



# FRIENDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Supporting Friends of the Library Statewide

## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Dear Friends,

This past year has been a difficult one for many libraries as book challenges are on the rise in both public school libraries and public libraries. Some Friends have even been the target of individuals leading those charges. FONCPL is drafting a toolkit specifically for Friends to address the Right to Read issues.

Friends around the state are beginning to recognize the important role that FONCPL plays for our member groups and the number joined/renewed this year has risen above pre-COVID levels. We hope that even more will be members in 2024.

FONCPL continues to offer opportunities for member Friends to take advantage of their FONCPL membership by participating in our Open Mic night Zoom sessions and by reaching out when help is needed. In 2023 we did a number of consultations and assisted Friends in resolving issues with outside groups, with other Friends, with their libraries and within their own Board. It helps to have a knowledgeable outsider involved.

In this report you will read about our Seed Grant applicants, our Challenge Grant awardees, and the Friends of the Year that we acknowledged. We also conducted a drawing for a StoryWalk.

In 2023 two Board members had to resign due to personal issues (Laurie Cranston and Donna Morgan). We appointed one new Director, Tess Thais (Haywood County). FONCPL has three open Director positions and the Vice-President position open.

We worked on our relationship with the North Carolina Public Library Directors' Association this past year. We have developed a rapport with their 2023 President, Faith Phillips. I was invited to one of their meetings and did a PPT orientation for those attending that explained FONCPL and the role of Friends. It was well received. FONCPL also makes a yearly donation to the NCPLDA's advocacy efforts.

FONCPL continues to email members the monthly newsletter edited by Kathy Lambe. During 2023 we switched over to using MailChimp as our email distribution platform.

So, as you will see in this report our financial position is solid; we are actively engaged in helping Friends around the state; and we are doing all we can to educate Friends as to their responsibilities as a nonprofit and their role as Friends of the Library. Your FONCPL Board members look forward to continuing to help our Friends grow and prosper.

**Judy Hills, President**

## FONCPL 2023 Challenge Grant

The Friends of North Carolina Public Libraries (FONCPL) awards Challenge Grants to those members applying and that are current on their dues. The number of grants we award depends on that year's budget. Priority is given to a Friends group that has not received a Challenge Grant award previously. Groups that receive Challenge Grants are ineligible to receive another for a period of three years. Funding 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.

The FONCPL Board is pleased to award the 2023 Challenge grants to:

**Friends of the Braswell Memorial Library**--\$300 for a portable table, table cover with logo, a three-way display board and business cards.

**Friends of the Camden Library**--\$300 for a library foyer display, furniture and promo items.

**Friends of the Caswell Library**--\$300 to re-do the library staff breakroom--furniture, paint, backsplash, coffeemaker, water filter, and supplies.

**Friends of the Harrisburg Library**--\$300 for materials for the authors' fair including swag bags for authors and customized FOHL merchandise.

**Friends of the Henderson County Public Library**--\$110 for the purchase of 250 gift cards with Friends logo for sale in the bookshop.

**Friends of the Midland Library**---\$300 to provide a Veterans Commemorative coin to honor veterans.

**Friends of the Staly County Public Library**--\$300 to print an update of Friends brochure.

**Friends of the Swansboro Library**--\$300 to purchase 4 vendor book carts to transport books to/from sale site.

## FONCPL Seed Grants

The Friends of North Carolina Public Libraries will award Seed Grants of up to \$500. FONCPL reserves the right to determine the number of these grants to be awarded in a calendar year.

These grants are awarded to a group forming a Friends of the Library organization or to one that is revitalizing a dormant Friends of the Library group. Eligible groups shall receive only one of these grants.

As an incentive, FONCPL offers a free one-year membership in FONCPL to the Seed Grant awardees for the year in which the award was made. FONCPL also provides a mentor that shepherds them through the process.



Since the first seed grant was awarded in late 2021, FONCPL has awarded seed grants to six groups. Five of those successfully completed the benchmarks set and received the full amount of the grant: Johnston County & Smithfield FOL; Bladen County FOL; Wren Memorial FOL; Gibsonville FOL; and Spruce Pine FOL. We congratulate these new groups on their achievement!

## FONCPL 2023 Friends of the Year

Friend of the Year is awarded to a member of a Friends group who made an outstanding contribution to their Friends of the Library in the past calendar year. All nominated were conferred with this honor. In 2023, FONCPL provided a \$50 check to each of these Friends. 2023 Friends of the Year included:

Antoinette Molless	Henderson County FOL
Charlene Homolka	Albert Carlton-Cashiers Community FOL
Diana Fotinatos	FOL Southport/Oak Island
Joy Hepler	FOL New Bern-Craven County
Kim Rotzell	FOL Harrisburg
Margaret Goldston	



The mission of FONCPL is helping Friends build resilience. We provide a nexus for the exchange of information, ideas, and experiences among Friends of the Library groups in North Carolina. We educate Friends in a variety of ways. Some include:

### **Newsletter**

Director Kathy Lambe continues to do an excellent job on our monthly newsletter. We encourage member Friends to contribute material.

### **Website**

The FONCPL website is filled with resources that could help you research almost any Friends-related topic. In 2023, the webmaster was President Judy Hills.

### **Open Mic Night**

President Judy Hills conducted nine Open Mic Night sessions (excluding the summer months). There is a small, but loyal group

that always attend these Zoom sessions. We have repeatedly heard, "I did not know that!" While each session has a theme, the participants are free to discuss any topic.

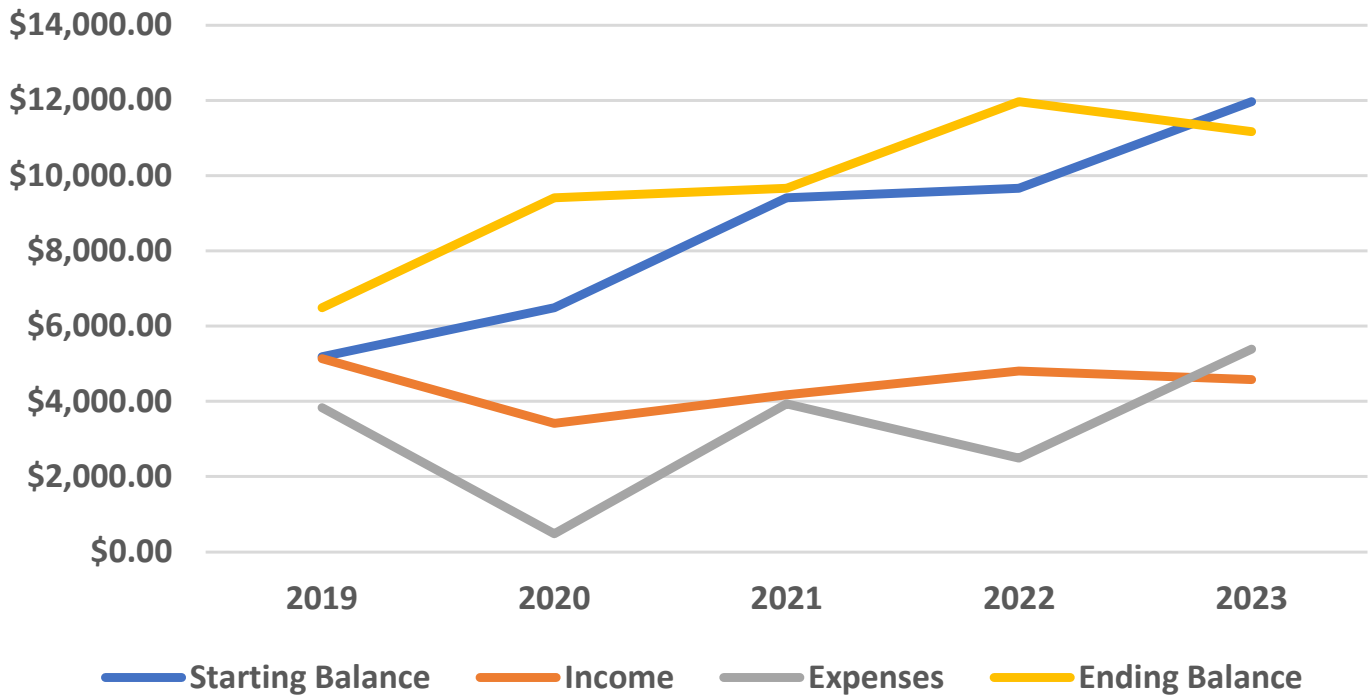
### **Consultations**

During the year, Friends groups contact us for guidance on a variety of issues and topics on which they need guidance. We hope members will see FONCPL as the "go to" group when they have questions.

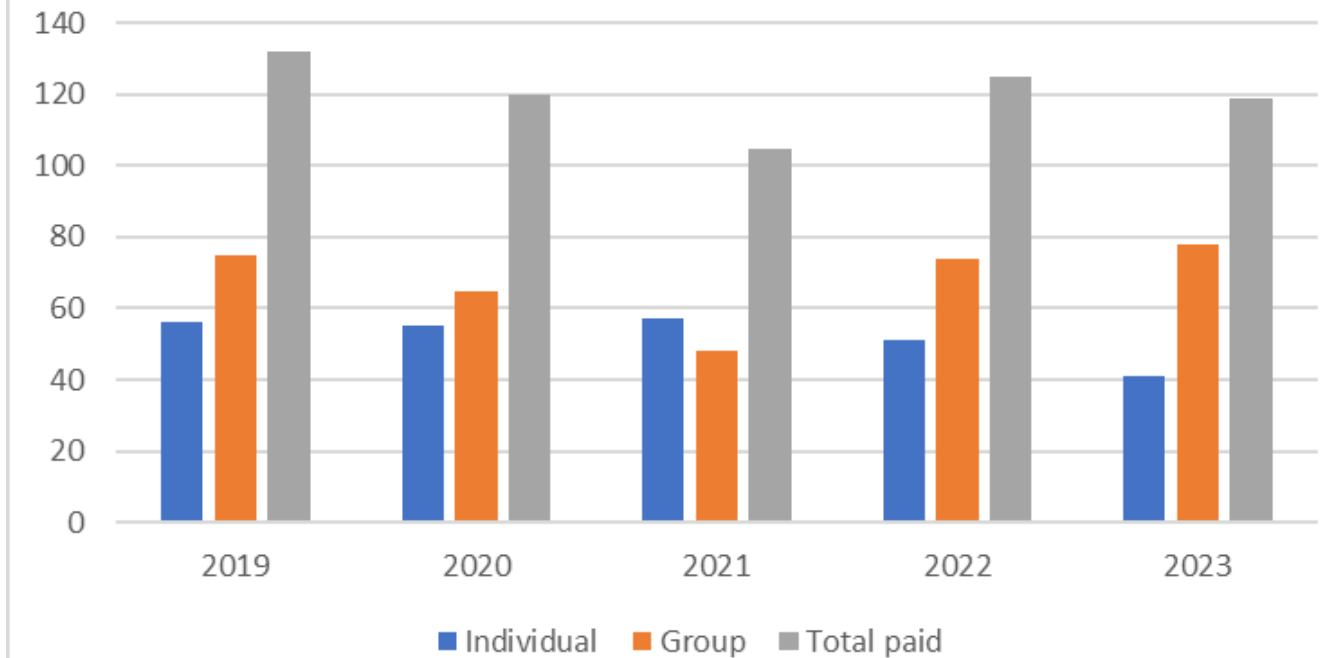
We encourage all Friends to be incorporated in the State of North Carolina, to obtain IRS 501(c)(3) designation, to complete the yearly required Charitable Solicitation License (or exemption), to pay state sales tax on goods sold (including all books) and to comply with other applicable laws.

Please contact any FONCPL Board member if you need assistance.

## FONCPL Financial Comparison 2019 to 2023



## FONCPL Membership 2019 to 2023



# FONCPL 2023 End-of-Year Financial Report—Tim Como Treasurer

	Budget	Actual
<b>Balance on Hand 1/1/22</b>		\$11,971.69
 <b><u>Receipts</u></b>		
Membership Dues and Donations	4,100.00	4,335.00
Other Income	.00	250.00
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Total Income	4,100.00	<b>4,585.00</b>
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<b><u>Expenses</u></b>		
Administrative		
Discretionary - Officers	200.00	-
		-
Workshops and Meetings		-
Workshop Expense	1,000.00	-
Annual Meeting	400.00	-
		-
Outreach		-
Newsletter & Publicity	150.00	-
Website (Maintenance/domain name)	700.00	588.00
		-
Advocacy and Awards		-
Advocacy NCPLDA	500.00	500.00
Grants	1,750.00	4,208.49
		-
Other Expenses		-
Memberships	180.00	90.00
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Total Expenses	4,880.00	<b>5,386.49</b>
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<b>Balance on hand 1/1/23</b>		<b>\$11,170.20</b>



Website  
<https://foncpl.org/>

### 2024 Officers

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

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

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

### 2024 Directors

Joyce Speas (Alleghany)  
[joyce.speas73@gmail.com](mailto:joyce.speas73@gmail.com)  
Term expires: Dec 2025

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

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

Tess Thais (Haywood)  
[tessthais88@gmail.com](mailto:tessthais88@gmail.com)  
Term Expires: Dec 2024

Karen Robbins (Brunswick)  
[robbinska31@gmail.com](mailto:robbinska31@gmail.com)  
Term Expires: Dec 2025

**Open Positions:**  
Vice-President & three 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."

In 2022 we began Open Mic night Zoom sessions that were held monthly (except for December, June, July and August).

## 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.