

August

Newsletter 2022

NC F*R*I*E*N*D*S TALK

Hello Friends,

The summer is drawing to a close and school will be starting soon, but we still have a few months of warm weather ahead. I don't know about you, but I like to be indoors under the A/C with a good book (or e-reader) in my hands. I read an equal amount both ways, but I do find myself tapping the right-hand page of a book to turn it! LOL.

I hope that you participated in the adult summer reading program at your library—I did. I was amazed at how many hours a day I actually read when I had to keep track of the time. This was done more for my edification than for the prizes being offered by the library.

One of my jobs for our Friends is to help sort donated books. The first thing we do is to examine the condition of the book. It is amazing to me the real trash that people donate. I have come to believe that readers do have a hard time throwing out any book, much less one that should have been disposed of long ago. And then there is the thought, "Somebody might want this!" I think those nonprofits that run thrift shops have the same problem, just on a bigger scale.

August and September are prime months for hurricanes in the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico. It used to be that the winds were the problem, now it seems that flooding from the rain is more disastrous than the wind. This means that any area of our state could be impacted. We hope that storms don't impact any of your Friends' events or your libraries. The computers and internet connections at the library are essential to communities that are impacted by disasters. Think about how your Friends might help should the need arise.

We didn't hear from any group regarding their plans for Banned Books Week, so I'll share our Friends' plan. It includes: banned/challenged book questions for trivia night at a local beer/wine establishment; a local playwright/writer dressed up as Mark Twain talking about Twain's experience of having his books banned and the impact in general on writers whose books are banned/challenged; a banned book display at the library for the month of September (patrons invited to write the name of a banned book they have read for posting on the wall); and banned book in a jar contest for kids and for adults. We really hope that you will do at least one small thing to acknowledge the right to read. It doesn't need to be controversial.

So, that's it for this month! Stay cool, my Friends!

Yours in Friendship,

Judy Hills, FONCPL President



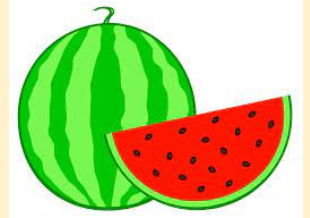
AUGUST

August 2 National Ice Cream Sandwich Day –



Enjoy an ice cream sandwich today!

August 3 National Watermelon Day - While you are celebrating the day, spread the joy! Slice it up and invite the neighborhood over to share.



August 4 National Chocolate Chip Cookie Day - Whether yours are homemade or store bought, pour a glass of milk and enjoy.



August 9 National Book Lovers Day – Sit back, relax and READ!

August 15 National Lemon Meringue Pie Day – invite someone to coffee & pie and enjoy some good conversation.



August 21 National Senior Citizens Day – show your appreciation for the more mature representatives in our nation!!



Here's a question or two/three put to the FONCPL Board:

*Does the FONCPL have guidelines for for using social media for library events and postings?
Are there membership fee guidelines? Also ideas for recruiting new "Friends"?*

And here is the response from President Judy Hills:

Does the FONCPL have guidelines for using social media for library events and postings? Short answer: No. Not sure what you are really asking. If the social media platform belongs to the Friends (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) then the Friends control the content. If you want post information on library events and notices from the library—if you are just sharing information that is already public (i.e., posted on the library website or in the library) then I don't know why anyone would object. Would seem to me that the library would be delighted to get help in marketing their programs. Here is one resource that you might read on the topic: YouTube video: [Social Media Usage in NC State Government](#). This is just 3 minutes long and will give you an overview of the expectations for social media use by state government, but also would apply to local governments (and their libraries). It is an intro to the document below.

[NC Best Practices for Social Media for State and Local Government Employees](#) Another state-produced guidance document on how to best utilize social media—includes public libraries.

Some larger local governments (and regional libraries) have developed policies and procedures for social media. You may want to research if your library has such policies. If they do, you should read them and see how they might impact or impinge on the Friends posting of library events and notices.

We hope this answers this question.

Are there membership fee guidelines?

Short answer: No. The following is from the ALA toolkit mentioned below. It may help you think through why you need dues and that will help you decide the levels/amounts. "Before you start your membership campaign, you will have to figure out what you want your membership dues to be and what members will get in return, in other words the "deliverables." This information will be incorporated in the brochure and other membership promotion materials. What you ask for dues and what you return as deliverables could well depend on the priorities of your organization. For example, if this Friends group is being developed to establish a strong and united voice to employ on behalf of the library's budget, you may want to start dues at \$5. This way everyone who wants to join can and you will get a lot more names in your database. If you offer several levels of membership, you will probably find that the vast majority of people join at the higher level but again, you've ensured all voices can be counted.

Obviously, if raising money is your goal, you might well want to start memberships at a much higher rate, say \$35 and graduate the levels up to as much as \$200 a year if you think that is attainable. One effective way to persuade folks to join at higher levels is to graduate the benefits they will receive accordingly. For example, you might want to offer just receipt of the newsletter at the bottom level of membership and offer such incentives as "First Night" tickets for the annual book sale for higher level givers and perhaps an invitation to an annual author event or formal dinner at the highest level.

Only you know what you are trying to accomplish and only you can determine at what levels you are likely to strike a balance between ensuring broad based participation and bringing in a fair amount of revenue – certainly at least enough revenue to cover the cost of membership benefits (including the newsletter).

In addition to annual membership dues, you might want to consider a "life time" membership, or in the case of a new group, a "founding" membership. This will help in two ways. First, the category option itself might inspire a potential member to make a significant gift towards your effort – more (startup) money for your group. Secondly, you will know from the response you get to this option which members have both the wherewithal and the love of your cause to make a major gift. This is valuable information. Be sure to consider cultivating such members for future slots on your executive committee..."

Also, ideas for recruiting new "Friends"?

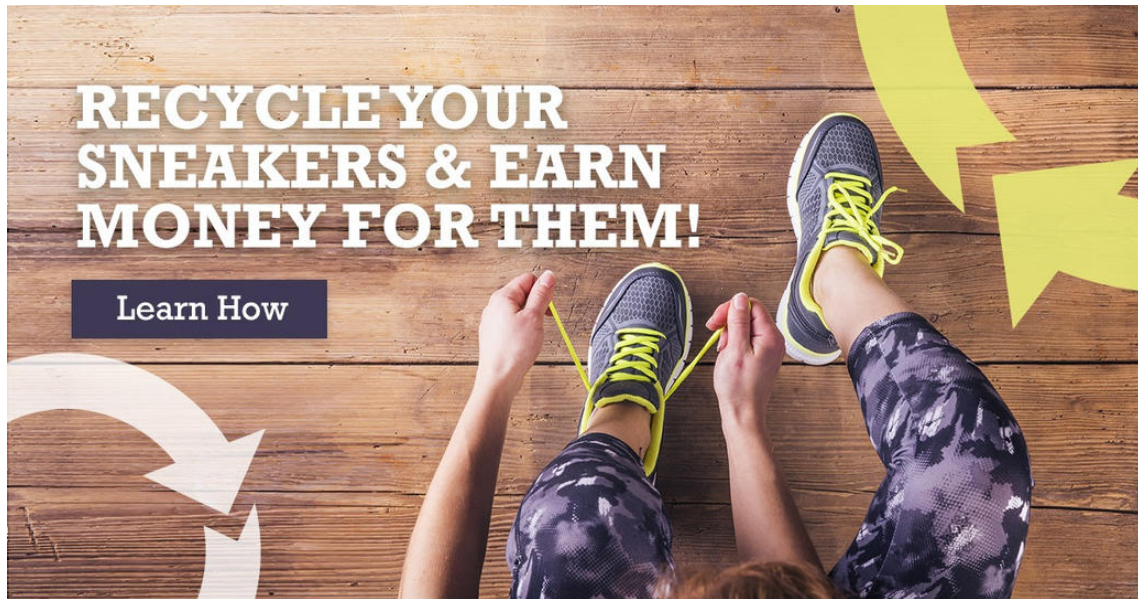
These documents and links have ideas on how to recruit new Friends. Certainly, you should have a membership brochure that includes your application (detachable). These should be available at the library and you should bring a supply of them to every Friends event.

[Friends of the Tennessee Libraries—Ideas Kit for Developing/Revitalizing a Friends Group](#)

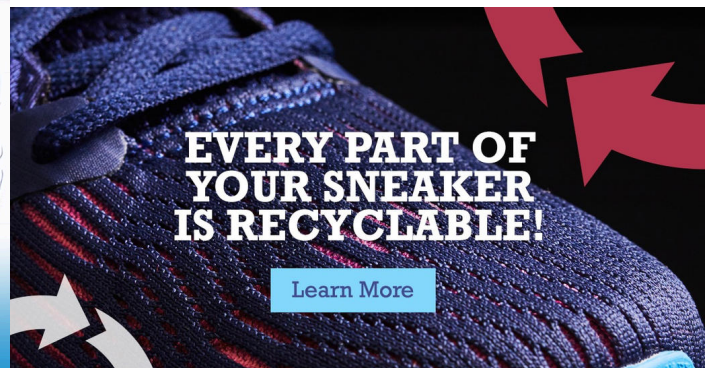
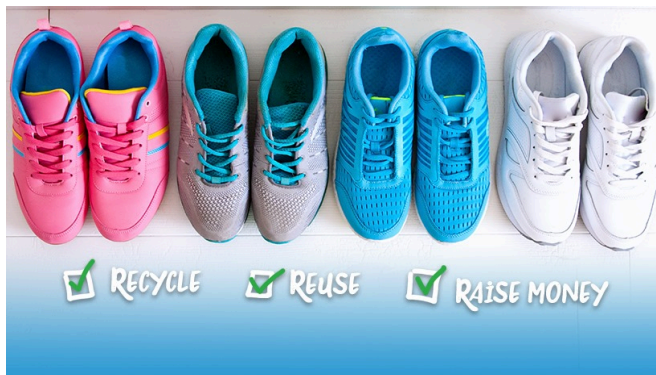
[Top ten ways to attract new FOTL members](#)

[ALA: A toolkit to create Friends groups or to revitalize the one you have](#)

Now here is an interesting Fund Raiser!!



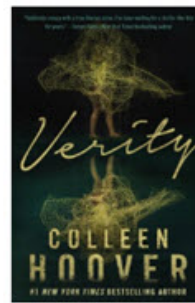
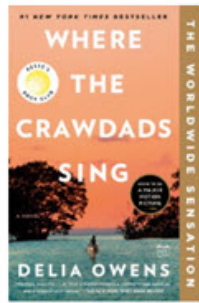
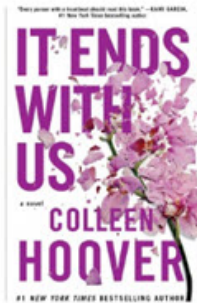
You could have boxes in your libraries for people to drop off their shoes!



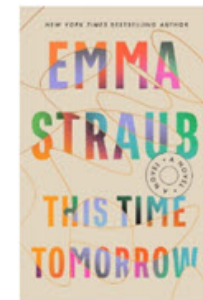
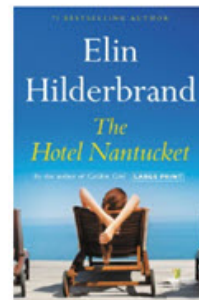
Go to: gotsneakers.com for more information!

According to

NovelList



TOP 10 June 2022 MOST SEARCHED BOOK TITLES



Made with ❤️ in LibraryAware • libraryaware.com

Here's a fun idea!

In Kingsville OH, their library opened an Exploration Garden. People are able to tour the new exploration garden, with kids enjoying the many interactive parts, such as a rain wheel, sensory garden, outdoor drums, chalk boards and more. They also included a StoryWalk.





*In preparation for September's Banned Books Week,
the next 5 pages are provided for you to read.*

**An excerpt from an USA Today article
by Barbara VanDenburgh....**

What is a book ban?

When a book is successfully “banned,” that means a book has been removed from school curriculums and/or public libraries because a person or group has objected to its content.

An attempt to get a book removed is called a challenge. Most public schools and libraries have boards made up of elected officials (or people appointed by elected officials) who have the power to remove books from the schools and libraries they oversee.

Why it matters: A book ban is significant because it restricts others’ access to books, and the ideas contained within those books, based on another person’s often ideologically or politically motivated objection.

Are book bans on the rise in the U.S.?

Yes. The American Library Association (ALA) keeps track of challenges and bans across the country, and the most recent data is alarming. In 2021, the ALA recorded 729 book challenges targeting 1,597 titles. That’s more than double 2020’s figures and the highest number since the organization began recording data in 2000.

The actual numbers are likely much higher: Some challenges are never reported by libraries, and books preemptively pulled by librarians out of fear for their jobs are not included.

Questions to Ask:

1. Should parents or other adults be able to ban books from schools or libraries? Why or why not?
2. Have you read any of the Top 10 Challenged Books of 2020? 2021? Should those books be banned or restricted? (See lists below)
3. Is book banning censorship? Why or why not?

September 18-24, 2022



BANNED BOOKS – Top 3 Pros and Cons

Author: ProCon.org written 4/4/2022

The American Library Association (ALA) has tracked book challenges, which are attempts to remove or restrict materials, since 1990. In 2020, the ALA recorded 156 reported book challenges in the United States, a significant decrease from the 377 reported challenges in 2019 perhaps due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, challenges jumped to an all-time high in 2021 with 729 challenges, containing a total of 1,597 books.

In most years, about 10% of the reported challenges result in removal or ban from the school or library. However, in 2016, five of the top ten most challenged books were removed. The ALA estimates that only about 3% to 18% of challenges are reported to its Office for Intellectual Freedom, meaning that the actual number of attempts to **ban books** is likely much higher.

Challenges are most frequently brought by patrons (33%), followed by parents (32%), a board or administration (13%), librarians or teachers (10%), political and religious groups (6%), elected officials (3%), and students (3%). Books are most often challenged at **public libraries** (59%), school libraries (23%), schools (14%), academic libraries (3%), and special libraries (1%).

Sexually explicit content, offensive language, and “unsuited to any age group” are the top three reasons cited for requesting a book be removed. The percentage of Americans who think any books should be banned increased from 18% in 2011 to 28% in 2015, and 60% of people surveyed believed that children should not have access to books containing explicit language in school libraries, according to The Harris Poll. A 2022 poll found 71% disagree with efforts to have books removed, including 75% of Democrats, 58% of independents, and 70% of Republicans.

Should Parents or Other Adults Be Able to Ban Books from Schools and Libraries?

PRO	CON
Pro 1 Parents have the right to decide what material their children are exposed to and when. Having books with adult topics available in libraries limits parents’ ability to choose when their children are mature enough to read specific material. “Literary works containing explicit sex, oral sex, explicit & violent descriptions of rape, masturbation, vulgar and obscene language” were on the approved reading list for grades 7-12, according to Speak up for Standards, a group	Con 1 Parents may control what their own children read, but don't have a right to restrict what books are available to other people. Parents who don’t like specific books can have their kids opt out of an assignment without infringing on the rights of others. The National Coalition against Censorship explained that “Even books or materials that many find ‘objectionable’ may have educational value, and the decision about what to use in the

<p>seeking age-appropriate reading materials for students in Dallas, Texas.</p> <p>If books with inappropriate material are available in libraries, children or teens can be exposed to books their parents wouldn't approve of before the parents even find out what their children are reading.</p> <p>Bans are necessary because "opting your child out of reading [a certain] book doesn't protect him or her. They are still surrounded by the other students who are going to be saturated with this book," said writer Macey France.</p>	<p>classroom should be based on professional judgments and standards, not individual preferences."</p> <p>In the 1982 Supreme Court ruling on Board of Education v. Pico, Justice William Brennan wrote that taking books off of library shelves could violate students' First Amendment rights, adding that "Local school boards may not remove books from school libraries simply because they dislike the ideas contained in those books."</p>
<p>Pro 2</p> <p>Children should not be exposed to sex, violence, drug use, or other inappropriate topics in school or public libraries.</p> <p>Books in the young adult genre often contain adult themes that young people aren't ready to experience. Of the top ten most challenged books in 2020, one had LGBTQ+ content, two were sexually explicit, five dealt with racism and anti-police opinions, and others had profanity and drug use.</p> <p>According to Jenni White, a former public school science teacher, "Numerous studies on the use of graphic material by students indicate negative psychological effects," including having "more casual sex partners and [beginning] having sex at younger ages."</p> <p>The American Academy of Pediatrics has found that exposure to violence in media, including in books, can impact kids by making them act aggressively and desensitizing them to violence. Kim Heinecke, a mother of four, wrote to her local Superintendent of Public Schools that "It is not a matter of 'sheltering' kids. It is a matter of guiding them toward what is best. We are the adults. It is our job to protect them – no matter how unpopular that may seem."</p>	<p>Con 2</p> <p>Many frequently challenged books help people get a better idea of the world and their place in it. Robie H. Harris, author of frequently challenged children's books including <i>It's Perfectly Normal: Changing Bodies, Growing up, Sex, and Sexual Health</i>, stated, "I think these books look at the topics, the concerns, the worry, the fascination that kids have today... It's the world in which they're living."</p> <p>Many books that have long been considered to be required reading to become educated about literature and American history are frequently challenged, such as: <i>The Great Gatsby</i> by F. Scott Fitzgerald, <i>The Catcher in the Rye</i> by J.D. Salinger, <i>The Grapes of Wrath</i> by John Steinbeck, <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> by Harper Lee, <i>The Color Purple</i> by Alice Walker, <i>Beloved</i> by Toni Morrison, and <i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i> by Zora Neale Hurston.</p> <p>46 of the Radcliffe Publishing Group's "Top 100 Novels of the 20th Century" are frequently challenged. Banning these books would deprive students of essential cultural and historical knowledge, as well as differing points of view.</p>
<p>Pro 3</p> <p>Keeping books with inappropriate content out of libraries protects kids, but doesn't stop people from reading those books or prevent authors from writing them.</p>	<p>Con 3</p> <p>Books are a portal to different life experiences and reading encourages empathy and social-emotional development.</p>

Peter Sprigg of the Family Research Council noted that removing certain books from libraries is about showing discretion and respecting a community's values, and doesn't prevent people from getting those books elsewhere: "It's an exaggeration to refer to this as book banning. There is nothing preventing books from being written or sold, nothing to prevent parents from buying it or children from reading it." [20] What some call "book banning," many see as making responsible choices about what books are available in public and school libraries. "Is it censorship that you're unable to go to your local taxpayer-funded branch and check out a copy of the 'Protocols of the Elders of Zion'? For better or for worse, these books are still widely available. Your local community has simply decided that finite public resources are not going to be spent disseminating them," Weekly Standard writer and school board member Mark Hemingway stated.

One study found that reading J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter* series, which is frequently challenged for religious concerns about witchcraft, "improved attitudes" about immigrants, homosexuals, and refugees.

Another study found that reading narrative fiction helped readers understand their peers and raised social abilities.

A study published in *Basic and Applied Social Psychology* found that people who read a story about a Muslim woman were less likely to make broad judgments based on race.

Neil Gaiman, author of the frequently challenged novel *Neverwhere*, among other books, stated that fiction "build[s] empathy... You get to feel things, visit places and worlds you would never otherwise know. You learn that everyone else out there is a me, as well. You're being someone else, and when you return to your own world, you're going to be slightly changed. Empathy is a tool for building people into groups, for allowing us to function as more than self-obsessed individuals."

TOP 10 MOST CHALLENGED BOOKS OF 2021

The American Library Association tracked 729 challenges to library, school, and university materials and services in 2021. Of the 1,597 individual books that were challenged or banned in 2021, here are the top 10 most challenged:



1  Gender Queer By Maia Kobabe REASONS: Banned, challenged, and restricted for LGBTQIA+ content and because it was considered to have sexually explicit images	2  Lawn Boy By Jonathan Evison REASONS: Banned and challenged for LGBTQIA+ content and because it was sexually explicit	3  All Boys Aren't Blue By George M. Johnson REASONS: Banned and challenged for LGBTQIA+ content, profanity, and because it was considered to be sexually explicit	4  Out of Darkness By Ashley Hope Perez REASONS: Banned, challenged, and restricted for depictions of abuse and because it was considered to be sexually explicit	5  The Hate U Give By Angie Thomas REASONS: Banned and challenged for profanity, violence, and it was thought to promote an anti-police message and indoctrination of a social agenda
6  The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian By Sherman Alexie REASONS: Banned and challenged for profanity, sexual references, and use of a derogatory terms	7  Me and Earl and the Dying Girl By Jesse Andrews REASONS: Banned and challenged because it depicts child sexual abuse and was considered sexually explicit and degrading to women	8  The Bluest Eye By Toni Morrison REASONS: Banned and challenged because it depicts child sexual abuse and was considered sexually explicit	9  This Book Is Gay By Juno Dawson REASONS: Banned, challenged, relocated, and restricted for providing sexual education and LGBTQIA+ content	10  Beyond Magenta By Susan Kuklin REASONS: Banned and challenged for LGBTQIA+ content and because it was considered to be sexually explicit

OFFICE FOR Intellectual Freedom
American Library Association

Top 10 Most Challenged Books of 2020

The American Library Association tracked 156 challenges to library, school, and university materials and services in 2020. A challenge is an attempt to remove or restrict materials or services based on content. Overall, 273 books were targeted. Here are the "Top 10 Most Challenged Books of 2020," along with the reasons cited for censoring the books:

1  George by Alex Gino Challenged, banned, and restricted for LGBTQIA+ content, conflicting with a religious viewpoint, and not reflecting "the values of our community"	2  Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You by Ibram X. Kendi and Jason Reynolds Banned and challenged because of author's public statements, and because of claims that the book contains "selective storytelling incidents" and does not encompass racism against all people	3  All American Boys by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely Banned and challenged for profanity, drug use, and alcoholism, and because it was thought to promote anti-police views, contain divisive topics, and be "too much of a sensitive matter right now"	4  Speak by Laurie R. King Banned, challenged, and restricted because it was thought to contain a political viewpoint and it was claimed to be biased against male students, and for the novel's inclusion of rape and profanity	5  The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian by Sherman Alexie Banned and challenged for profanity, sexual references, and allegations of sexual misconduct by the author
6  Something Happened in Our Town: A Child's Story About Racial Injustice by Marianne Celano, Marietta Collins, and Ann Hazzard, illustrated by Jennifer Swain Challenged for "divisive language" and because it was thought to promote anti-police views	7  To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee Banned and challenged for racial slurs and their negative effect on students, featuring a "white savior" character, and its perception of the Black experience	8  Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck Banned and challenged for racial slurs and racist stereotypes, and their negative effect on students	9  The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison Banned and challenged because it was considered sexually explicit and depicts child sexual abuse	10  The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas Challenged for profanity, and it was thought to promote an anti-police message

OFFICE FOR Intellectual Freedom
American Library Association

Friends and Advocacy

from

Friends of the Library groups play varying roles in support of their libraries. Some manage an annual, semi-annual or ongoing book sale to raise money for the group or for the library. Others offer programs featuring prominent authors, speakers or musicians. Some sponsor “Let’s Talk About It” discussions or local book clubs. Others host receptions at library events. Some carry out major fundraising campaigns. Others may simply be social in nature. Many do some or all of the above!

Whatever roles your Friends group takes on, there’s no question that the organization as a whole and its member individually can be powerful advocates when it comes to lobbying state and local elected officials. (Yes, Friends can lobby, even if they are 501(c)3 nonprofits – see *Lobbying, Non-Profits and Tax Exemption*, below.) In fact, along with trustees, Friends are usually your most powerful advocates. It’s often a lot easier for community library supporters to get traction with elected officials than it is for a library director or library staff.

Here are some ways that Friends can help:

1. Contribute to NCPLDA for advocacy; this help pay for our lobbyist – our eyes and ears in Raleigh.
2. Host a reception or library tour for your elected officials to educate them about state and local library issues. An excellent idea is to have a reception for newly-elected officials before they take office, or invite them for a library tour one-on one.
3. Talk individually with elected officials about the library. Why is the library important to you? Why is a current issue affecting the library important to you? How will it affect the community you represent?
4. Sign up to receive email advocacy alerts and respond promptly to them.
5. Show your support by getting a big group together to support the library at key meetings and events, such as local budget meetings or Library Legislative Day in Raleigh. When offered the chance at public meetings, speak up for the library!
6. Send birthday cards to elected officials, and “congratulations” cards when warranted (on winning an election, for instance).
7. Make sure your group belongs to [Friends of North Carolina Public Libraries \(FONCPL\)](#), and send representatives to FONCPL regional and state meetings. These are excellent forums for exchanging ideas and often focus heavily on advocacy.
8. “Like” [I Love NC Public Libraries](#) on Facebook.

Lobbying, Non-Profits and Tax Exemption

Questions about the legality of lobbying by non-profit Friends of the Library groups often arise, but it’s a myth that non-profits cannot lobby. Presuming that your Friends group has received tax exempt status under section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code, it can act to influence legislation so long as lobbying does not constitute a “substantial part” of its overall activities (<http://www.irs.gov/Charities-&-Non-Profits/Measuring-Lobbying:-Substantial-Part-Test>). “Substantial part” is not defined; if the IRS concludes that an organization has engaged in excessive lobbying, it can be subject to fines and/or loss of tax exempt status among other penalties.

There is a way, however, that organizations can establish an objective test for lobbying that protects them from sanctions if they stay within certain parameters. This is to elect 501(h) status (<http://www.irs.gov/Charities-&-Non-Profits/Measuring-Lobbying-Activity:-Expenditure-Test>). In doing so, the organization knows that it cannot spend more than a fixed amount/percentage of its overall expenditures. For example, groups with annual expenditures of \$500,000 or less can spend no more than 20 percent of their exempt-purpose expenditures on lobbying (most Friends groups fall into this category). To elect, a group must file Form 5768 (<http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f5768.pdf>) in the year it anticipates lobbying; the election remains in effect for subsequent years until the group revokes it.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES



Do you want some money?

Each year, your Friends of the North Carolina Public Library award Challenge Grants of up to \$250. Up to \$250 may be requested for any project or program that aligns with the mission and purpose of the Friends group and which directly benefit the Friends. Award funding may not be used to purchase goods or services for the library or library system.

Challenge Grant Program Timetable

Deadline for Applications:	September 15th current year
Grants Awarded:	By October 31st current year
Project Completed:	By June 30th following year
Evaluation Deadline:	By August 31st following year

Grant Award Evaluation Criteria

Criteria on which grant applications will be evaluated include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Innovative and creative project or program proposal
- Potential for achieving objectives
- Quality of the application (planning, conciseness, financial soundness, and clarity)

Please go to <https://foncpl.org/challenge/> and follow the directions. Now go get the money!!!

New Member

Katie Lake
Casie Dowd



Join us on
Wednesday August 17
7:00 pm

We learn a lot from each other!!

"Websites and Social Media"

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88395868842?pwd=UUxsdmhNVXhoMHpJSEdLc3RGTEFOQT09>

Join Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 883 9586 8842

Passcode: 003129

Most schools start back
this month!!
Keep your eyes open!!

*Why not plan a party at
your Library?*



Send in your news & your pictures from all of your
activities at your Library by August 25, 2022.
Be sure to share with us so that we can share with our
FONCPL members!

klambe@me.com Kathy Lambe

MY PERFECT DAY



1. WAKE UP
2. READ BOOKS
3. EAT BREAKFAST
4. READ BOOKS
5. EAT LUNCH
6. READ BOOKS
7. EAT DINNER
8. READ BOOKS
9. SLEEP