

MINUTES
FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARIES OF TOWNS COUNTY
FEBRUARY 11, 2025

I. Call to Order and President's Report

President Rose Mary Crook called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. at Towns County Public Library, Hiawassee, GA. She thanked everyone for their assistance in preparing her for her first meeting as president. Rose Mary welcomed a new member, Tammy Bates.

Board members present were: Marcia Aunspaugh, Bena Ball, Kim Brown, Rose Carter, Suzanne Carter, Rose Mary Crook, Kevin Kirby, Ann Lewis, Darlene Pilcher, Delores Staton, and Mary Welken. Friends Dick Aunspaugh, Tammy Bates, and Elaine Roberts were present.

Board members not present: Kathy Day, Judith Lee, and Jim Reynolds.

II. Minutes

Minutes of the December 10, 2024 meeting were presented by Suzanne Carter in the absence of Secretary Day. A motion was made by Marcia Aunspaugh to accept the minutes as presented. Motion was seconded by Mary Welken; passed unanimously.

III. Treasurer's Report

Jim Reynolds was absent. There was no treasurer's report for this meeting as he previously sent out a year-end report and a January 2025 deposits report.

IV. Library Reports

Ann Lewis, MRL Branch Manager, reported that juvenile fiction books have been ordered with MRL's share of the funds given as memorials for Barbara Hale and Jan Roberts (see Old Business). Two new employees were recently hired for circulation and youth services. There was a good turnout for the Cookbook Club. Ann presented the idea for a local authors reception/showcase and would like FOLTC to sponsor the event and have volunteers for a planning committee. Darlene Pilcher made a motion for FOLTC to sponsor the event and provide \$150.00 for refreshments. The motion was seconded by Rose Carter; passed unanimously. Rose Mary, Darlene, and Tammy volunteered to assist Ann in planning the event. Ann and Kevin Kirby requested funds to purchase a button machine (which includes 250 button blanks and could be used by FOLTC). Mary Welken made a motion that FOLTC provide \$150.00 for said purchase. The motion was seconded by Rose Mary Crook; passed unanimously.

Kevin Kirby, TCPL Branch Manager, said he is providing adult programs, including a new jigsaw puzzle group. He is considering offering a class on food fermentation in the future. He has not yet decided how he will spend TCPL's share of the memorial funds.

V. Book Club

Kim Brown shared the next two titles: February title is *The Ride of Her Life* by Elizabeth Letts; March title is *The Caretaker* by Ron Rash. She is reaching out to previous attendees in hopes of increasing attendance. She may conduct a survey to see if a different day and/or time would be more productive.

VI. Corresponding Secretary

Judith was unable to attend the meeting but did share with Suzanne that there was nothing to report.

VII. Bookstore/Book Sales

Marcia Aunspaugh stated that the bookstore committee would like to lower prices of children's books: juvenile and young adult books would be \$.50; picture books would be \$.25 (see New Business). Present board members were in agreement. Suzanne Carter will print new Price Lists for the bookstores. Marcia set the date of February 18th at 10:30 at MRL for sorting donated books as the shed and storage closet are overflowing. Volunteers are needed. Book sales will be conducted during the months of April and August, with shelves restocked during those months.

VIII. Bake Sales

No bake sales are currently scheduled.

IX. Membership

Rose Carter shared that she sent snail mail letters to previous members who have not renewed their membership in several years but continue to read the newsletters. Four members renewed their membership from her efforts. As of this date, there are 99 current members consisting of 3 business, 9 donor, 14 family, 1 honorary, 39 individual, 8 life, 19 patron, and 6 sponsor. Two coupons were exchanged for a free book.

X. Newsletter

The Winter 2025 newsletter will soon be published and shared with membership.

XI. Publicity

Suzanne Carter stated that she has been maintaining the Facebook page and providing current information for the website. She will produce new price lists for the bookstores and will begin working on publicity for the April book sale.

XII. Old Business

There was no old business to discuss as the memorial funds were voted on at the December meeting (see Library Reports).

XIII. New Business

National Library Workers Day: A motion was made by Darlene Pilcher to increase the amount of the Ingles gift card for employees to \$50. The motion was seconded by Marcia Aunspaugh; passed unanimously.

It was suggested by Suzanne Carter to start a monthly Fiber Arts social group to meet monthly at MRL in the community room. A tentative decision was made for the 4th Monday of each month at 10:30 a.m. Ann Lewis will make sure the room is available for these dates and times.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 by President Rose Mary Crook. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 8th, 1:00, at MRL.

Respectfully submitted by Suzanne Carter (at the request of Kathy Day, Secretary)

APPROVED April 8, 2025.