to be added to the Website. Scott Roland apologized for overlooking FOUCL in the Peach State presentation of \$500 last year to FOTCL. Thus, the initial 2020 donation of \$1000 to FOUCL represents \$500 for this year and \$500 for 2019 with \$500 per year over the next three years.
- Thanks were expressed to Connie Rosenberry for weeding the Library sculpture garden with an acknowledgement of assistance from Sally Woodworth. The Garden Club has done this in the past. Jackie Volk will check with Susie Brendle to see if additional help from members might be solicited in a future FOUCL Newsletter since the County has done some toward this in the past. It has not been determined if this is a task the County would be able to take over.
- Jackie Volk reported that FOUCL received a thank you note from FERST Readers for the Friends' annual donation.
- FOUCL membership has been renewed with the Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce. The logo/link to the Chamber is on the Website. Jackie Volk stated that the MRLS information has been updated to reflect current FOUCL information, but it has not been linked to the FOUCL website. (After Meeting Note from J. Volk: The link is in place.)
- Jane Manuszak will donate stamps for the Membership Drive. The FOUCL Membership forms, brochures, and renewal letters will be sent out in January, 2021 with less than 150 expected to be mailed. Sally Woodworth has suggested a type of relay where materials would be left in the Friends Room for volunteers to come in and complete one step in the mail out process. Sally will break it up into steps and assignments for volunteers.
- A discussion of Christmas gifts for the nine staff members of the Union County Library followed. Jackie restated that giving cash or gift cards, according to Heath Lee, is acceptable as long as the staff reports it as income. Last year's gifts were \$25 Walmart gift cards, and she further noted that the door prizes provided for staff during the Staff Development Day were apparently acceptable. She presented individual gifts to be considered - Yeti

Rambler 20 oz. Insulated Tumbler (\$35), Dalix 22" Open Top Heavy Duty Deluxe Tote Bag (\$14), Lang Holiday Mug (\$20), and a Dried Fruit Tray for all to share (\$40). Suggestions were made to present a Tervis 16 oz. tumbler (\$21) as an individual selection in lieu of the Yeti Tumbler and possibly a tray of cookies (\$16) for all to share. All individual gifts then would run around \$20 per person with a group gift of approximately \$40. Connie Rosenberry made a Motion to present this list of gifts so that the staff could select one gift each with a group gift provided. Robert Harford second.

- Thanks were expressed to Jackie Volk for her hard work on behalf of FOUCL, as well as other members who support her efforts. This Virtual Meeting was adjourned at 2:45.
- The next meeting will be November 18, 2020, online, to vote on officers for 2021. The December meeting will be social.

Minutes submitted by Nancy Bryant, Secretary