



WINTER 2023

FOLTC Officers:

President: Mary Welken

Vice President: Rose Mary Crook

Recording Secretary:

Kathy Day

Corresponding Secretary:

Judith Lee

Treasurer: Jim Reynolds

**Friends of the Libraries of
Towns County**

P.O. Box 159

Young Harris, GA 30582

Website: www.foltc.com

Email: foltc22@yahoo.com

**Facebook.com/FriendsOfThe
LibrariesOfTownsCounty**

“Like Us” on Facebook

LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Welcome to 2023! It is a privilege and honor to serve as the President of FOLTC for the third year. Please welcome our newest board member, Rose Mary Crook, who will be our Vice President. I am so grateful for the other board members, who willingly accepted their same positions for 2023.

In December FOLTC celebrated our 26th Anniversary with a luncheon. During this celebration, the history of FOLTC was presented by Doris Tilly, our founding President. One statement really stood out to me: “Since 1996, FOLTC has contributed \$220,620 to the Towns County Libraries.” Without your membership, donations, support of book sales, and volunteering, our organization could not continue to make such an overwhelming difference to our two local libraries. (To read the entire FOLTC history, please check out our website: www.FOLTC.com)

American Library Association (ALA) has developed a mission to raise awareness of how important FOL organizations are to libraries. In pursuit of this goal, ALA coined The E’s of Libraries® to promote public awareness of all that today’s libraries help facilitate: Education, Employment, Entrepreneurship, Empowerment, and Engagement for Everyone, Everywhere.

Thank you for your continued support of our libraries. Please encourage others to join FOLTC so the libraries can facilitate the E’s of Libraries through programs and materials.

BOARD MEMBER BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

The Nightingale by Kristin Hannah

This fictional novel tells the story of two sisters in France during WWII and their struggle to survive and resist the German occupation of France.

Dreamland by Nicholas Sparks

In this poignant love story, Sparks explores what it involves to risk it all in pursuit of a dream and figuring out if it’s possible to leave the past behind.

The Saints of Swallow Hill by Donna Everhart

Set in the depression-era South, this historical fiction novel gives one a look into the turpentine industry and the people employed in the work camps around the pine forests.

The House in the Pines by Ana Reyes

This gripping, intriguing thriller has an intricate plot with many surprises. The main character is a woman who long ago witnessed her friend's sudden, mysterious death. She has spent her life trying to forget, but later decides to track down answers.

MEET OUR NEW VP: ROSE MARY CROOK



I grew up in a small town in Alabama called Elba and attended all 12 years of school with my husband Rhett. Next year we will be married 50 yrs. We never had children but have many nieces and nephews who on occasion believe they belong to us. They are scattered from Florida to Nevada.

I graduated from Troy State University in 1974 with a degree in Social Rehabilitation and minor in Psychology. After graduation I worked for the State of Alabama as a Psychiatric Social Worker working with the mentally ill and their families.

I decided after that to make a change and went into sales. I have sold many things in my career from industrial chemicals to computers and lastly copiers and network services.

We have enjoyed many trips over the years to different places like Belize and Hawaii. We spent many times coming up to the north GA mountains and NC, especially around Lake Lure, and decided a few years ago that this would be where we would retire and we are very happy to be here.

LIBRARY HAPPENINGS



Storytimes are continuing every Tuesday with Meredith at Towns. The numbers are steadily growing, and we are thrilled to provide this for the community. In September, we launched PLAY Cards at Town County Schools. This gives every enrolled student library access with no fees or fines. Our circulations on those cards increase every month, with December being our biggest month yet. Our self-checkout machines are up and running. Patrons have the choice to use those or can still come to the desk. We have noticed how kids love using the machine.



Assistant Branch Manager Kevin has started cultural programs each month. In November, he did Native American History Month and taught traditional basket weaving with pine straw. He recently did a Lunar New Year program. In honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, he created a walk through the library focusing on Civil Rights

Activists. Patrons could see photos and read short bios of activists, located on the end of each bookshelf. Library Assistant Amanda at Mountain Regional has started working on adult programming. She did a cookie exchange in November, a Bad Art contest in January, and will be hosting a Galentine's Day in February, where we will be making hot chocolate bombs.





The holidays were a busy time at the library. The Christmas tree in the Children’s Room was decorated entirely by the kids, who loved coloring and designing paper ornaments for the tree. We had our annual Grinchmas program with over 75 people attending. Families could play games, have popcorn and Grinch punch, and decorate cookies with our special guest, the Grinch.



In our second quarter, we had 97 new library users. We offered 97 programs and had 263 people attend.

Here are more photos of fun happenings at your libraries.



FOLTC’S 26TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION HELD ON DECEMBER 12TH

On December 12, 2022, 29 people gathered at Sharp Memorial UMC’s fellowship hall to celebrate the 26th anniversary of Friends of the Libraries of Towns County (FOLTC). Special VIP guest included: Cliff Bradshaw, County Commissioner; past MRLS library directors Teresa Haymore and Donna Howell; past FOLTC presidents Doris Tilly (founding president), Janice Cochran (and spouse), Marilyn Pierce, Barbara Hale, Suzanne Carter, and Elaine Roberts (past presidents Jan and John Roberts were unable to attend); and Towns County Library Branch Managers Marlene Cannon and Debbie Phillips (retired). The remaining guests included FOLTC board members (and spouses) and Friends of the Libraries. To view more photos, visit www.foltc.com/Photos/Events2022

Current president Mary Welken welcomed everyone and introduced Doris Tilly who shared a brief history of FOLTC which began in 1996 and is going strong to this date. The group has grown from 20 members to 163 members. Welken then introduced the Sharp Tones, a musical group from the church, directed by Pam Leslie, who entertained the audience with some lively Christmas songs and jokes before lunch was served. The delicious luncheon buffet was catered by Janice Taylor.

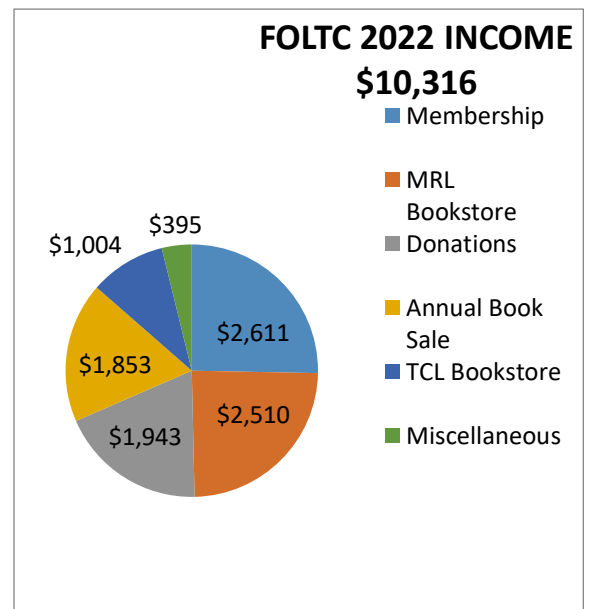


After lunch a short business meeting was held, and officers were elected for 2023, which include: Mary Welken, President; Rose Mary Crook, Vice President; Judith Lee, Corresponding Secretary; Kathy Day, Recording Secretary; and Jim Reynolds, Treasurer.

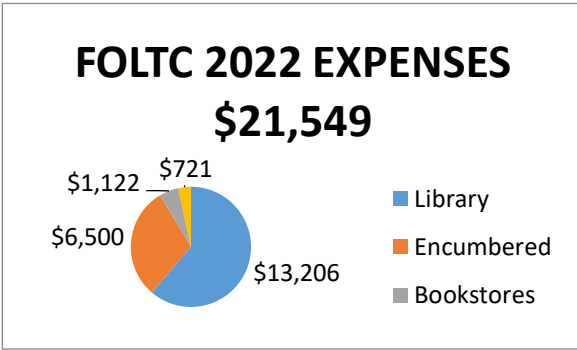
As a fundraising non-profit organization, FOLTC has raised and contributed approximately \$220,620.00 (directly and indirectly) to Mountain Regional Library and Towns County Public Library since 1996. Funds are raised with yearly membership fees, book sales, bake sales, and 2 permanent bookstores (one at each library) that sell used, donated books and other items. All of the funds that are raised by the organization go to benefit Mountain Regional Library, Young Harris, and Towns County Public Library, Hiawassee.

NEWS FROM OUR TREASURER

2022 was our first full year since Covid 19 and the support of the Friends of the Library has been great. The Friends raised 10% more than last year. Sales of books increased nearly 100% over last year, assuring us that we are providing the type of reading materials that the residents of Towns County want for themselves, their children and grandchildren.



2022 Expenses increased by 68% since last year. This may sound bad but it is really great. We were able to increase our donations to the libraries by \$5,000 due to your support. The additional moneys came from our reserve funds. We hope to do the same in 2023.



Now is a perfect time to join FOLTC and support area children and adults through your libraries.

SPECIAL FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARIES OF TOWNS COUNTY (1/31/2023)

PATRONS (Donated \$100+)

Suzanne Adelmann	Associated Fire Wholesale, LLC	Barbara & Bob Bone
Marilyn K. Brown	Coca Cola Foundation	Bill & Kathy Day
Betty & Clay Dotson	Gary & Linda Dye	Mary & James Edwards
Joyce Frickle	David & Joyce Geiger	H&H Tradesmen
Marie Miller	Peach State FCU	Jim & Trish Reynolds
ED & DR Staton	Sven's Counseling	Doris Tilly
David & Mary Welken	Tammy Wells	

DONORS (Donated \$50+)

Sandra & Robert Alden	Dick & Marcia Aunspaugh	John Bowen
Alvin & Sybil Fickle	Maureen & Ted Gustafson	Diana Gutenstein
Leon & Judith Lee	Diane Lesko	M.O. & F.M. Proctor
Deborah Reynolds	Elaine & Bruce Roberts	Lajeane & Noel Turner
James & Linda Worl		

SPONSORS (\$30+) AND BUSINESS SPONSORS (\$35+)

Jane Farrell	Julia Giller
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PATRON LEVEL BUSINESS DONOR (\$100+ level):



FOLTC MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Friends of the Libraries of Towns County is to provide financial support for Mountain Regional Library and Towns County Public Library and to advocate for public libraries. FOLTC is a 501(c) (3) non-profit.

FOLTC MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL FORM

Date _____
Name _____
Street _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone# _____
Email _____

MEMBERSHIP TYPE New Member _____ Renewal _____ Gift/Other _____
Individual \$12 _____ Family \$24 _____ Sponsor \$30 _____ Donor \$50 _____ Patron \$100 _____ Gift \$ _____
Business Member \$35 _____ Business Donor \$50 _____ Business Patron \$100 _____

PAYMENT OF MEMBERSHIP DUES is for one year of membership; renewal is the anniversary of your joining date. Membership dues and gifts are tax deductible as FOLTC is a nonprofit 501(c) (3) organization. **Business Members** will receive a thank you letter. **Business Donors** will receive a letter and a framed certificate of appreciation. **Business Patrons** will receive a letter, a certificate, and a copy of their business card included for one year in the FOLTC newsletter which is published quarterly and distributed by email or mail to all members. **Make checks payable to FOLTC.** Membership forms and payments may be placed in the red money boxes in the Friends’ bookstores in Towns County Public Library in Hiawassee or Mountain Regional Library in Young Harris, or mailed to FOLTC, P O Box 159, and Young Harris GA 30582.

When you invite your friends to become a Friend of the Libraries of Towns County, area children are the big winners!

Let’s work together and increase our membership in 2022 / 2023