

Friends of Union County Library (FOUCL) Quarterly Meeting Minutes – Nov 19, 2025

Present: Judy Baldwin, Steve Bradford, Vera Coupal, Cathy Dalton, Robert Harford, Kathy Lawrence, Claudia Naylor, Sandy Placzek, Debora Quigley, Connie Rosenberry, Jackie Volk, Mary Ellen Watz, Sally Woodworth

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

Minutes of Meetings

October 15 Meeting Minutes: Claudia Naylor made a motion to accept as presented. Robert Harford seconded. Membership approved

Election of Officers

Slate of Officers: Claudia Naylor for President, Vera Coupal for Vice President, Jackie Volk for Secretary, Deborah Quigley for Treasurer. Connie Rosenberry moved to accept the slate. Cathy Dalton seconded. Slate was approved. New officers will be installed at the Christmas luncheon.

Update – Bylaws Revision

Judy Baldwin informed members of the significant changes. The Bylaws were approved at the Board meeting preceding the Membership Meeting. No further action was required. The revised Bylaws will be sent to Robert Harford to post on our website.

Revised FOUCL/MRLS Agreement

This form is still in process. Branch Manager Marlene Cannon was unable to attend the Board meeting today and her input is needed before this agreement can be presented to MRLS Director Heath Lee. Feedback will be requested from Marlene via email.

Union County Public Library (UCPL) Librarian's Report

Judy Baldwin read report from Marlene Cannon, who was unable to attend: Sign-up for Summer Reading Program totaled 385. The library hosted two highly attended Scam Awareness classes in August and two Cozy Plant Swaps. The library participated in the 10th annual Back to School Bash for Union County and the Young Harris College's community resource fair. Ninety-five new patron cards were issued in August. The study rooms are officially 1 year old and have been used an estimated 1,500 times.

Treasurer's Report:

An Annual Budget for FOUCL donations to Union County Public Library for 2026 was presented. The total presented for approval was \$5,100. Vera Coupal made a motion to accept the budget. Steve Bradford seconded. The budget passed as presented.

Committee Reports:

- Membership Committee (Mary Ellen Watz) – current membership is 123.
- Newsletter Editor (Connie Rosenberry) – Next newsletter will be published in February of 2026. Streamlining/shortening of 4th quarter newsletter seemed to be well received. Connie requested photos of FOUCL events.
- Facebook (Vera Coupal) – FOUCL's Facebook had a 200% increase with 586 followers. Views are up 32% at 16,302 views.

Old Business:

- Cathy Dalton reported that the recent November Bake Sale was very successful. The lobby was a good location. We had amazing donations and plenty of volunteers. \$1,200 was raised.
- The Picture Book Committee (Jackie, Joan Dorogi, and Claudia Naylor) selected "Bear Stays Up for Christmas." Two dozen books have been purchased for distribution on Tuesday, December 9, during storytime. Owliver will make an appearance, and Joan Dorogi will be reading the book to the children.
- December Staff Gifts Committee (Jackie and Vera Coupal) will be purchasing \$25 gift cards from Bitter Creek Market & Deli for library staff. In addition, Vera is supplying book-related ornaments for each staff person, Robert Harford will be contributing a tin of shortbread cookies, and Lauren Burgreen has agreed to supply her homemade lemon bars. These gifts will also be presented on Tuesday, December 9. Marlene Cannon will be consulted regarding the best time in the morning after storytime.
- FOUCL has sent a \$200 check to Isaiah 117 House to help in the purchase of holiday books for all the foster children in Union County.
- The County cleaned the carpet in the FOUCL Room. Marlene Cannon will be adding this type of cleaning to her yearly maintenance schedule.

New Business:

- New Committees will be needed for Fundraising and Membership. It was hoped that members interested in these committees could be identified during the brainstorming session following this meeting.
- Members were reminded of our Holiday Luncheon & Book Exchange on Thursday, December 11, at 11:30 AM at Vincent's Coppertop Restaurant, 130 Blue Ridge St., Blairsville. A book exchange will take place at this event.
- Vera Coupal is donating a special edition of "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" to use as a fundraiser raffle at the Christmas Luncheon at \$5 per ticket. Vera made a motion to hold this fundraiser. Robert Harford seconded the motion. Membership approved. Paperwork will be filed with the Sheriff's Office.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 PM and after a short break a brainstorming session was held, facilitated by Jackie Volk. It was suggested that this information be sent to all members via email so more responses could be gathered.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, January 21, beginning at 1:00 PM in the UCPL Community Room. (POST MEETING NOTE: Time of meeting was changed after this meeting to 11:30 AM for potluck lunch to precede the meeting.)

Minutes Prepared by Jackie Volk, Secretary