

Friends of Union County Library (FOUCL) Emergency Membership Meeting Minutes – Aug 21, 2025

Present: Judy Baldwin, Beverly Bradley, Lauren Burgreen, Marlene Cannon, Vera Coupal, Cathy Dalton, Janet Dittus, Joan Dorogi, Robert Harford, Alison Jaffee, Katherine Lavery, Kathy Lawrence, Dayton Miller, Martha Miller, Claudia Naylor, Louise Pass, Debora Quigley, Diane Schultz, Kristie Shirkey, Jackie Volk, Mary Ellen Watz, Roslyn Wise, Sally Woodworth

Judy Baldwin called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM.

Welcome: New members and those attending a FOUCL meeting for the first time were asked to introduce themselves.

Recap of FOUCL Board Meeting of August 13, 2025: FOUCL Board members decided two options will be offered to members at the emergency membership meeting on August 21. (They are provided below.) Marlene Cannon expressed her appreciation for the support FOUCL provides. All in attendance agreed that library staff and FOUCL members have the same goal in mind: the success of Union County Public Library. Mutual respect is needed and should be expected.

Purpose of Special Meeting: Two choices were presented – find leadership for 2026 at this meeting or dissolve as a nonprofit organization in 2026. Leaders needed include a President, a Vice President, and a social media person.

Precipitating Events: 2025 President, Karen Cassity, resigned in April of this year. On July 1, Vice President Joy Wilson, who had taken a leave of absence for health reasons, informed Judy Baldwin, Interim President, that she would not be able to serve and she resigned at that time.

Support from Branch Manager: Marlene Cannon presented a plea for continued financial support and advocacy, along with a thank you for past support, as she outlined many of the ways FOUCL has contributed to the success of Union County Public Library during her two years as branch manager. She also mentioned past assistance, such as helping to purchase the automatic doors, and the most recent addition of the pollinator garden created through a bequest from the estate Medora Mackinnon (FOUCL Member and Treasurer) and in partnership with Towns-Union Master Gardeners.

Path Forward: After a reading of the presidential duties by Judy Baldwin and member discussion, Vera Coupal said she would be willing to be a candidate for Vice President and Claudia Naylor said she was willing to be a candidate for President for the 2026 year. Vera also agreed to take over social media immediately. Cathy Dalton may be interested in “shadowing” the officers to see what they do before deciding about a leadership position at a future time.

Further Discussions/Ideas:

- Treasurer Debora Quigley made another plea for the formation of a Fundraising Committee to relieve her responsibilities as the only one currently soliciting funds from individuals and corporations.
- Judy Baldwin introduced the idea of working in conjunction with UCPL to have a bake sale during the library’s next book sale, November 6, 7, and/or 8. This will be discussed further at the October meeting.

- The idea of FOUCL taking over used book sales in some capacity (the library is currently holding sales quarterly or when they have enough books) was briefly discussed with ideas ranging from creating a bookstore in the Friends Room to partnering with local Bookbound Bookstore to sell used books in their shop. Further discussion will be required as this would be a big responsibility for FOUCL volunteers. It has the potential to become the main fundraiser for FOUCL as it is for many other Friends groups.

Nominating Committee:

Those volunteering to serve on the Nominating Committee, which will present the slate of officers at the October meeting, were Robert Harford, Mary Ellen Watz, and Kathy Lawrence.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 PM.

Minutes Prepared by
Jackie Volk, Secretary