



FRIENDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Supporting Friends of the Library Statewide

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Dear Friends,

The older I get the faster the years seem to fly by! And 2022 was no exception. The Friends of North Carolina Public Libraries has continued to gain members, to improve the fund balance and to be a trusted resource for Friends needing guidance.

During the year we have consulted on a number of issues. It is not our place to take sides in a conflict. We refer to state and federal law, to legal opinions, and to best nonprofit practices found through research. We provide examples of how others have handled similar situations. We try to help unravel the issue to get to the essence of the perceived problem. Our goal is to educate every Friends group in not only the nuances of leading a Friends of the Library group, but to help them learn nonprofit management, because first and foremost, an FOL is a nonprofit organization.

We continue to be a little disappointed that out of the almost 200 known FOL groups in the state, that only 74 were members in 2022. We have made a concerted effort to connect with these groups. We believe that some of them may be defunct, even though a few of them are still listed on the NC Secretary of State's Corporations website. There is strength in numbers. If you know an FOL

that is not an FONCPL member, please encourage them to join.

If there was one thing we would change, it would be that more Friends would take the time to apply for FONCPL challenge grants and to nominate a member for Friend of the Year award. In 2021 we already had to end the Friends Group of the Year award due to lack of interest. In 2022 we only had one FOL submit a nomination for Friend of the Year. We also only had one applicant for a Challenge grant in 2022. We would have funded at least one more—but we did not get any applications. What does this say about us? What other opportunities are we missing?

Our Board would like to have filled the Vice-President position in 2022, but even though a number of individuals were asked to consider filling the vacancy—we did not get any takers. We had two long-time directors resign: Meg Forward and Becky Smith. We appointed three new directors: Erica Ververs (Forsyth County—Walkerton Library Friends); Laurie Cranston (Onslow County—Sneeds Ferry Library Friends) and Lyn Marsh (Forsyth County—Kernersville Library—Paddison Branch—Friends). We ended 2022 with one Director vacancy. If you are interested in either being the VP or a Director

Continued on p. 2

President's Message (continued)

of FONCPL in 2023, please contact me.

So, as we enter yet another year (our 33rd) of service to Friends of the Library groups in North Carolina, we invite you to take full advantage of the many benefits of FONCPL membership. Join the Zoom Open Mic night discussions, read the newsletter, access the resources on the FONCPL website, consult with FONCPL if you are struggling with an issue, apply for a challenge grant, and take part in other offerings through the year.

Your FONCPL Board is looking forward to this new year, filled with opportunities and hope for the preservation of our intellectual freedoms in the challenging environment in which we live.

Judy Hills, President

2022 FONCPL Seed Grants

Beginning in 2021, we offered \$500 Seed Grants to either those wishing to form a Friends of the Library group or to an existing FOL group that needed to be revitalized. Our very first Seed Grant was awarded to the Johnston County and Smithfield Library in November 2021. We are still mentoring that group.

In 2022 we awarded Seed Grants to the following groups:

Denton Library Friends (Davidson County)
Bladen County Friends
Wren Memorial Friends (Chatham County)
Gibsonville Friends (Guilford County)
Spruce Pine Friends (Mitchell County)



We are still mentoring all these groups.

Mentors include: Donna Morgan, Joyce Speas and Judy Hills.

FONCPL 2022 Challenge Grant

The Friends of the Library of Southport/Oak Island, the only applicant, received a \$250 grant to place commemorative reading benches at the Barbee Library (Oak Island). They had the bench built that replicated a bench in the Ukraine. The total project cost was \$1,290 so this grant helped them defray the cost.



FONCPL 2022 Friend of the Year

In 2021, the FONCPL decided to retire the Frannie Ashburn Friend of the Year award as it was currently structured due to a lack of nominations. In 2022 the Friend of the Year Award was created to allow any FOL to nominate a member for this award. All who were nominated would receive this recognition. It was no longer a competition.

The only FOL to nominate a member was the Friends of the New Bern-Craven County Public Library. They nominated their Secretary and Book Storage Unit Coordinator, Lisa Keesen for her many hours of service and her personal commitment to ensuring the donated books are checked, scanned, organized and boxed. They couldn't have their two Big Book Sales a year without her!



FONCPL 2023 Board Members

Here are a few facts you may or may not know about the 2023 Board members.

President Judy Hills: VP of the Friends of the New Bern-Craven County Public Library; presented a session on Memorandums of Understanding during the 1/11/22 United for Libraries' Learning Live virtual session; participated in a State Library program orienting new library directors to FONCPL.

Treasurer Tim Como: Treasurer of the Friends of the Hickory Library; was a Nuclear Engineer in the Navy; interested in genealogy.

Secretary Joanne Straight: President of the New Bern-Craven County Public Library; MLS—former librarian; also interested in genealogy.

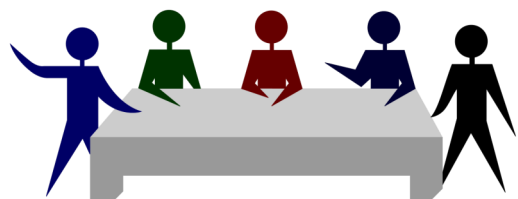
Director Donna Morgan: Member Friends Southport & Oak Island; Vice Chair Boiling Springs Lake Library Commission.

Director Joyce Speas: Friends of the Alleghany County Library —Manager of the Books 'N Friends Bookstore; former school teacher and Associate Professor.

Director Kathy Lambe: Friends of the Library - Walkertown & Kernersville; Winston-Salem-Forsyth County Library Board of Trustees; Pres. Kernersville Women's Club.

Director Laurie Cranston: Friends of Sneeds Ferry Library—Asst. Treasurer & Membership Secretary; former librarian; enjoys boating & paddling.

Director Lyn Marsh: Secretary of the Kernersville Library (Paddison Branch) Friends; computer specialist; likes board & card games.



FONCPL Educational Efforts

Newsletter

FONCPL's Kathy Lambe published twelve issues of FRIENDS TALK, our newsletter. The newsletter is packed with news, ideas, and educational information on topic to help FOLs manage their organizations. These newsletters are archived on our website.

Website

President Judy Hills is the webmaster. Every effort is made to keep this website updated. It is packed with resources that cover almost any topic of interest to an FOL group. When you are struggling with an issue, we encourage you to review material on the website.

Open Mic Night

In March 2022 we held our first monthly electronic Zoom meeting. This is an opportunity for an open exchange on a specific topic, although any question might be posed. While the turnout has been light, those attending learned some new things and some things they didn't even realize that they needed to know.



Topics this past year included:

- helping a floundering group,
- recruiting diverse membership,
- Fundraising other than book sales,
- assessing your group,
- ideas to celebrate Banned Books Week,
- website & social media,
- celebrating success and recognizing member contributions.



Virtual YouTube Videos

We began recording and posting YouTube videos in 2021 due to the pandemic. We thought that any FOL could show these short presentations during a meeting. They are good discussion topics.

In Spring 2022 we posted a number of YouTube videos on our FONCPL YouTube channel. These included:

- FONCPL Update
- State Library Update
- What does FONCPL do?
- Online sale of books to buy back companies
- Money matters
- Volunteers & Friends—who does what at the library?
- Effective Collaborations.

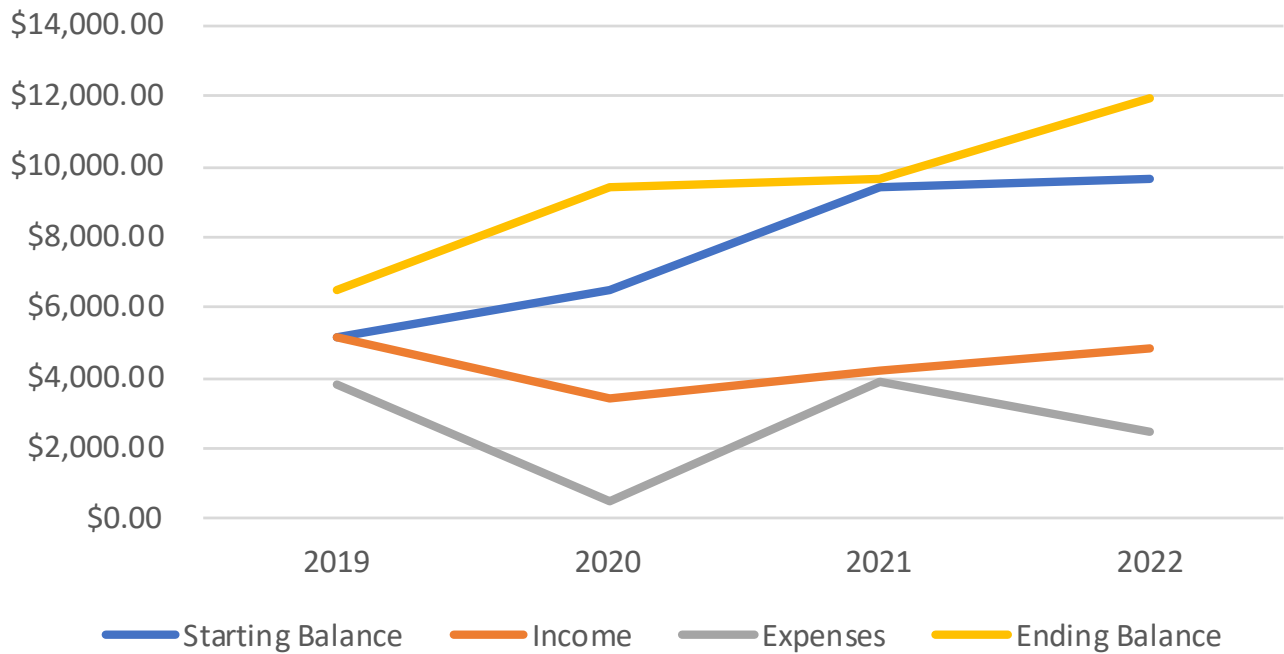
All videos produced are archived on the FONCPL website and we encourage you to view and discuss them.

Consultations

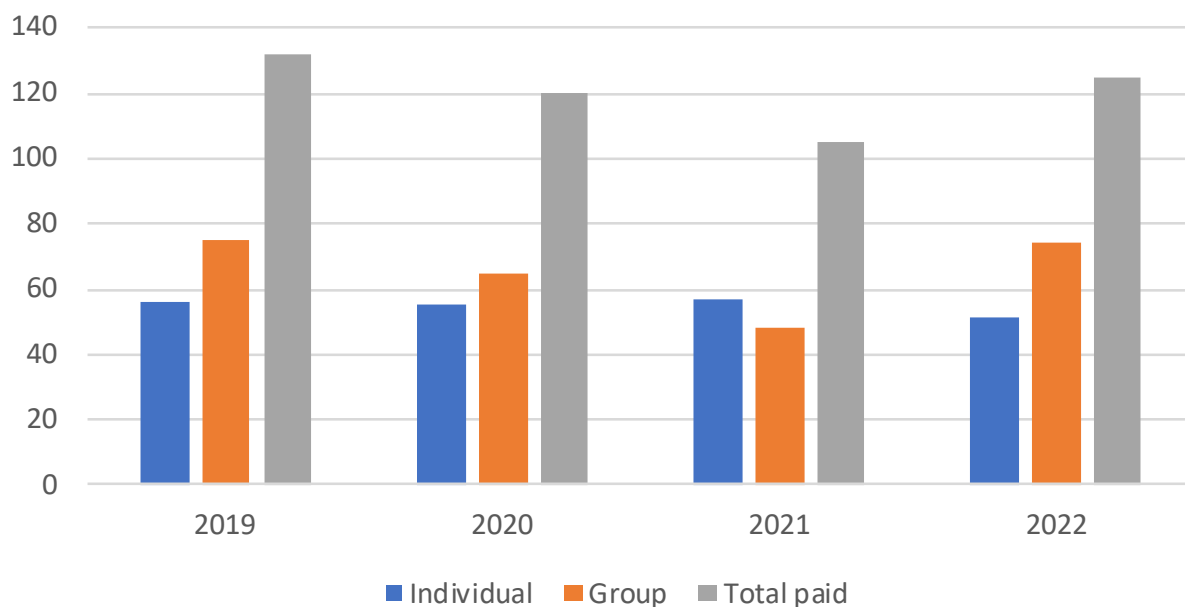
During the year FONCPL has been contacted many times with technical, operational, and relationship questions. This is a membership benefit. It sometimes helps to have an independent third party's opinion on an issue.



FONCPL Finances 2019-2022



FONCPL Membership 2019 to 2022



FONCPL 2022 End-of-Year Financial Report—Tim Como Treasurer

| | | | Budget | Actual |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|--|------------|---------------------|
| | | | | |
| Balance on hand | 1/1/2022 | | \$9,657.48 | \$9,657.48 |
| | | | | |
| Receipts | | | | |
| | Membership Dues and Donations | | 4,100.00 | 4,715.00 |
| | Other Income | | .00 | 94.77 |
| | | | | |
| | Total Income | | 4,100.00 | 4,809.77 |
| | | | | |
| Expenses | | | | |
| | Administrative | | | |
| | Discretionary - Officers | | 200.00 | - |
| | | | | - |
| | Workshops and Meetings | | | - |
| | Workshop Expense | | 1,000.00 | - |
| | Annual Meeting | | 400.00 | - |
| | | | | - |
| | Outreach | | | - |
| | Newsletter & Publicity | | 150.00 | 128.80 |
| | Website(domain name) | | 700.00 | 588.00 |
| | | | | - |
| | Advocacy and Awards | | | - |
| | Advocacy NCPLDA | | 500.00 | - |
| | Grants | | 1,750.00 | 1,500.00 |
| | | | | - |
| | Other Expenses | | | 178.76 |
| | Memberships | | 180.00 | 100.00 |
| | | | | - |
| | Total Expenses | | 4,880.00 | 2,495.56 |
| | | | | |
| | Profit/Loss for 2022 | | | \$ 2,314.21 |
| | | | | |
| | Balance for 2022 (financials) | | | \$ 11,971.69 |
| | | | | |
| Bank balance | 12/31/2022 | | | \$11,971.69 |



Website
<https://foncpl.org/>

2023 Officers

President
Judy Hills (Craven)
jahnbnc@gmail.com
Term expires: Dec 2024

Secretary
Joanne Straight (Craven)
jostraight@gmail.com
Term expires: Dec 2024

Treasurer
Tim Como (Catawba)
826mechanic@gmail.com
Term expires: Dec 2023

2023 Directors

Donna Morgan (Brunswick)
Awards & Grants Chair
ladyloves2read@protonmail.com
Term expires: Dec 2023

Joyce Speas (Alleghany)
joyce.speas73@gmail.com
Term expires: Dec 2023

Kathy Lambe (Forsyth)
Newsletter Editor
klambe@me.com
Term expires: Dec 2024

Laurie Cranston (Onslow)
LCCran@gmail.com
Term expires: Dec 2024

Lyn Marsh (Forsyth)
mclincoln1@gmail.com
Term expires: Dec 2024

Open Positions:
Vice-President & two Directors

HISTORY

Frances B. Reid was the guiding force in organizing and establishing the Friends of North Carolina Public Libraries (FONCPL) organization in 1980. As a consultant in Library Development at the NC State Library, she encouraged volunteers, helped draft organization bylaws and was always there when questions needed answers. She exhibited wit and wisdom that was needed to bring FONCPL into fruition.

The Bylaws of the Friends of North Carolina Public Libraries were first adopted April 2, 1980, but Articles of Incorporation were not filed with the State of North Carolina until April 12, 2006. The FONCPL became a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization on July 26, 2009.

In October 2021 we created a new FONCPL logo, a new website, and gave our newsletter a name, "NC FRIENDS TALK."

MISSION

Our mission is promotion and development of excellent library service throughout North Carolina by encouraging and assisting the formation, growth, and development of *Friends of The Library* groups in North Carolina and by providing the means for *Friends* to exchange ideas, information and experiences.

WHAT WE DO

- We encourage and assist the formation and development of local Friends of the Library groups.
- We foster and encourage cooperative efforts among citizens and libraries.
- We provide educational opportunities for Friends to exchange ideas, information and experiences.
- Our newsletter, website and emails keep members up-to-date on Friends and nonprofit organizational issues and opportunities.
- FONCPL may provide awards and grants to members depending on the plan of work and budget for that fiscal year.
- FONCPL is a member of the United for Libraries and the NC Center for Nonprofits. Through membership in these organizations, FONCPL receives news, ideas and information that benefits all of our NC Friends.