



F·R·I·E·N·D·S

OF NORTH CAROLINA PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Supporting Friends of the Library Statewide

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

March 2025

Hello Friends,

Wow! Time has a way of flying by when one is busy! I'm not certain where February went. It is nice to have the opportunity to communicate with you again this month. I'm hoping your community and Friends have survived the wild weather our state has experienced in February. Can you believe that a community in northeast North Carolina got 14 inches of snow while those of us in the mountains got ice! However, ice storms and snowstorms do provide time to read - if you still have power, that is.

March has arrived, and it is time to get the creative juices flowing for programs/projects/performances/.... (I've run out of "p" words for activities.) Friends groups are preparing for the spring months. Lynda Reynolds is soliciting ideas for fundraising that she can share on the state website. That's a great resource if your creative "well" is a bit dry.

There are also some wonderful suggestions in this newsletter thanks to our editor, Judy. If you are interested in contacting Lynda, her information is as follows:

Lynda Reynolds (She/Her)

Public Library Management Consultant/State Library liaison to Friends of North Carolina Public Libraries

State Library of North Carolina

919.814.6793

lynda.reynolds@dncr.nc.gov

We also want to remind you to join and use the NC-Friends listserv. This NC State Library listserv is for those interested in Friends-related activities and public library

service. Want to know what other Friends are doing? Need some new ideas? [Click here](#) to join. To send a message via the listserv [click here](#).

Has your Friends group renewed your membership in FONCPL? If not, we'd like to encourage you to take care of that as soon as possible so you can continue to receive this newsletter, participate in our grant program, and receive other assistance. Our goal is to provide you with resources and support as you work to assist your community library. Using the list of holidays provided at the end of this newsletter may get your creative juices flowing. Would you believe there is a National Peanut Butter Lover's Day on March 1?

What a way to start the month!

Yours in Friendship,

Joyce Spears, President

PS: Don't forget April 6-12 is National Library Week!



Synopsis of Minutes from the February 8th FONCPL Board Meeting

Here are some of the key discussion points from the meeting:

- The annual report is posted on our website. Please read our 2024 accomplishments and the financial report.
- Our **2025 memberships**, especially for groups is slow coming in. We remind groups that **March will be the last newsletter for those who have not paid their 2025 dues**. Please check to see that your group has paid.
- The Board agreed to continue to offer \$100 grants to those Friends who host a regional meeting with a minimum of six other Friends groups invited. If you are interested in **hosting a regional Friends meeting** [contact Tess Thais](#).
- Reminder that the nominations for **Friend of the Year award** are due 9/30/25. [Click here](#) to see that information.
- **Challenge grant applications** are due 9/15/25. [Click here](#) to read the details on how to apply.
- Lynda Reynolds reported that the State Library continues to work with western libraries that were impacted by the hurricane. The big issue now is that their local funding is being reduced because that money is needed for recovery efforts. She also mentioned that she is meeting with one Friends group (not FONCPL members).
- The next FONCPL Board meeting is May 10th.



NO DUES BY MARCH—NO EMAILED APRIL NEWSLETTER!

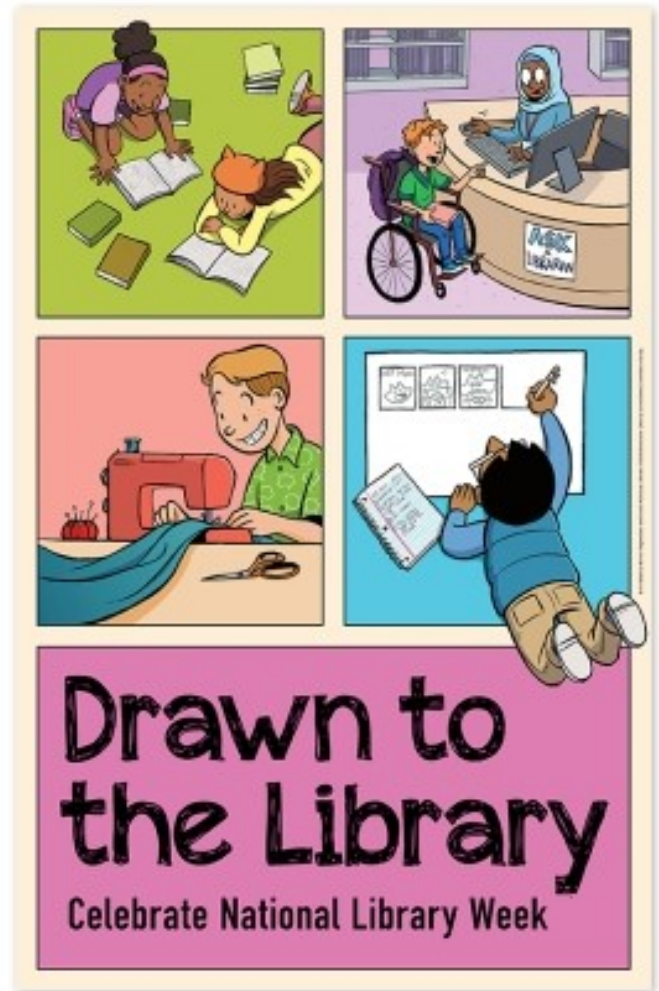
CELEBRATE NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK April 6-12, 2025

Award-winning author and illustrator Raina Telgemeier and cartoonist and comic theorist Scott McCloud have been selected Honorary Chairs of National Library Week 2025.



"I'm thrilled to be a co-chair of National Library Week because I know the importance of kids and communities gathering to share their individual types of creativity and inspire each other. When Scott and I were working on *The Cartoonists Club*, that's exactly what we had in mind. We wanted readers to know we all have talents, and together, we can overcome challenges to fully express ourselves. Libraries help so many people to find their unique talents." —Raina Telgemeier

"I agree wholeheartedly. *The Cartoonists Club* is a graphic novel for kids, but the message is for anyone who's ever struggled to find the courage to express themselves. Raina and I are excited to show our readers how stories and art can bring people together, and libraries are critical to that



process—now more than ever! I'm grateful for the opportunity to celebrate that partnership during National Library Week and beyond." —Scott McCloud.

[Click here](#) to read more.



Nonprofits and Use of Copyrighted Images—Yes, Your Friends May Be Sued

NOTE: This information does not constitute legal advice, it is for general information purposes only.

It is tempting to "borrow" online photos, images, and clipart. Online photos and graphics are protected by copyright law and there are different levels of what can be used and what cannot. Many clipart websites say their images are "free", but if you read the fine print, you find out that the image is free for personal use only. While Friends groups are nonprofits, they are still considered "commercial" when it comes to using clip art, images and photos from an online source.

Let's begin with some definitions.

- **Royalty-free** is not free of charge - The image license has a price, that you must pay in order to use the copyrighted material. It is not a free-to-use license. Royalty-free is not free of terms or restrictions - The license terms are to be followed in order to make legal use of the stock images under this contract.
- **Free for Personal Use** - means that it can't be used for any commercial purpose. This means that you would be OK to use it on a card you created that was just for your own use or for your own wedding invitations, for instance.
- **Fair Use** permits a party to use a copyrighted work without the copyright owner's permission for purposes such as criticism, comment, news reporting, teaching, scholarship, or research. Basically, fair use allows the use of even copyrighted materials a single time to a limited audience

without securing the permission of the copyright holder. Fair use is one of the most commonly misunderstood (frequently contested) copyright situations. Fair use is not the same as free use.

- **Public Domain** - The phrase "public domain" isn't in the U.S. Copyright Act. It is commonly used to refer to content that isn't protected by copyright law. Works that are in the public domain may be used freely, without obtaining permission from or compensating the copyright owner. Images appearing in books printed before 1923 are copyright free (for that particular published image).

So, other than paying for the use of these images, pictures, and graphics from a commercial provider, where might you find free use ones? Here are a few sites to check:

[Library of Congress](#)

[Unsplash](#)

[Open Clip Art](#)

[Open Verse](#)

[Stock Snap](#)

[Free Images](#)

[Pixaby](#)

TechSoup has an article on its website, "Finding and Using Images for Your Nonprofit: Learn how to find photos online and know when you can legally use them for your own purposes." [Click here](#) to read that article.

(Editor's note: This is Part 1 of 2. Part 2 will cover the use of creative commons images and will run in the April edition of this newsletter.)





Parents/guardians who would like to restrict their child from checking out books from any CCS Media Center can follow the procedure below.

What you need to do...

1

Contact the School Library Media Coordinator (Parent Square, Phone, Email) and provide them the child's name and the specific title(s) of books you would like restricted. That's it!

What happens behind the scenes...

The School Library Media Coordinator will notify the Director of Digital & Media Literacy for CCS through a work order in One to One Management, listing the student's name and the specific title(s) to be restricted.

2

3

The student's name and specific book(s) will be added to an Opt-Out spreadsheet shared with all School Library Media Coordinators across the district. (This list is kept updated by the Director of Digital & Media Literacy)

The student will be moved to an "Opt-Out Student" patron type in Destiny, our district Library Management System.

4

5

The specific book(s) being restricted for that student will be moved to an "Opt-Out Books" circulation type in Destiny, our district Library Management System.

When the Opt-Out Student tries to check out an Opt-Out Book, an alarm will sound notifying the School Library Media Coordinator/Teacher that the book can not be checked out by this particular student. A password to override will be required.

6

The student will remain in the "Opt-Out Student" patron type, even if they change schools until they graduate unless the parent/guardian requests their patron type to be changed back to the regular "Student" patron type.

NC Book Censorship Update by Karen Robbins

Why consider school library issues when our focus is the public library? It is important for FOL's to see what is happening in our local schools to be aware of in case attention turns to those libraries next. Best to be prepared.

Catawba County Schools have been embroiled in controversy since 2022 when a few people tried to have books taken out of circulation, even though the majority of the community objects to book bans.

This school year they have a detailed plan to work within the "Parents Bill of Rights" a NC law that gives extraordinary power to parents in determining their children's education. The superintendent, Matthew Stover, wrote a letter to parents giving them clear directions and a link on the school website to look over books, censored materials, and how to have their child "Opt Out" for certain titles. The webpage includes results of a survey, steps to opt out, and a list of restricted materials. You may access that page here.

The extent of the restrictions, the time and energy devoted to working around such challenges, takes time away from educating and engaging with young students. Although would be censors believe they are protecting kids, they are instead holding them back and hindering their ability to learn and grow.

You may enjoy this video statement from YA author Laurie Halse Anderson. Her argument for including books and making them accessible for teens is eloquent and powerful.

March Censorship Update by Karen Robbins

"Censorship is the child of fear and the father of ignorance." —Laurie Halse Anderson "

2025 has seen new energy come to book banning legislation around the country. Even states who passed anti-book ban legislation last year are at risk for new attacks on school and public libraries.

"What books are banned in 2025? Thousands of titles have been removed from public schools across the country.

PEN America has documented nearly 16,000 book bans in public schools nationwide since 2021, a number not seen since the Red Scare McCarthy era of the 1950s. This censorship is being mobilized by conservative groups—and has spread to nearly every state—and predominantly targets books about race and racism or individuals of color and also books on LGBTQ+ topics as well those for older readers that have sexual references or discuss sexual violence." Banned Books List 2025, Pen America, <<https://pen.org/banned-books-list-2025/>>

2025, a new year with a new federal government. Changes have been happening so quickly that it's hard not to lose sight of the continuing efforts to ban, restrict, or move books, limiting who may read them. There are pending laws and policies being implemented around the country that dictate what materials and books you and your children may not have access to in schools and public libraries.

The numbers above can help counter the misinformation coming from the Federal Department of Education, whose press release stated that "book banning is a hoax." The numbers don't lie. The facts will help FOL's and other people who love libraries to counter that language as they talk with friends and neighbors or may hear certain mis- and dis- information

regarding such bans.

Sadly, legislatures are still using the language of protecting children when in actuality, they are limiting what knowledge children can actually access. In Idaho, one example is HB 710. In order to comply with that law, some libraries are creating separate rooms, or even buildings to house "adult" books and no child under the age of 18 may even enter those rooms or libraries. Idaho's Community Library Network has restricted all-access library cards for minors, so that children under 18 may not have access to materials in ANY libraries, including ones across the border in Washington State. Board member Tom Hanley was quoted in The Spokesman Review as saying, " I am going to protect minors, and therefore I'm not going to let minors have access to anywhere, including Washington State, including other libraries in Idaho that may not be as conservative as we are."

Even states that have Anti-Book Ban bills, like Maryland and Minnesota, are seeing proposed laws that would undermine the bills meant to protect library collections. It is happening in many states, cities and counties around the country. The primary targets of the censors' wrath are books by and about LGBTQ+ and BIPOC, as well as non-traditional families, sexual references, and sexual violence.

Some states to watch:

Maryland, where Republicans have sponsored a bill targeting "sexually explicit materials" while using vague language, leaving age-appropriateness to any person rather than professionals in librarianship or child development;

Minnesota, where a Republican-sponsored bill bans "pornography" from school libraries

March Censorship Update by Karen Robbins (Continued)

while not defining what the term means (and remember, school libraries do not purchase pornography):

Iowa, where a bill is being sent to the legislature that would strip funding for public libraries that belong to professional organizations such as the Iowa Library Association or the American Library Association; Above stories sourced from Literary Activism, Kelly Jensen, January 20, February 7, 2025

Utah, where last summer a law was passed to censor books. "The law requires a book be removed from all public schools in the state if at least three school districts (or at least two school districts and five charter schools) determine it amounts to "objective sensitive

material" — pornographic or otherwise indecent content, as defined by Utah code." — The Salt Lake Tribune" by Carmen Nesbitt, January 24, 2025 . Additionally the Utah State Board of Education recommended that students not be allowed to bring "objectionable" materials to school. (In other words, their own copies or library copies of books.)

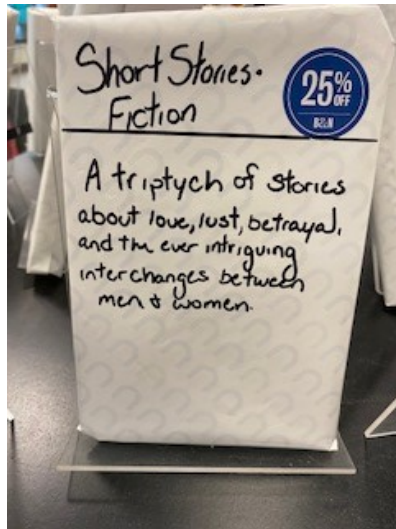
Be sure that your FOL designates someone to keep tabs on news here in North Carolina. I am happy to note that book bans have not been in the local news lately, but we must be prepared. I suggest following Every Library, a group that monitors state legislation and helps fund those who fight against such laws.

St. Patrick's Day Reads for Kids



Book Displays Seen While Travelling

FONCPL Treasurer **Tim Como** came across these displays while travelling. Might be something you can adapt for your book store or book sale. Left is from Barnes & Nobel in Savannah, SC and the one on the right is a display seen at the Barracks Antique Mall in Yemassee, SC.



Trust, But Verify—A Fiduciary Responsibility of Board Members

Many Friends boards only meet quarterly. Treasurers generally give a financial update at each meeting of the board. As a Board member you have a duty to the organization and its members to ensure that the funds are properly accounted for. Are you really fulfilling this responsibility if all you get from the Treasurer is a quarterly oral report? Yes, you want to trust your Treasurer, but if you never lay eyes on an Excel spreadsheet or other computer-generated report comparing actual spending to the budget you approved (please tell me you created and approved a yearly budget!) AND you never see a copy of the checking (and other) account bank statement to be able to compare it to the financial statement, how is it possible that you have fulfilled your fiduciary responsibility?

Recommendation: that every month your Treasurer email to every Board member a copy of the current financial report AND a

copy of the most recent bank statements. This best practice gives the Board sufficient information to monitor finances in a timely manner, but don't forget that if the chapter has a credit card, the Board should also be reviewing this statement monthly as well.



Idea: Libraries Rock—A Wild Night of Music & Sound

Consider this idea: A wild night of music and sound celebrating the musical and literary talents of library workers and performers. What if the Friends collaborated with a local theater group to create a program of music, book readings, and poetry showcasing library workers and performers from the theater. Build the program around literary works. You could do this for an audience of children or for an audience of adults. Here is one example from Austin, TX:

"We partnered with our friends from Sage to host the inaugural Libraries ROCK! on March 7, 2023. Held at The Ballroom at Spider House, it was a fun filled night with solo and group performances by library workers showing off their musical talents. The evening was so much fun that we decided to make this an annual event with our next Libraries ROCK! installment taking place March 6, 2024 at Austin's historic The Hole in The Wall."

So get your creative juices flowing! Local theaters may be looking for just such a partnership.



Idea: Sponsor a Librarian to attend a conference

We found the idea above on the website of The Library Collective whose mission is "all about learning, networking, and kickstarting new ideas among next-generation librarians, library workers, and library stakeholders." We were impressed with the energy that poured through the pages on their website. They are hosting a conference in Kingsport, TN April 13-17, 2025. The cost is low. If an attendee lived within driving distance of the venue, the cost would be around \$700—pretty inexpensive for a major conference.

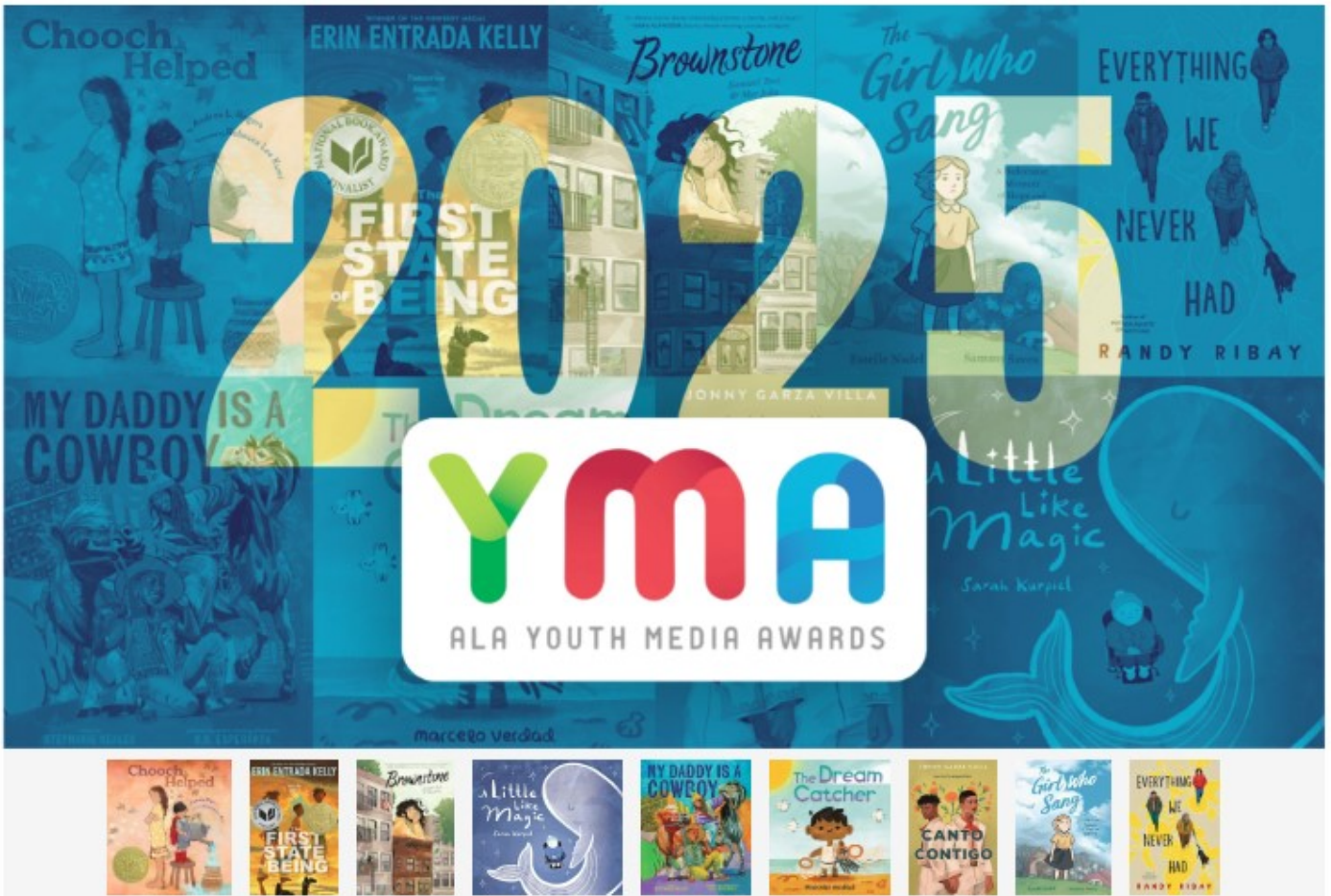
So if your Friends are sitting on a lot of cash consider sponsoring a librarian to attend. You could have an application process and ask the librarians to say why they want to attend and how they would share what they learned when they returned.

[Click here](#) to view conference information.



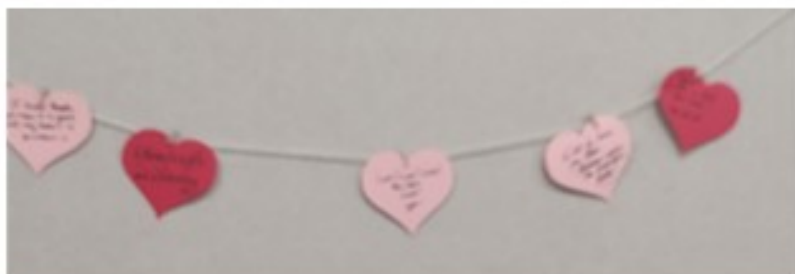
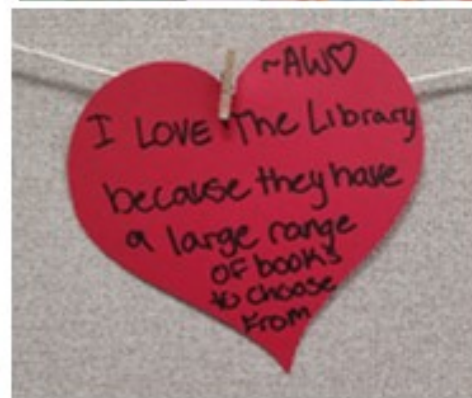
Caldecott, Newbery, and ALA Youth Media Award Winners of 2025

Originating in 1922 with the creation of the John Newbery Medal, the American Library Association annually honors notable books, videos and other media aimed at children and teens. The ALA Youth Media Awards are internationally renowned and the distinction is an incredible resource to parents, educators, librarians and readers looking for the best books that the past year has to offer. The ALA has over a century of experience when it comes to finding books of the highest caliber — so get ready to add some truly excellent books to your library! Here's a list highlighting some of the top winners of this year's ALA Youth Media Awards — you can check out the [full list of winners here](#). [Click here](#) to read article. Your Friends could purchase some or all of these winners for your library.



February Library Project of Friends of New Bern Public Library

February was Library Lovers Month



NOTE: FONCPL contributes to NCPLDA for their advocacy efforts.



February 6, 2025

Dear Library Friends and Foundations,

The North Carolina Public Library Directors Association (NCPLDA) is dedicated to strengthening public libraries across our state. We work tirelessly to support library leaders, staff, services and resources because strong libraries build strong communities. But we can't do it alone—Friends, Foundations and advocates like you are essential partners in this mission.

NCPLDA advocates for legislative action in support of funds for public libraries. In 2023, these efforts led to a historic \$3.8 million increase in recurring State Aid to Public Libraries funding – the largest increase in recurring funding ever. This additional funding will be provided annually for the foreseeable future and is distributed to every public library in the state. While all libraries saw increased funding as a result, the impact on rural, small and regional libraries, as well as those in economically distressed areas, has been especially significant.

This success was only possible because NCPLDA engages professional lobbyists to represent our legislative requests and priorities. Their work is **entirely funded** by contributions from Friends and Foundation groups like yours. We need your support to continue this critical work.

Please consider making a financial contribution today. Your gift helps not just your local library, but libraries across North Carolina. Every contribution, big or small, fuels the fight for better libraries and stronger communities. A donation form is attached with details on how to give. If you have any questions about NCPLDA or your contribution, please ask your local Library Director.

Thank you for being a champion for public libraries. Together, we can build a future where every library in North Carolina has the support and resources it needs to thrive!

Sincerely,

Rishara Finsel
 President, NC Public Library Director's Association
 Director, Transylvania County Library



North Carolina Public Library Directors Association

2025 Friends, Foundations & Advocates Donation Form

WE SUPPORT NC PUBLIC LIBRARIES WITH OUR CONTRIBUTION OF:

\$1,000
 \$750
 \$500
 \$400
 \$250
 Other:

Name of Organization:

Library: Library system (if different):

Mailing Address:

President/Chair: Email:

Please make checks payable to **NCPLDA**, and mail to: **Dorothy Howell, Treasurer**
Carteret County Public Library
1702 Live Oak St., Suite 100
Beaufort, NC 28516

Thank you for your support!



**Friends of North Carolina
Public Libraries**

Helping Friends Build Resilience

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Advocacy Coordinator—Karen Robbins

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Contact Information

1190 18th Ave NE
Hickory, NC 28601
828.446.9472

826mechanic@gmail.com

<https://foncpl.org/>



CALENDAR

All material for the newsletter is due to editor **Judy Hills** by the 25th of each month.

Click here for the 2025 Calendar of National Events—use these to plan your activities.

FONCPL Board Zoom Meetings 10 AM on: 5/10, 8/9, with annual meeting on 11/15.

Challenge Grant Applications due 9/15/25.

Friend of the Year nominations due 9/30/25.

Here are a few dates of note:

MARCH

3/2 Read Across America Day
3/2-8 Return the Borrowed Book Week
3/4 Mardi Gras
3/8 Genealogy Day
3/9 Start of Daylight Savings Time
3/16 Freedom of Information Day
3/20 Spring Equinox
3/21 World Poetry Day

APRIL

4/1 April Fools Day
4/2 International Children's Picture Book Day
Apr 5-12 National Robotics Week
Apr 6-12 National Library Week
4/8 National Library Workers Day
4/12 Drop Everything And Read (DEAR) Day
4/13 National Scrabble Day
4/17 National Haiku Poetry Day
4/18 Good Friday
4/20 Easter
4/20-26 National Volunteer Week