



FOLTC

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARIES OF TOWNS COUNTY

Spring 2026

FOLTC Officers:

President: Rose Mary Crook

Vice President: Mary Welken

Recording Secretary:

Kathy Day

Corresponding Secretary:

Judith Lee

Treasurer: Rose Carter

**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

Renew Membership online:

<https://www.foltc.com/renewal.html>

LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

I hope you are having a wonderful spring/summer. We have just completed our semi-annual Bookstores Sale with great success. We also celebrated our Towns County Library Workers in April.

This year the American Library Association (ALA) is celebrating 150 years and is the largest such group in the world. Founded in 1876 to promote library services, it acts as the leading advocate for libraries, freedoms, and establishing standards for library services. Come visit our libraries to celebrate with them.

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

STAY TUNED! First FOLTC Scholarship Winner to be Announced

Earlier in 2026 FOLTC made the bold move to sponsor its first scholarship for graduating high school students

in 30 years! The scholarship will be awarded to a deserving graduate from Towns County High School who will be attending an accredited 4-year college, 2-year school, or technical school this fall. This **\$1,000 scholarship** will be presented to the successful applicant at the TCHS's Honors Day on May 15, 2026. We received 6 applications that presented the Scholarship Committee with the difficult challenge of selecting only one. The candidates were outstanding without exception!

FOLTC is able to support this worthy scholar thanks to the generous donations of funds, books to our bookstores, and FOLTC membership fees. To learn which deserving candidate will receive our scholarship, *watch for the announcement in the Towns County Herald or in the summer issue of the FOLTC newsletter.*

APRIL BOOKSTORES SALE EVENT RESULTS

Our successful April Bookstores Sale Event raised over \$900! These funds will be requested by both libraries to buy books and other library materials, as well as adult & children's programming supplies. We appreciate each donor and shopper.



A big Thank You to the local supporters who provided publicity for the event: The Towns County Herald;

Robert Harford, FOLTC webmaster; Lake Chatuge Chamber of Commerce; United Community Bank, Hiawassee; WJUL/WJRB radio stations; Cities of Young Harris and Hiawassee; Mountain Graphics; Friends of Union County Library; Peach State Federal Credit Union; North Georgia News; and Clay County Progress.

The day after this sale ended, we again began accepting donations at both bookstores. Please remember our shoppers only buy gently used books, jigsaw puzzles, and DVDs. A complete list of usable items is in our bookstores and on our website.

MESSAGE TO FOLTC FROM HEATH LEE, MRLS DIRECTOR

Hi Friends,

Thank you all so much for your support of the Towns County Libraries. We held our annual Staff Day just yesterday and without your support, the event would have lacked some of the extra things that makes it a special event. Also, thank you all for the gift cards. Those are always appreciated :)

Have a great week everyone!
Heath

HAPPENINGS IN YOUR LIBRARIES



TCPL: The first few months of 2026 are now behind us, and FOLTC has been extremely influential at Towns County Public Library. They provided the financial support for part of every program so far this year. We held a penguin party in January where Dr. Amanda Reynolds from the University of North Georgia came and spoke on what it was like living and working in Antarctica. She showed pictures from and spoke about her time on that continent while doing research as an undergraduate.



Kids and adults alike had the opportunity to make paper cup penguins and browse a curated book selection.

In February, FOLTC provided the snacks and candies for our Valentine's Party. The party itself was a great success. There was a card making station for kids to be able to make valentine cards for the special people in their lives, and, of course, there were games all over the library, many of which were also provided by FOLTC.



March's program was an Egg Drop (eggs courtesy of FOLTC) in honor of Easter. Adults and children took part in attempting to craft a device of some sort from 5 sheets of paper and a meter of tape. The device needed to be designed in such a way that an egg could be placed in it and survive a drop from the ceiling onto the hard concrete floor of the screened-in porch. This STEM based event gave everyone a chance to design, test, and reflect on their projects. We even had 1 egg successfully saved by a child's design! Will the designer be a future engineer?

We implemented two smaller passive programs in February and March as well. In February we had a "Guess How Many" jar with patrons guessing the number of Hershey Kisses to win a prize. During March we did a Soda Bread Take and Make kit in celebration of St. Patrick's Day. Both of these events were funded by FOLTC, which resulted in 23 baking kits going out into the community. Three jars of Valentine candy found a home among our patrons as well.



In early 2026, FOLTC-funded Tonies Boxes made their appearance at the library. A host of characters appeared during some of our events. They have been well received by patrons and well worth the entertainment it gives many of the kids.

MRL: This quarter's highlight was our vibrant Read Across America "Dr. Seuss Carnival," made possible through the generous support of FOLTC. Families enjoyed a lively reading of *Green Eggs and Ham* with a special "Cat in the Hat," a surprise Grinch appearance, and a variety of Seuss-themed activity stations including games, crafts, and prizes. With approximately 60 attendees, the event created a joyful, multi-generational celebration of reading, and teachers later shared that students were excitedly talking about their books and experiences—an encouraging sign of lasting impact.

FOLTC support continues to shape meaningful experiences throughout the library, from providing refreshments for a well-attended movie day to helping sustain engaging programs like Kids'





Club and Toddler Time, which averages 20 participants and fosters early literacy and family connection. Kids' Club now features a "child reader" each month (photo: Zella Pipkin reading *Marilyn's Monster*)—participants sign up, choose a book, and practice reading at home before leading the group in an interactive story time, with the day's activities themed around their selection. We are also especially grateful for the ongoing monthly funding support for additional materials, including expanded large print offerings, which helps us better meet the needs of all our patrons. Thank you as well for your hard work on the recent book sale and your thoughtful generosity toward staff—both of which are sincerely appreciated and do not go unnoticed.

Please watch for our summer programming, and come join us at our libraries! We would love to have you.

HAVE YOU NOTICED MORE LARGE PRINT BOOKS?

During the first quarter of 2026, FOLTC funded the purchase of 20 large print books for circulation at Towns County libraries. The goal is to continue adding around four large print books at each library monthly. Mountain Regional Library has set up a special display case for some of the latest titles. Take a look and check them out!



LIBRARY STAFF HONORED

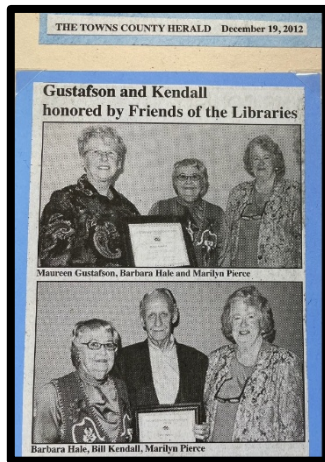
FOLTC recognized the staff at both libraries and regional office in honor of National Library Workers Day on April 21st with a gift card. All staff members are greatly appreciated by our communities!



Right photo: Rose Mary Crook, FOLTC President; Shawna Rose, MRL Branch Manager; MRL staff Cindy Youngblood and Michele Boman

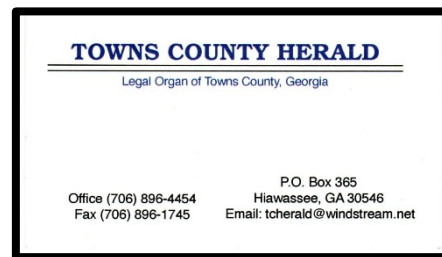
Left photo: Kevin Kirby, TCPL Branch Manager; Rose Mary Crook, FOLTC President

DONOR SPOTLIGHT – Shining a Light on Some of our Best Friends!



FOLTC would like to highlight some of our most loyal supporters each quarter in our newsletter. For this issue, we selected **Maureen Gustafson**. Maureen served as Corresponding Secretary from 2004 until she resigned from the board in 2014. She was also actively involved with book sales and maintaining the butterfly garden that was started by Doris Tilly but removed during library renovation. Maureen (also known as Moe) and her husband Ted moved to Massachusetts in 2014 to be closer to family. They continue to support FOLTC and our libraries. Thank you, Maureen, for your unwavering dedication!

BUSINESS SUPPORTERS



FOLTC MEMBERSHIP FORM

- If paying by check, print and complete this form and include it with your payment (see Payment of Dues below).
- Save time by using our online form and pay using a **credit or debit card**. Visit the FOLTC website at www.foltc.com and click on the Membership page.
<https://www.foltc.com/renewal.html>

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Date _____
Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Preferred Phone Number _____
Email _____

MEMBERSHIP TYPE

New Member _____ Renewal _____ Gift/Other _____
Individual \$15 _____ Family \$30 _____
Donor \$50 _____ Patron \$100 _____
Business Patron \$100 _____

Membership dues entitle you to one year of membership and are due for renewal on the anniversary of your joining date. Membership dues and gifts are tax deductible as FOLTC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Business Patrons will receive a thank you letter and have a copy of their business card included for one year in the quarterly FOLTC newsletter which is distributed to all members.

PAYMENT OF DUES

If you wish to pay by **check**, make checks payable to FOLTC. Completed membership form and payment may be placed in the red money boxes in the FOLTC bookstores at 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.

If you wish to pay by **credit or debit card**, visit our website at www.foltc.com and click on the Membership page.

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.