



FOLTC

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARIES OF TOWNS COUNTY

WINTER 2025

FOLTC Officers:

President: Rose Mary Crook

Vice: Mary Welken

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/FriendsOf
The
LibrariesOfTownsCounty**

"Like Us" on Facebook

MEET THE NEW FOLTC PRESIDENT!



Rose Mary Crook was elected FOLTC president at the December 10, 2024, annual meeting. She previously served as the vice president. She and her husband Rhett grew up in the small town of Elba, Alabama, near the Florida line. Rose Mary attended Troy State University and gained a BA degree in Psychology and Sociology. After graduation she went to

work for the State of Alabama as a Psychiatric Social Worker. While they never had children, they have numerous nieces and nephews located all over the country that they are very close to.

After moving to Atlanta in the 1980's Rose Mary began working in the computer industry and spent many years selling various types of products, including computers, industrial chemicals, and electrical wire and cable. Having

made frequent trips to north Georgia and North Carolina, and because they no longer liked the heat in Florida, they decided to retire to the north Georgia mountains. They love their home, the surrounding areas, and their new friends.

Rose Mary decided to join FOLTC as a way to serve in the community and make new friends. As a member of the Bookstore Committee, she really enjoys going through all the book donations that are then sold in the FOLTC bookstore. Even though it is hard work sometimes, she loves seeing what everyone else likes to read.

Welcome, Rose Mary, and thanks for your willingness to serve!

LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Hope you had a great Valentine's Day! Well, we are certainly having an interesting winter, and our FOLTC bookstores are doing a great business in sales and donations. We elected our new board in December, and we are all looking forward to working together this year.

Are you looking to start the new year with a new book? Check out Phil Morhart's *New Reads for a New Year*. The editors at *Booklist*, the American Library Association's book review journal, share a wealth of suggestions on the latest episode of their podcast. Check it out at [How I Library](#) podcast.

Our library system continues to add new tools to use. Kanapy.com is a streaming service available to all who have a library card. Check out the collection of films with no commercials. Once the app is downloaded, it is easy to set up. There is also a Kanapy for children's movies. Every month, 12 credits are issued to each user. They expire at the end of each month, and the remaining credits do not roll over. Some films necessitate two credits, and a few require four credits. Viewers are allowed 72 hours to stream a title.

Thank you for continuing to support the Towns County libraries through your membership and donations. Please encourage others to join and support our libraries' services and programs.

LOTS OF INFORMATION ON FOLTC WEBSITE

The FOLTC website at www.foltc.com has a wealth of information in one location for your convenience. As a library user you might be interested in the hours of each Towns County library which are included on the Home page, along with their phone numbers. The Home page will also include flyers for upcoming events. **There will be a FOLTC Bookstore Sale at both libraries during the entire month of April! FOLTC will sponsor a Fiber Arts Social Club at MRL on the 4th Monday at 10:30 beginning on February 24th. All crafters are welcome to join us and bring a project.**

The Membership page introduces you to current FOLTC board members, newsletters current and past, approved minutes of the FOLTC bimonthly board meetings, and a membership application when you are ready to renew your membership.

The Events page has pertinent current information, including a 2025 calendar (which includes meeting dates which are open to the public), Book Bunch book club titles for the year, and information about upcoming bookstore sales and other events when scheduled.

The Miscellaneous page offers a history of the group, which began in 1996, and the organization's bylaws. Our thanks go to all founding members for a job well done!

The Contact page allows you to send questions directly to FOLTC via email. And the Links page provides a direct link to local and library-related groups that might be of interest to you as a library user and Friend.

Special thanks go to Robert Harford of LJ Designs for designing our website and keeping it up to date. We couldn't do it without Robert!

HAPPENINGS AT MOUNTAIN REGIONAL LIBRARY



We had a wonderful holiday season at Mountain Regional. A highlight of the holiday season was patrons of all ages creating ornaments for our 10 foot tall Christmas tree. The Christmas tree



provided the perfect backdrop for *Storytelling by the Christmas Tree with Kanute Rarey*. Mr. Rarey led 2 sessions, one for children and one for adults. We also had a magical visit from Santa who answered all the important “Santa” questions and even joined in activities in the youth room with Mrs. Claus. Thanks to FOLTC, each family was gifted a special holiday book. Throughout the month we had many patrons taking advantage of our gift wrapping station and craft stations throughout the library.



Our Kids Club has been busy with Lego events, learning about artists while trying out techniques, exploring science (volume and mass, chemical reactions and gravity), STEM challenges, and enjoying games and fun together. Our weekly Wednesday morning Story & Play for toddlers features a different concept with a story and sensory activities to engage our young patrons. The Towns County Literacy Bus came by for a wonderful visit. And the big news with the children and families has been the addition of Daisy, our reading dog. The children love reading to Daisy when she visits a few times each month.

In January we celebrated the one year anniversary of our Mystery Book Club with an Agatha Christie doubleheader: *The Christie Affair* and *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*. Everyone is welcome to join these lively book club meetings each month on the 4th Thursday.

We kicked off a new monthly book club featuring cookbooks. Each month we will explore a different cuisine and then come together for a potluck sampling! In February, we shared yummy soups, and on March 4th, we will celebrate Mardi Gras with New Orleans inspired recipes. Join us any month on the first Tuesday at noon!



In January we had another successful Blood Drive. The next blood drive at MRL will be Tuesday, June 10th.

Upcoming Dates at MRL:

Kids Club for Elementary Age: Each Tuesday at 3:30

Baby/Toddler Story and Play: Each Wednesday at 10:30

Thursday, February 27, Mystery Book Club: First Lie Wins

Tuesday, March 4, Cookbook Book Club: Mardi Gras

We have lots of plans in the works for this spring. Keep up to date on our website: mountainlibrary.com/events

HAPPENINGS AT TOWNS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Programming at the library has been going very well these last few months. Storytime is well attended by a strong group of young children, and our newly formed Crafternoon has developed a stable group of participants as well!

The month of November was an exciting month for adults at TCPL with a lecture from Dr. Heather Welch on Native American Heritage through books and services that the library can provide. The event was well attended by eleven people whom all had very positive feedback. We also did a fall themed bingo for adults inspired by pumpkin pie. It even included a pumpkin pie spice ice cream cake donated by Dairy Queen of Hiawasse!



November's Take and Make Baking Competition resulted in some really cute cakes! The kits used for these creations were purchased by FOLTC and were much appreciated!

As always, we ended the year with our Christmas party at the library where we did Cookies with the Grinch. The kids really enjoyed chasing after and looking for the Grinch around the library while they played games, ate snacks, made Christmas ornaments for the children's tree, and decorated cookies on the porch.

New for us in 2024, we were very pleased to be able to offer a Christmas gift. Each child who attended was able to choose a new book to take home! This was again made possible by a generous donation from FOLTC.

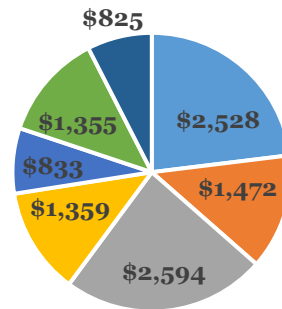
As we move on into the spring of 2025, we are focusing our attention on our summer reading programming. We are anticipating another wonderful summer reading season built around the theme "Color Our World." Details of the exact events will be announced later in the spring but we will certainly once again be turning to you all for volunteers and support during our busiest time of the year!



FOLTC INCOME 2024 \$10,996

2024 turned out to be another great example of our community supporting its libraries. The two library book stores raised \$6,192 or 12% more than last year. Total income for 2024 was more than sufficient to cover all the needs of the FOLTC and library staff, which provided for the increase in library attendance and the number of programs presented at the libraries.

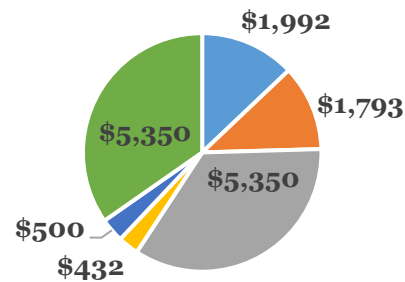
FINANCIAL NEWS



■ MRL Bookstore ■ TCL Bookstore
■ MEMBERSHIP ■ MRL Sp. Booksale
■ TCL Sp. Booksale ■ Donations
■ Memorial

FOLTC EXPENSES 2024 \$10,996

2024 saw an increased number of library programs especially for the children. As Ann Lewis and Kevin Kirby, our library managers, discovered all the programs that the FOLTC would fund for them. \$5,000 shown under both MRHQ and Encumbered is for the 2024 & 2025 Towns County Sole Commissioner Grant that Mr. Bradshaw awards each year that the FOLTC matches it. These funds are for our two libraries to use as they need.



■ MRL ■ TCL
■ MRHQ ■ FOLTC
■ Memorial ■ Encumberedd

(1/31/2025)

Grace Andrews
Marilyn K. Brown
Bill & Kathy Day
Mary & James Edwards
Jim & Trish Reynolds
Jo & Walton Sineath
Mary & Dave Welkin

PATRONS (Donated \$100+)

Ronald & Tammy Bates
Barbara Casson
Betty Dodson
David & Joyce Geiger
Sven's Counseling Services
EE & DR Staton

Barbara & Bob Bone
Coca Cola Foundation
Gary & Linda Dye
Peach State FCU
John & Jean Seymour
Doris Tilly

Marcia & Dick Aunspaugh

Joyce Frick

Noel & LaJean Turner

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

Jane Farrell
Susan Maguire

Theodore & Maureen Gustafson

James & Sandra Hazen

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, Young Harris GA 30582.

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 corporation.

***When you invite your friends to become a FOLTC member,
our children are the big winners.***