



F·R·I·E·N·D·S

OF NORTH CAROLINA PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Supporting Friends of the Library Statewide

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Dear Friends,

Well, my term of office is up and after five years of being the FONCPL President, it is time to turn the reigns over to someone with new ideas.

I thank the following retiring FONCPL Board members for their contributions and assistance:

- Joanne Straight, Secretary. I coerced my friend Joanne into taking on this responsibility and I am grateful that she did. Taking and producing minutes is a thankless task.
- Kathy Lamb, Director and Newsletter Editor. Kathy did a marvelous job creating copy for our monthly newsletter. We'll do the best we can to fill this void.

I thank those who have agreed to remain on the Board:

- Joyce Speas, President. Joyce has been on the Board even longer than I have. I appreciate her institutional knowledge and that she stepped up to be President in 2025.
- Tim Como, Treasurer. Tim tracks our income, expenditures, and membership. His monthly financial reports help us monitor our financial status.
- Karen Robbins, Secretary. Karen took on the responsibility of collecting data and monitoring the newsfeeds for information on book challenges and bannings. It is important that we track and share

this information with Friends. In addition to these duties, Karen has also agreed to be FONCPL Secretary for 2025.

- Lyn Marsh, Director. Lyn has taken over the responsibility for maintaining the website—another thankless, but so needed task.
- Tess Thais, Director. Tess took over the awards and grants program and did an admirable job handling that.

I also thank our newest Director, Cindy Shipley for agreeing to serve. Once Cindy acclimates to FONCPL, I know she is going to be a valuable asset. Cindy, a librarian, retired from the Department of Defense. She was in charge of the Marine Corps Libraries worldwide.

This year we began awarding funds for member Friends groups willing to host a meeting of other Friends groups in their region. We issued one award.

We also had a contest where we invited individuals to comment on book challenges and bannings. We had four winners and three of them were FONCPL Board members.

I am proud of what we have accomplished as a leadership team and believe that FONCPL still has much to offer its members. Signing off as your Past President,

Judy Hills

FONCPL 2024 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. 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.

In 2024, Challenge grants were awarded to:

Albert Carlton Cashiers Community Library Friends—\$250 to create promotional materials to attract business and corporate Friends memberships

Stanly County Public Library Friends—\$90 to purchase a reusable, colorful banner to advertise and drive traffic to their book sales

Wren Memorial Library Friends—\$250 to purchase a canopy tent and rolling carts to extend space available for book sales

Topsail Township Library Friends—\$250 to cover postage and printing for a targeted mailing campaign (fundraiser)

Havelock Public Library Friends—\$250 to purchase Friends logo branded items to use as promotional giveaways to increase visibility, increase community awareness, and promote Friends membership

Malloy Jordan East Winston Heritage Center—Forsyth County Public Library Friends—\$250 to purchase puzzles to be used by Friends members for their Friends Outreach program.

Congratulations to all these recipients. Our thanks to FONCPL Director Tess Thais for coordinating this grant program.

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 men-

tor 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. We invited interested groups to apply.

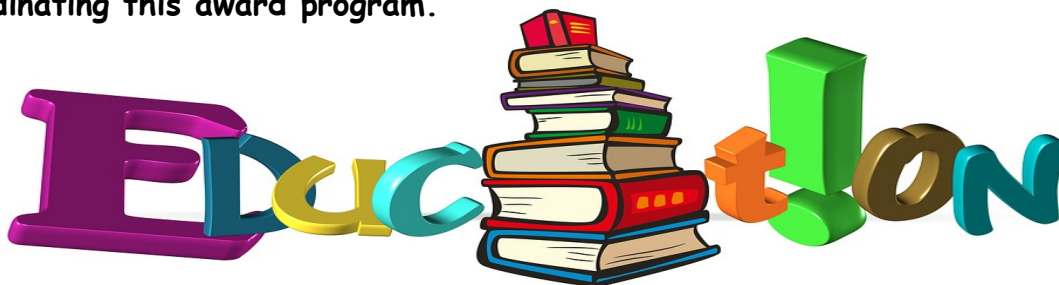


FONCPL 2024 Friends of the Year

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 2024, FONCPL provided a \$50 check to each of these Friends. 2024 Friends of the Year included:

Friend of the Year:	Nominated by:
Carol Sasser	Ruth Moose for Friends of Stanly County Public Library
Barbara Kaelin	Luann Rottman for Havelock Friends of the Public Library
JoAnn Bass	Karen Robbins for Friends of the Library Rourk Branch
Margo Sizemore	Miranda Boling for Friends of the Wren Memorial Library
Ellie Toombs	Joanne Straight for Friends of New Bern's Public Library
Anita Koupal	Lorraine Poe for Friends of South Buncombe Library

Congratulations to these worthy Friends! Our thanks to FONCPL Director Tess Thais for coordinating this award program.



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 did 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 2024 the webmaster was Director Lyn Marsh.

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 repeated heard, "I did not know that!" While each session has a theme, the participants are free to discuss any topic.

Consultations

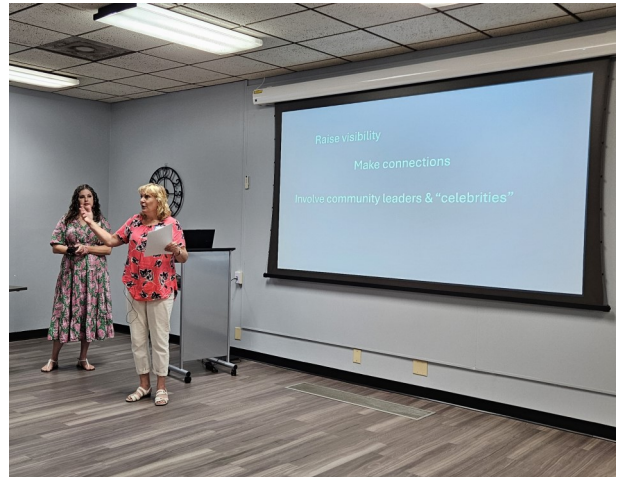
During the year, Friends groups contact us for guidance on a variety of issues and topics on which they need guidance. We hope members will see FONCPL as the "go to" group when they have questions.

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 2024 Regional Host Awards

In 2024 FONCPL saw the need to provide some financial support to those Friends who were willing to host regional meetings of Friends groups in their area. The FONCPL Board offered a \$100 grant to Friends groups that agree to host a regional Friends workshop through March 2025. To qualify, each group had to invite a minimum of six other Friends groups. In 2024 we made one awards to the Stanly County Friends, but Swansboro Friends and Friends of the Rourk Branch Library also held regional meetings. If you are interested in hosting your own workshop, reach out to [Tess Thais](#).



Other Initiatives to Report for 2024

At the beginning of 2024 to stimulate group dues payments, we held a drawing for \$200 if dues were paid by a certain date. The Friends of the Albert Carlton-Cashiers Community Library won the drawing.

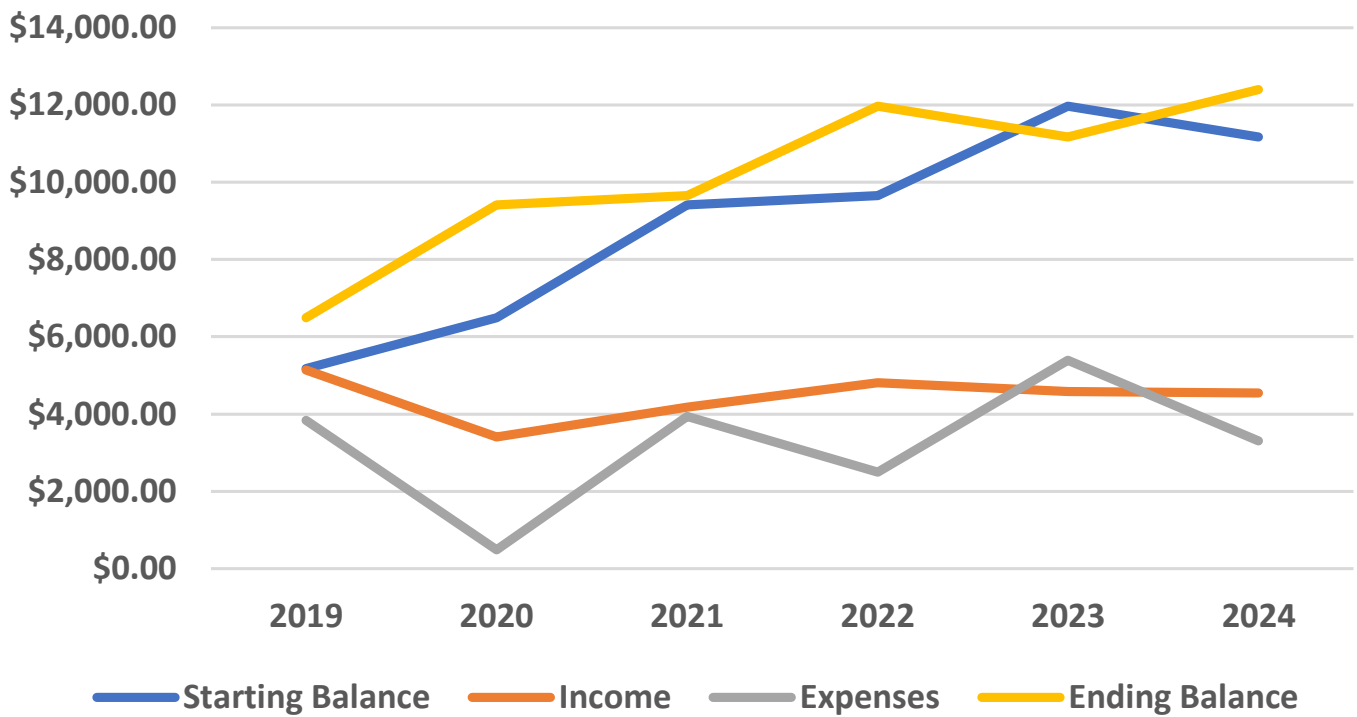
Each year we provide \$500 to the North Carolina Public Library Directors Association (NCPLDA) for their advocacy efforts.

Our biggest expense is the cost to

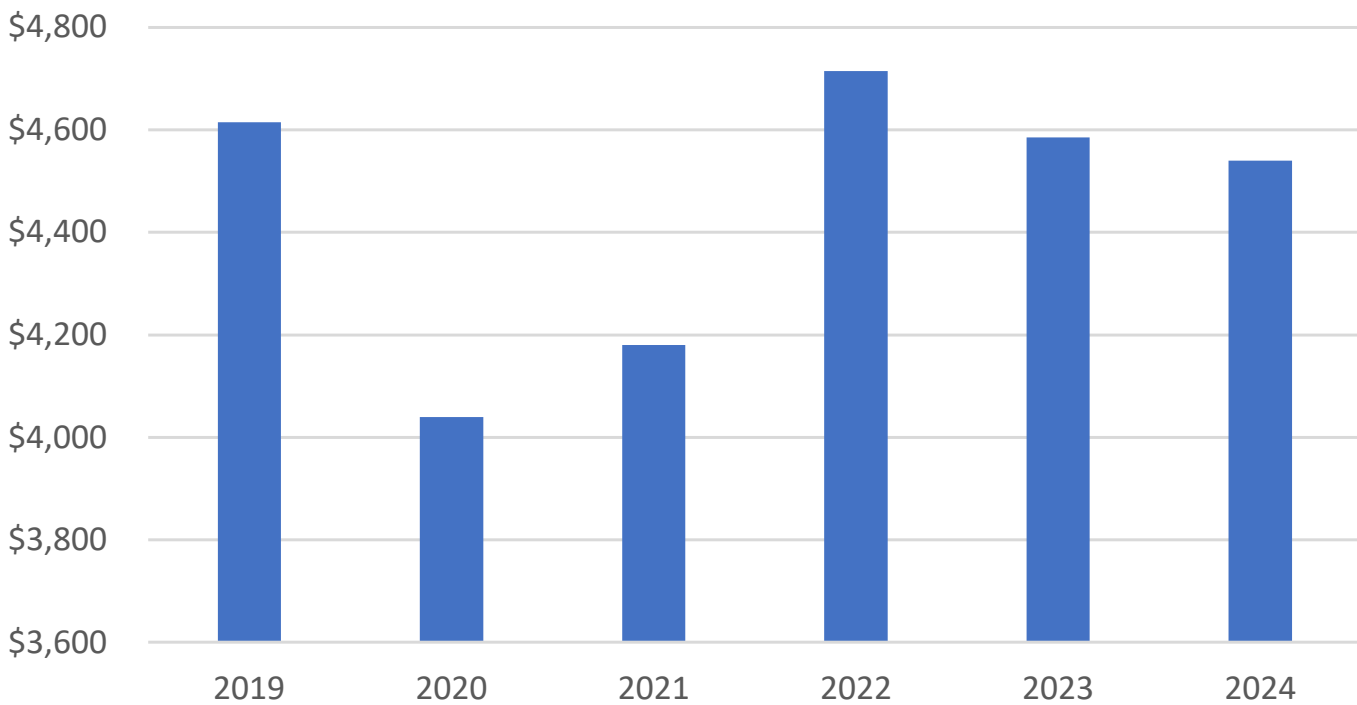
host and maintain our website. It is essential for FONCPL and all Friends groups to have their own website and to keep it updated.

Also during 2024 we invited Friends and librarians to comment on advocacy and book bannings. Four individuals did so, three of those being FONCPL Board members. Each received a copy of "That Librarian" by Amanda Jones.

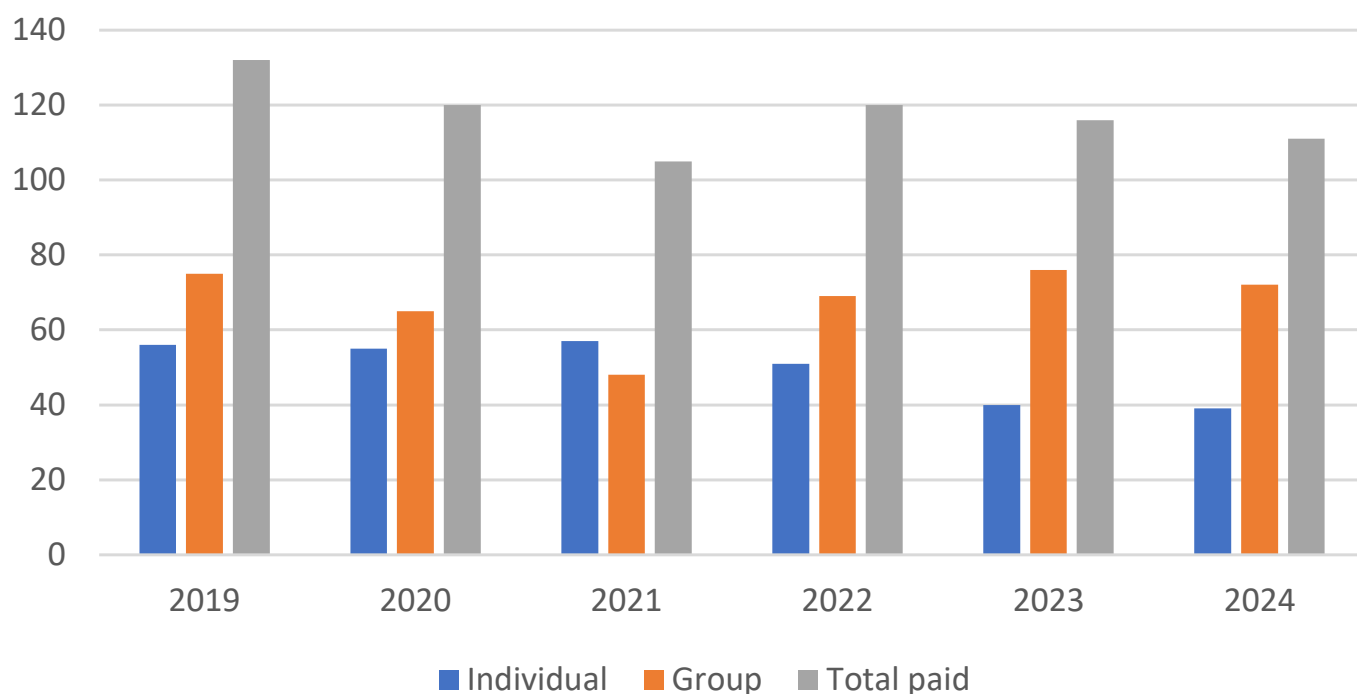
FONCPL Financial Comparison 2019 to 2024



FONCPL Total dues and donations 2019 to 2024



FONCPL Membership 2019 to 2024



FONCPL Newsletters Published in 2024

The FONCPL Newsletter editor, Kathy Lambe did a marvelous job putting together informative and fun newsletters this past year. They are all posted on our website. Click here: <https://foncpl.org/newsletter/>

We invite you to peruse back copies for ideas and guidance. Make a note of things that are useful and make every attempt to incorporate them into your plan of work for 2025.

Here is a list of some articles and ideas to consider:

February—Christmas Drive Thru Event, Black History Month events, Winter Reading Challenge.

March—Gift cards sold by Friends Bookstore in Hendersonville, Easter event ideas, March Madness ideas, Censorship article, FONCPL Advocacy Kit, Friends organizational Structure.

April—National Poetry Month, National Library Week, bring Play Day to your community, testimony: how FONCPL has helped Friends of Rourk, Branch Library, Story-Walk week (Oct) ideas .

May—How to Host a Friends' Workshop FAQ, Children's book swap idea, Friends of Walkertown Library Tea,.

June—Understanding LGBTQIA2S Acronyms, How to get Free Kindle Books with Libby, Friends paid for activity bus to transport Mt. Pleasant first graders to library to get a library card, idea: Friends collaborate with schools to fund book fairs,

July—FONCPL report on legal status of NC FOL groups, Challenge of Book Challenges, Spamming and Phishing.

August—Fiscal Controls (1 of 4), back to school ideas, recipe for book club success,

FONCPL Newsletters Published in 2024 (continued)

idea: free little art gallery,

September—Banned Book Week, Fiscal Controls (2 of 4), Cleaning your book collection, Let's talk about dues,

October—FOL Week, Fiscal Controls (3 of 4), ideas from Swansboro FOL, Reinstatement of books banned by libraries, Halloween book displays.

November—Fiscal Controls (4 of 4), idea to celebrate Chicken Soup for the Soul day with

library staff, using national calendar of events for FOL planning, hurricane assistance needed by Hot Springs Library, display ideas for Veterans Day and Thanksgiving, book folding craft idea, '

December—2024 Legal Compliance Update, Banned and Challenged books in NC, Christmas Book Censorship, December library decorating ideas, giving FOL membership as gifts,

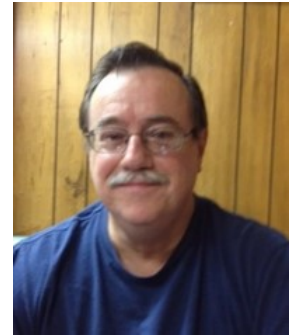
FONCPL Board 2025



Joyce Speas, President



Karen Robbins, Sec



Tim Como, Treas



Lyn Marsh, Dir.



Tess Thais, Dir.



Cindy Shipley, Dir.



Billie Lawson, Dir.



Lynda Reynolds, SL Liaison



Judy Hills, Past Pres.

FONCPL 2025 End-of-Year Financial Report—Tim Como Treasurer

		Budget	Actual
Balance on hand	1/1/2024	\$11,170.20	\$11,170.20
Receipts			
Membership Dues and Donations		4,600.00	4,540.00
Other Income		.00	-
Total Income		<u>4,600.00</u>	<u>4,540.00</u>
Expenses			
Administrative			
Discretionary - Officers		200.00	-
			-
Workshops and Meetings			
Workshop Expense		1,400.00	100.00
Annual Meeting		400.00	-
			-
Outreach			
Newsletter & Publicity		150.00	-
Website(domain name)		700.00	34.00
			-
Advocacy and Awards			
Advocacy NCPLDA		500.00	500.00
Grants		4,500.00	1,690.00
			-
Other Expenses			
Memberships		100.00	100.00
			-
Total Expenses		<u>7,950.00</u>	<u>3,311.12</u>
Balance on hand	12/31/2024	\$7,820.20	\$12,399.08
Bank balance	12/31/2024		\$11,454.08



Website
<https://foncpl.org/>

2025 Officers

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

Vice-President
Vacant

Secretary
Karen Robbins (Brunswick)
robbinska31@gmail.com
Term Expires: Dec 2026

Treasurer
Tim Como (Catawba)
826mechanic@gmail.com
Term expires: Dec 2025

2025 Directors

Lyn Marsh (Forsyth)
mclincoln1@gmail.com
Term expires: Dec 2026

Tess Thais (Haywood)
tessthais88@gmail.com
Term Expires: Dec 2026

Cindy Shipley (Craven)
cindyshipley@yahoo.com
Term Expires: Dec 2025

Billie Lawson (Johnston)
billie.lawson58@gmail.com
Term Expires: 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."

Between 2022 and 2024 we held monthly Open Mic night Zoom sessions. These were discontinued in November 2024 due to lack of participation.

In 2024 we began offering financial assistance to those member Friends group that were willing to host a regional Friends meeting.

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.