

## Meeting of the Friends of the Union County Library

October 20, 2021

Friends in Attendance Jackie Volk, President Nancy Bryant, Secretary Sally Woodworth, Treasurer  
Connie Rosenberry Katherine Lavery Roslyn Wise Susie Brendle, Librarian  
Judy Baldwin Lee Cromwell Robert Harford

The Meeting was called to order at 2:02 by Jackie Volk, President. Jackie noted that this year is the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Friends of the Union County Library, having been organized in 1996 with five founding members.

The Minutes from the July 21, 2021 Meeting were approved and accepted with Motion by Robert Harford and Second by Connie Rosenberry.

### Treasurer's Report

- Sally Woodworth referred to "Friends of Union County Library Balance Sheet As of September 30, 2021" and "Friends of Union County Library Profit and Loss Detail January through September, 2021" in making her report. These reports are attached to these Minutes and incorporated therein.
- As discussed at the July 2021 FOUCL Meeting, Sally placed funds from the UCB Savings Account into a CD. This leaves \$8,500 in the Savings Account and an additional \$10,000 in CDs with staggered maturity dates.
- Assets have increased 2.7% over the figure from September, 2020. The Profit and Loss Detail includes income from donations from Members and Membership Dues, as well as a one-time \$100 donation from Fidelity Charities from an out of state couple who designated their charitable funds to support libraries and to benefit Friends of the Library groups. A Thank You letter will be sent. A donation was also received in Memory of Steve Howell, husband of Donna Howell, a former Mountain Regional Library System Director. A notation of this gift will be made in the Newsletter. The yearly donation from Peach State Federal Credit Union of \$500 has been received, and we anticipate an equal donation each year over the next two year period. FOUCL received approximately \$60 this quarter from Amazon Smiles. A total of \$185 from Amazon Smiles has been received for the year through September 2021. Total Membership Income through September 2021 comes to \$3,727.
- Expenditures include \$148 for Post Office box rental. FOUCL has made its \$500 quarterly donation to the Library for a total of \$2,700 donated to the Library to date this year. \$487 was donated to the Library to benefit the Summer Reading Program. Net Income through September 2021 totaled \$2,930.

### Librarian's Report

- Susie Brendle announced that the successful Summer Reading Program ended on July 26. Overall, there was more attendance, registration and a higher number of books read, compared to last year. August 16 was the beginning of Storytime. Director Lee allowed Storytime to be held in the Community Room until the Covid numbers increased, but lately, Storytimes have been held outside on the back patio. Hopefully, with Covid numbers currently dropping, Storytime can resume inside the building.
- Mrs. Ann is having a pumpkin decorating contest with Preschool, Elementary, Teen and Adult categories. Prizes will be awarded in each category. FOUCL Members are encouraged to vote for their favorite submission inside the Library October 25-27<sup>th</sup> with winners announced by the end of that week. Jackie suggested that possibly the Friends group could submit an "owl" decorated pumpkin. The prizes to be awarded to a winner in each category will be Walmart gift cards.
- September was Library Card Sign Up month, an annual event by the American Library Association. This yielded 98 new members for the Union County Library and 55 renewals. Overall, new patrons increased by 104%. A

large increase was seen among Juvenile patrons with support from the Union County School System. Sixty one new Elementary students and 37 adults were signed up for a Library card. A Kindle Fire HD8 Kids Edition was awarded to a new or renewing patron through a drawing, won by a student from the Elementary School.

- Attendance at the Library during the last quarter was the busiest since March 2019. A question was raised as to whether funds are based on usage. Susie stated “yes and no” as the State does look at the numbers.
- Susie distributed a detail of books she purchased during August for \$482 using the FOUCL third quarter donation.
- The Union County Library is part of the SPLOST 5 funding and will receive \$130,000 to be paid out over a six year period.
- The Library will be closed on Veteran’s Day and Wednesday through Friday during Thanksgiving week. They will be open on Saturday following Thanksgiving.

## Committee Reports

- Welcome – Jackie reported that Katherine Lavery has had no new members in recent weeks.
- Newsletter – The Newsletter will be published the first week in November. Connie Rosenberry solicited pictures, possibly from the Pumpkin decorating contest and Storytime, as well as articles, and requested they be emailed to her at [granberry2@hotmail.com](mailto:granberry2@hotmail.com). Susie Brendle said a scarecrow was built by the children at Storytime, and that might be a good photo. She will contribute to the Newsletter, and Connie requested the submissions be given to her by October 29th.
- Webmaster - Robert Harford distributed his “Webmaster’s Report” and pointed out that while January and February 2021 had less visitors, those visitors looked at more information according to the Bandwidth numbers. The number of visitors for March-September 2021 remain fairly level. Robert also presented an interesting table displaying Webbot Hits on the FOUCL website from various countries throughout the world that are sending out Webbots. Robert stated that the Towns County Library had Amazon Smiles on the Webpage and the Links page and wondered if FOUCL would like to set up Amazon Smiles on the Links page also. The answer was “yes”. Jackie Volk thanked Robert for his many hours of work as the FOUCL Webmaster and presented him with a FOUCL ball cap.
- Nominating Committee – Judy Baldwin reported that while Committee members talked with four people concerning the Vice President position, they were unable to secure a candidate for the office. This leaves a slate of three people willing to serve again in their 2021 capacity: Jackie Volk, President, Nancy Bryant, Secretary, and Sally Woodworth, Treasurer. Judy reported Jackie’s willingness to mentor a candidate in the Vice Presidential position with that person to assume the Presidency in 2023. Connie Rosenberry made a Motion to accept this slate of officers as put forth by the Nominating Committee, with Robert Harford Second. A vote will be held during the November 2021 FOUCL Meeting. Jackie Volk thanked members of the Nominating Committee for their work, and Robert Harford spoke to the dedication of the people he has met in the FOUCL organization.

## Old Business

- Jackie Volk announced that the Everything Christmas Sale and FOUCL Christmas Luncheon were cancelled this year due to an increase in COVID cases in Union and Towns Counties during September and October. The Union General Hospital asked for help from various organizations in this regard. These decisions were made via email communication after the July FOUCL Meeting had taken place.
- Jackie next discussed the Bake Sale, scheduled for November 23, OR an option to hold a “Bakeless” Bake Sale. Members present concurred that the safest thing to do would be to cancel the Bake Sale and turn it into a “Bakeless” Bake Sale. Motion made by Robert Harford to turn the planned November Bake Sale into a Bakeless Sale with Katherine Lavery Second. Jackie will advertise the Bakeless Bake Sale proceeds to go for the special purpose of purchasing of Children’s and Juvenile books. Therefore, along with the expected 4<sup>th</sup> quarterly

donation from FOUCL to the Library during November, all Bakeless Bake Sale proceeds will go toward the purchase of children's books. Bakeless Bake Sale donations will be taken from November 1st – 30<sup>th</sup>.

- National Friends of Libraries Week is October 17-23, and an article was prepared for *The North Georgia News*. The FOUCL 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary was also carried by *The North Georgia News* and announced on the FOUCL website.

## **New Business**

- A discussion followed concerning purchase of picture books to be given to Library families during December. Mrs. Ann, Children's Librarian, and Susie Brendle recommended three titles. They are: *Dasher: How a Brave Little Doe Changed Christmas Forever* by Matt Tavares (\$9.78 per copy), *When Santa Was a Baby* by Linda Bailey (\$9.49), and *Mr. Willowby's Christmas Tree* by Robert Barry (\$7.99). "Dasher" ties in with a planned December Storytime presentation. Discussion followed based on the proposal to purchase two dozen books. The books will first be distributed to the Storytime participants (one book per family). Normal attendance is 8-10 children, including siblings. The tentative date for presentation is December 13, and some FOUCL members would like to attend. After giving the remaining books to child library patrons who come into the Library during the last week in December (one per family), Susie will process the remaining books for Library use. Connie Rosenberry made a Motion to purchase 23 "Dasher" books for distribution along with one copy of "When Santa Was a Baby" for library processing. Second by Katherine Lavery.
- Jackie Volk distributed pictures of possibilities for Library staff Christmas gifts (six people). It is Mountain Regional Library policy not to offer gift cards or cash, as those are considered taxable income per the Mountain Regional Library Director. After discussion by Members in attendance, a Motion was made by Connie Rosenberry to purchase six "Sherpa" throw blankets as Christmas gifts for the six Library employees, with second by Nancy Bryant (cost: \$39.99 each). Robert Harford made an offer to donate tins of shortbread cookies, depending on available supplies, or to provide money for six sets of "Victorian Lace" coasters (cost: \$13.86 each). Motion to this effect made by Robert Harford with Second by Judy Baldwin.
- Due to rising costs of postage, Jackie is donating 100 stamps for the Membership Drive in January. Discussion followed to use the Community Room to assemble the Membership packets. Sally Woodward discouraged the use of envelopes with tape on the flaps, and a need for postcard stamps was expressed.
- Katherine Lavery shared some ideas for yard signs she had seen given out by another "Friends" group concerning libraries, readers, and advertising the local FOUCL group. She was encouraged to bring these signs in during the brainstorming session scheduled for the November meeting.

The next Meeting of the Friends of the Union County Library for the Election of 2022 Officers will be November 17, 2021 at 2:00 PM. The Meeting will be followed by a brainstorming session. This Meeting was adjourned at 3:08 p.m.

**Minutes submitted by Nancy Bryant, Secretary**