



August 2021

Newsletter

Hello Friends!

Hope you are staying cool this hot, hot summer. Many Friends take the scorching summer months off and resume activities in the fall. We imagine that your calendar will be packed with in-person meetings and events that were postponed for the past 1.5+ years due to COVID. We hope that the pandemic is in our rear-view mirror now and that you are all vaccinated.

Alas, your FONCPL Board does not have the luxury of resting this summer. We are busy planning our Fall Virtual Workshop. The statistics from our Spring Virtual Workshop show this is a viable alternative to an in-person workshop. While we might do something different in 2022, we plan to have a virtual workshop again this fall with the YouTube channel premiering on October 23, 2021. We are in the process of lining up topics and presenters. As soon as we get the agenda set we'll convey that information to you. Again, we invite you to gather your Friends and watch the presentations together. This way you can stop after each one and discuss it. Have a party! Invite other nearby Friends groups to view it with you.

We found it interesting that the most viewed presentation from the Spring Virtual Workshop was on the topic of "Smoothing Rocky Relationships." If your group is struggling with this issue, please let us know if we can help. Our Board members have a lot of experience and may be able to offer constructive advice. All the spring virtual workshop videos are still and will continue to be posted. We hope you'll view the ones you missed. A lot of valuable information was conveyed.

In this issue of the newsletter, you will find the information on our Challenge Grant. Members are eligible to apply for funding for projects. The deadline is September 15, 2021. [Click here](#) to view the requirements and application.

While you may have missed the window of opportunity to voice your opinion to your members of Congress on the Build America's Libraries Act (BALA), there is still time to let your Senator or Representative in Washington know where you personally stand on library funding. BALA is a proposed \$5 billion library construction bill. Those of you in the grant writing world know how very, very hard it is to obtain what's called "bricks and mortar" funding for any public purpose. Remember, as Friends of the Library, one of our primary purposes is to advocate for library funding; however, I think it is one of the least exercised. How hard can it be for your Board members to sit down at a meeting and write a personal letter to each of your designated Senators or Representatives in Washington? You can have the names and addresses prepared so they don't have to look them up. The Friends can provide the note cards and the stamps. Or what if you sat in the lobby of the library and did the same with the patrons. Chain letters, petitions or emails won't cut it - they get tossed. Personal, handwritten notes are best, or you can always pick up a phone and call - especially if you know them. Please think about the advocacy role of the Friends.

Lynda Reynolds, our State Library liaison, reports that there are only 27 members who have joined the FOL listserv that has been set up. This is a great place to share ideas and get answers to your questions. Every Friend is welcome to sign up. [Click here](#) to subscribe.

FONCPL BOARD 2021

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FOL listserv

ncfol@statelibrarync.simplerlists
.com

The FONCPL Board welcomes newly appointed Director Kathy Lambe. Kathy is a trustee on the Board of the Forsyth County Public Library and a member of the Friends of the Kernersville Library. We are excited to have Kathy join us!

Alas, we are sad to report that our newsletter editor and Board member, Eileen Alexander, is moving out of state. Eileen did a wonderful job with the newsletter and we are sorry to see her go. We wish her well in her new location. Also, our Treasurer, Mark West, has resigned as he is leaving for Florida. Mark, too, did a wonderful job both as a Treasurer and in helping us to establish our YouTube channel. We hope Mark and his wife, Barbara, continue to enjoy their well-earned retirement. We are seeking qualified Friends to fill both these vacancies quickly. Please consider joining the FONCPL Board!

Our Annual Meeting of the Board will be held on Saturday, December 4, 2021, at 10 a.m. via Zoom. Members are invited to attend. The Zoom meeting information will be published in the November newsletter.

Stay cool!

Judy Hills, FONCPL President



Recruit, Retain, and Engage:

UFL Webinar Highlights Strategies for

Cultivating Younger Library Advocates

Earlier this year, United for Libraries (UFL) hosted “Friends and Trustees under 40: Recruit Them, Retain Them, Engage Them,” a webinar featuring tips for attracting millennials and younger adults to Friends groups, trustee boards, and foundations.

The webinar is available for viewing and includes important information on how to develop under-40 advocates, the barriers to recruiting millennials, and other topics such as how groups can create welcoming, engaging spaces to encourage diverse leadership and meaningful representation across library organizations.

Click [here](#) to access the webinar.

United for Libraries Virtual 2021 is August 17-19

Now in its second year, United for Libraries Virtual: Trustees - Friends - Foundations, a three-day interactive virtual event (August 17-19), will feature expert speakers on current topics facing library Trustees, Friends, Foundations, and staff who work with them.

Participate in live Q&A sessions with presenters • Network with colleagues across the country in roundtable discussions • Enjoy exclusive access to keynote speakers and authors • Receive a certificate of attendance (for live participation or on-demand viewing).

To view the full conference schedule and registration options for the United Virtual, visit www.ala.org/united/virtual.

Have You Checked Out FONCPL's Virtual Presentations?

The virtual presentations from the FONCPL Spring Virtual Conference on April 12 are at your fingertips at FONCPL.org any time you need to refer to them. The workshop presentations have had lots of views by Friends members over the last three months, and one or more of them could provide valuable information for your group. Check them out and see for yourself; most are 15 minutes and under.

Silent Book Auctions

One of the presenters was Barbara McCreary, Past President of the Friends of the Bogue Banks Public Library, who described both the in-person and online versions of their very successful [Silent Book Auctions](#).

The Bogue Banks Friends have held the auctions for the last five years as fundraisers for their library, and Barbara shared information about the auctions both pre-Covid, inside the library, and during Covid when the auctions were held online.

“We raised thousands of dollars with not much work,” she says, and she encourages other friends groups to adapt the information she shares to their own interests and groups.

The Bogue Friends put together five silent auctions packages every two weeks during the summer months, when there is a huge influx of visitors to their community, and every three weeks off-season. Each package has a bid sheet with the minimum starting bid.

Pre-Covid, the five packages were displayed on a table in the library, where patrons could page through the books and pick up and look at the other items. During Covid, everything went online with photographs and a description of the packages on their Facebook page to show what was available.

The Friends have fun putting together themed packages, which include books and accessory items. For instance, Harry Potter books might be paired with a Harry Potter puzzle. Gardening books might be accompanied with a Dollar Store knee pad, a trowel and gardening gloves. Cookbooks pair well with a pretty tea towel and oven mitt. Both fiction and non-fiction books for cat lovers might include a cat toy and cat treats.

“Be creative,” Barbara urges. “Think outside the box about how you can pair books and themes and what you know your community enjoys.” In Bogue Banks, golfing, local history and sea-related themes are popular.

As part of Barbara's presentation, she included several handouts that are downloadable:

[Silent Auction Photo Examples](#)

[Examples of Silent Auction Packages](#)

[Silent Auction Sign](#)

[Silent Auction Sheets](#)

[Silent Auction Tips](#)

Anyone who has questions or would like more information is welcome to email Barbara at fotbbpl@gmail.com

FONCPL Grants & Awards Available

The FONCPL Board is offering Seed Grants of up to \$500 to organize new Friends of the Library or to revitalize a dormant Friends group. Applications are accepted any time. Click [here](#) for details.

The Board is also awarding Challenge Grants of up to \$250 to existing Friends of the Library groups who are members of FONCPL to help fund innovative, creative projects or programs. The proposed program or project must align with the mission and purpose of the Friends and directly benefit their group. Award funding may not be used to purchase goods or services for the library or library system. Applications are due by September 15, and grant awards will be announced by October 31. Click [here](#) for information.

Additionally, FONCPL offers two awards each year. The Frances B. Reid Friends Group of the Year is awarded to a single Friends group that made a significant contribution to their community in the past calendar year by supporting one or more libraries through contributions, advocacy, and volunteer services and by supporting reading and life-long learning. Click [here](#) for the application. Applicant organization must be an FONCPL member at the time the application is submitted.

The Frannie Ashburn Friend of the Year is awarded to a member of a Friends group who made an outstanding contribution to the Friends of the Library in the past calendar year. One Individual Friend of the Year award is made in each of the five geographic areas of the state. Click [here](#) for the application form. The Friends group making the nomination must be a member at the time the application is submitted. . Both applications are due by September 15.

Support the Build America's Libraries Act

As Congress prepares legislation to make massive investments in our nation's infrastructure and communities, the American Library Association has sent out a call to all library advocates, including Friends of Library members, to contact their Senators and Representatives as soon as possible to voice their support of the Build America's Libraries Act, to ensure that libraries aren't left out.

The [Build America's Libraries Act](#) (S. 127 / H.R. 1581) includes \$5 billion in funding for library construction and renovation and upgrades to address challenges such as natural disasters, COVID-19, advanced technology, environmental hazards, and accessibility.

Over 150 bipartisan Members of Congress are supporting the Build America's Libraries Act to upgrade our library facilities ... but North Carolina legislators need to hear from you that you support funding for libraries because libraries are critical infrastructure in every community and the time to invest is now!

To show your support, send a handwritten note or letter or place a phone call to your legislators. Go [here](#) to identify your member of Congress (we have two senators and 13 members of the House):





ONE FOR THE BOOKS

Friends of the Library Southport and Oak Island celebrates 30 years of building a strong community through a strong public library!

The Friends of the Library Southport and Oak Island (FOLSOI) were the subject of a feature story in the South Brunswick Magazine Summer 2021 issue, which was written by Beth A. Klahre, FOLSOI board secretary.

The group, which celebrated its 30th Anniversary on September 27, 2020, has a 12-person volunteer Friends board along with 93 enthusiastic volunteers who organize events and activities that support two libraries.

“I love the dedication and enthusiasm that board members and volunteers show our libraries,” says FOLSOI board member Julie Paladino in the article. “We all want the libraries to improve and are willing to devote many hours to help them do so.”

Diana Fotinatos, past president ex-officio and publicity co-chairperson, adds, “Connecting patrons with services that change their quality of life is my responsibility as a board member. All of us at FOLSOI believe that a strong public library builds a strong community.”

“FOLSOI believes that well-funded public libraries are integral to the community,” says Carol Brolley, current board president. “We are focused on growing our libraries into gathering spaces with resources for everyone from preschoolers to senior citizens.”

FOLSOI raises funds through memberships, donations, book sales and grants, and the funds are used for educational and cultural programs for adults and kids, along with purchasing and leasing new books, procuring library supplies and actively engaging in community outreach.

The Friends maintain a curated collection of 10,000 donated books that are sold on select Saturdays. The book sales are the group’s main source of funding. Since 2005, the bookstore has raised an incredible \$176,990, with most books selling for \$1 or less!

“Libraries,” says Fotinatos, “have been a great equalizer in today’s society and play an increasingly critical role in leveling the playing field through access to technology and information for everyone. Our volunteers have seen first-hand the impact libraries have made in our community. We celebrate and recognize our volunteers, library managers and community partners.”

To read the article click [here](#).



Thanks to these 2021 “Good Friends”

We extend special thanks to these groups and individuals who joined FONCPL in this difficult year with an “extra gift” above the established dues. These “extra funds” help the state Friends to provide more support to libraries and friends of library groups across North Carolina. FONCPL does not hold book sales, bake sales or raffles - **dues are our only source of income.** All that we are doing together is helping to make our local communities better. **You are special!!**

GROUP

Friends of the Alamance County Library
Friends of the Caldwell County Library
Friends of the Down East Library
Friends of the Hickory Public Libraries
Friends of the Macon County Library
Friends of the Pamlico County Library
Friends of the Wayne County Public Library

INDIVIDUAL

Helen Aiken
Eileen Alexander
Margaret Andrews
Frances Ashburn
Michelle Berger
David Boone
Thelma Boone
Rebecca J. Callison
Sally Dyar
Paula Finegan
Judy Hills
Sylvia King
Barbara Kiser

Ann Louise McCormick
Karen Moll
Donna Morgan
Bill Oelkers
Melissa Oleen
Pamela B. Poteat
Kathryn K Riddle
Barbara Roberts
Marie Sessoms
Gorda Singletary
Joyce E. Speas
Jeff Tudor
Dian Williams



Plan Now to Celebrate National Friends of Libraries Week

Friends of Libraries groups have their very own week of celebration! United for Libraries will coordinate the 16th annual National Friends of Libraries Week, October 17-31, 2021.

The celebration offers a two-fold opportunity to celebrate Friends. Use the time to creatively promote your group in the community, to raise awareness, and to promote membership. This is also an excellent opportunity for your library and Board of Trustees to recognize the Friends for their help and support of the library.

Learn more [here](#).

Help Wanted: FONCPL Positions Open

The following positions are open for a variety of reasons. We hope that you will either consider the position for yourself or help to recruit someone with the necessary skills. It is imperative that we fill these positions ASAP!!!

1. Treasurer

Skills required:

Strong knowledge of nonprofit financial operations and reporting requirements (NC and Federal)
Ability to effectively utilize Excel or QuickBooks for Nonprofits
Ability to analyze data and create needed reports and graphs
Ability to consult with other FOL Treasurers.

Prefer someone who is currently or has been an FOL Treasurer. Income is from dues, but there is an occasional donation. Fiscal year is 1/1 to 12/31. No fundraisers. Expenditures are minimal. Bank with BB&T, so there must be an office in your town. Board meetings are held electronically (currently via Zoom). The Annual meeting and elections are held in November or early December. It is being held via Zoom in 2021.

Questions? Interested? Contact FONCPL President Judy Hills: jahnbnc@gmail.com or (252) 670-1913

2. Vice President

Skills required:

Strong knowledge of nonprofit operations — specifically an FOL group
Ability to work with diverse groups
Proficient with MS Office programs
Ability to write well
Excellent organizational skills
Ability to run a meeting efficiently

Prefer someone who is currently or has been an FOL President. Ideal candidate would be one interested in eventually assuming presidency of FONCPL. Ability to manage content for a WordPress website would be a real plus. May be called on to organize workshops and the Annual Meeting (if held in-person). Should be a regular contributor of content to the FONCPL newsletter. Board meetings are held electronically (currently via Zoom). The Annual meeting and elections are held in November or early December. It is being held via Zoom in 2021.

Questions? Interested? Contact FONCPL President Judy Hills: jahnbnc@gmail.com or (252) 670-1913

3. Board member at-large

Skills required:

General knowledge of nonprofit operations
Ability to work with diverse groups
Proficient with MS Office programs
Ability to write well
Good organizational skills

Prefer someone who is currently or has been a FOL officer or board member. Prefer someone from the western area of NC, but not necessary. Ability to handle the responsibilities of drafting and distributing a newsletter is a plus. May be called on to organize workshops and provide content to the FONCPL newsletter. Board meetings are held electronically (currently via Zoom). The Annual meeting and elections are held in November or early December. It is being held via Zoom in 2021.

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