

Friends of Union County Library (FOUCL) Quarterly Meeting Minutes – April 16, 2025

Present: Judy Baldwin, Lauren Burgreen, Marlene Cannon, Joan Dorogi, Kathy Lawrence, Debora Quigley, Connie Rosenberry, Jackie Volk, Mary Ellen Watz, Roslyn Wise, Sally Woodworth

Judy Baldwin called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

Resignation and Interim President

Membership was informed Karen Cassity submitted a resignation letter, and it has been accepted by FOUCL's Board, which met on April 14. The Board also voted to accept Judy Baldwin as Interim President. The membership was also asked to vote. A motion was made by Connie Rosenberry to accept this change in leadership, with Sally Woodworth seconding. Motion was approved.

Approval of January Meeting Minutes

Marlene Cannon noted a change to reflect the purchase of ten Tonie characters, not "boxes." Mary Ellen Watz made a motion to accept the January minutes with the change. and Kathy Lawrence seconded. Meeting Minutes were approved with change.

UCPL Librarian's Report (Marlene Cannon):

- 65 programs provided in the third quarter.
- Taylor's sourdough classes had a total of 95 patrons.
- UCPL partnered with Robert Calamari in January to learn how to spot a scam. Several requests were received to host this program again. Patrons found it helpful.
- Patrons flocked to a beginner course on how to start bird watching.
- In March, first meeting of the Fork & Flavor cookbook club was held.
- Children's programming is growing steadily with multiple storytimes, twice-a-month book clubs, and kids' clubs each Thursday.
- UCPL was at the BANFF film festival (sponsored by Georgia Appalachian Trail Club) held at Union County Fine Arts Center. Morgan and Brenna spread the word on all the great things UCPL offers.
- Marlene was invited to speak at the Rotary Club meeting this month and they had a great conversation about how they could support the library. One of Marlene's suggestions was to apply for a library card, and several members came over the following week to apply!
- Morgan and Marlene attended Adult Palooza in March. Adult Palooza is a meeting of library staff members from around the state to share ideas on developing, implementing, and promoting adult programs!
- They were surprised when they learned UCPL had more significant average attendance numbers than much bigger libraries for regular programs. Morgan presented her Hand Lettering class to about 80 attendees! Marlene was excited to learn about all the resources UCPL utilize from the extension office. Great lunch provided by Georgia Public Library Service (GPLS).
- UCPL received a wonderful donation that allowed Master Gardeners to rejuvenate a neglected median in the parking lot. They planted multiple trees and shrubs and replaced mulch. They plan to do a program in the spring and explain why reducing heat islands is so important.

Treasurer's Report (Debora Quigley):

As of March 31, 2025, FOUCL has Total Assets of \$73,854.63 and \$8,934.41 in Total Revenue. Total Expenditures were \$5,240.41 for Net Revenue of \$3,694.00.

Committees:

- Membership Committee (Roslyn Wise) – 104 total members as of 4/10/25 with 27 new in 2025. Breakdown is: 36 Friends, 23 Family of Friends, 20 Good Friends, 15 Best Friends, and 10 Lifetime. FOUCL had 155 total memberships in 2024.
- Newsletter Editor (Connie Rosenberry) – Connie is looking for photos and articles from any members who have information to share.
- Webmaster (Robert Harford) – Robert was not in attendance. It was announced that he has agreed to take over FOUCL's Facebook postings.
- Scholarship Committee (Debora Quigley) – Abigail Brown was the winner of the essay contest, judged blind by members Barbara Hale, Karen Cassity, Debora Quigley, and Mary Ellen Watz, to be the recipient of FOUCL's first \$500 scholarship to a Union County High School Senior going on to college.
- Picture Book and Staff Appreciation Day Committee (Jackie Volk) – Two dozen picture books - "Maybe: A Story about the Endless Potential in All of Us" by Kobi Hamada and illustrated by Gabriella Barouch – and a Cat in the Hat Tonie character were purchased. The books were distributed to UCPL families, and the Tonie character was donated to UCPL. Both these purchases were made for Read Across America Day (formerly Dr. Seuss Birthday) on March 2. Nine UCPL staff members were gifted on National Library Workers Day April 8 with homemade lemon bars from member Lauren Burgreen and FOUCL purchased gift cards for Ingles and a gift certificate from Blairsville Cinema. Thanks to Committee Members Catherine Dalton, Debora Quigley, and Jackie Volk.
- Brochure Committee (Jackie Volk) – The new FOUCL brochures and third-of-a-page handouts (being given with new library cards) are completed. Thanks to Judy Baldwin, Jackie Millstone, Connie Rosenberry, and Jackie Volk for working on this project, and especially to Karen Cassity, who added graphic flair and color blocks.

Old Business:

- Cancelled May Bake Sale.
- Needed for Everything Christmas Sale: 1) Co-Coordinators; 2) storage outside UCPL (members have stored at their homes in the past); and 3) Community Room must be available, which will not be known until July because room reservations can only be made three months in advance.

New Business:

- Need new FOUCL leadership. The duties of the President will be included in our next newsletter.
- Need a volunteer or volunteers willing to "become" Owliver.
- Requested volunteers for registration day of Summer Reading (Monday. June 2). Purchasing and handing out free popsicles that day and having an information table for new memberships.

- Looking for volunteers to bake and sell cookies, Rice Krispie treats, and brownies during the Summer Reading Program on Monday, June 9. Donations requested with \$1 per item being suggested.
- Solicited a raffle item or items from any members willing to donate. Time of raffle to be determined.
- Request came to FOUCL through Union County Master Gardeners from an anonymous donor who wanted to give to a nonprofit to plant trees and do some landscaping adjacent to the UCPL parking lot on County property. The planting and mulching have been completed. FOUCL will purchase a plaque honoring three individuals from the money given to us with remainder of money to be spent at our discretion.
- Received a \$5,000 from the family of member and past treasurer, Medora Mackinnon who died in August of 2024. A committee has been formed to determine how best to use these funds. Committee members are: Judy Baldwin, Lauren Burgreen, Joan Dorogi, and Sally Woodworth.
- Planning for July meeting outside the library. Joy Wilson working to try to find a Union County facility. Debora Quigley to coordinate the purchase of the entrée. NOTE: After the meeting, the Choestoe School House was reserved for Wednesday, July 30, for the cost of a member-donated \$25 rather than the usual \$100.
- Distributed a Facebook Post issued by MRLS regarding the March 14 Executive Order to cut funds for the Institute of Museums and Libraries Services (IMLS), likely impacting funding at Georgia public libraries. Members were asked to consider contacting Representative Andrew Clyde to voice concern.

Connie Rosenberry made a motion to adjourn. Roslyn Wise seconded the motion. Adjourned at 2:25 PM.

Minutes Prepared by
Jackie Volk, Secretary