

Friends of the Summerville Library (FOSL)
Tuesday February 11, 2020

The monthly meeting of the Friends of the Summerville Library met Tuesday, February 11, 2020. Becky Westfall, President, called the meeting to order at 6:30PM.

In Attendance:

Becky Westfall, President
Mevelyn Williams, Vice President
Beverly Brockman, Secretary
Ellen Hyatt, Member-At-Large
Kathy Marrah, Member-At-Large
Cathy Coffey, Book Sale Committee Chair
Kevin Carroll, Advocacy Committee Chair
Carol Brummett, Hospitality Committee Chair
Leslie Koller, DCLibrary Liaison
Harriett Little, Member
Donna Underwood, Member
Pat Smithdorff, Member
Wendy Nolan, Member
Karen Petros, Member

Welcome and Introductions (Westfall) New member in attendance, Wendy Nolan, was recognized and President Westfall asked all in attendance to introduce themselves.

Approval of the January meeting minutes (Brockman) Secretary Brockman asked members if there were any additional changes to the January General Meeting Minutes. A minor change in formatting was noted by Harriett Little. Secretary Brockman agreed to make that change for the historical record copy. Harriett Little then made a motion for the minutes to be accepted and it was seconded by Kevin Carroll.

President's Report: (Becky Westfall)

Congratulations and many thanks to those who contributed to another successful book sale. Cathy Coffey, Anne Gleason, and a small army of volunteers made it happen again!

Thank you to Leslie Koller for arranging a training session with a representative from the SC State Library for the Library and FOSL leaders. The goal is for us to improve mutual understanding of our roles and to enhance the way we work together for higher visibility of, and appreciation for, the Library. The training will be held here in the Westvaco Room on February 26th from 2-4 pm. All of you are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Look for a new, glossy membership brochure to appear at our Friends table here in the Library soon. Thank you to Mevelyn W. and Kathy M. for their initiative and hard work on this project.

We are looking for people who can help with presentation and preparation of refreshments for our Susan Zurenda Author Talk on May 17 and the Mary Alice Monroe Tea on June 7. A sign-up sheet is going around for those who are interested in being on a call list for refreshment help (meetings, programs, events) ☺

We also need a group of people who will think about the implications of new libraries on our Friends group. Will we remain the Friends of Summerville Library once there are two libraries in Summerville? What about having one Friends organization for the DCL system? Is setting up a foundation a good goal for us? Big-picture

thinkers and those willing to research these different ways of operating Friends groups are needed! A sign-up sheet is going around😊

The Friends of South Carolina Libraries will hold their annual meeting in Beaufort on April 3. This will be a one-day event for us. We will carpool down on that morning; FOSL will pay the registration fee for those attending. Bring some money to help with gas costs and to buy your own lunch. A sign-up sheet is making the rounds😊. Details about the day's plans will be given at the March meeting.

The Southern Author Series presented by Timrod Library has been posted to our FOSL Facebook page. This represents a new level of FOSL support for programs at the Timrod Library, Summerville's historic subscription library. This Sunday, February 16, at 2 pm, Tony Bartelme will be speaking about his book, *A Surgeon in the Village*. The event will be held at Bethany United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall.

Vice President's Report on Membership: (Williams)

In reviewing the membership roster with the Board, it was determined that a change needed to be implemented regarding how we count members. Therefore, I adjusted the tally of members to include the number of family members, if I had this data or I simply used "2" if the total was unknown. In the past, I was counting only line entries as "1" rather than using multiples. This change will provide us a better, truer tally of the membership.

Having received membership notices from both the PO box and the FOSL box at the library, we received a total of 18 renewals and 1 new membership for January and early February. Six of these were family and the remainder were individual. Using the line method, the total would be 180 members. The true total is now 236. However, before we rejoice prematurely in our good fortune, I also calculate that there are 27 members who have NOT renewed between last September through December.

With the changes in the wind regarding new libraries and the interest generated during the growth in our area, I am confident that our membership will grow and that the impact the libraries will have on our neighborhoods and the whole county, will be tremendous. Thank you each and every one for your generosity and support.

Treasurer's Report (President Westfall for Treasurer Gleason)

Westfall provided copies of the Monthly FOSL Treasurer's Report for the month of January as well as a special sheet about the JANUARY 2020 Book Sale. Comments were shared about the successful outcome of the book sale.

Member Kevin Carroll suggested the treasurer investigate rate of returns on CD's at different institutions (banks or credit unions, etc.) for the money currently in our money market account. It was also discussed possibly investing in several CD's with different maturity dates perhaps 3 months apart. President Westfall stated she would pass that recommendation on to the treasurer for follow-up. Also, Carroll asked if it is determined financially prudent to move ahead in a CD investment then it should also be determined if the financial institution or institutions selected for the CDs makes "community reinvestment donations" and if so, whether we might be the recipient of a donation.

Book Sale Committee Report (Coffey)

I would like to thank everyone who helped with this book sale! We had 30 volunteers who signed up ahead of time, and 9 "drop-in volunteers." Between these two groups, then for the four days of the sale, we had a total of 54 time slots filled. This does not include all the days and hours spent sorting and boxing up the books to prepare for the sale. A special thank you to **Anne Gleason** and **Karen Petros** for sorting and boxing all the donated books. We grossed a little over \$5,000 including credit card sales which tallied over \$1300. Credit card sales are increasing at each sale. Expenses to be accounted for include: Signs ASAP for updating the banner and

road signs, SJS newspaper advertising, American Legion Post building rental, Ash & T's moving the books from storage to the American Legion Post, and All Safe Storage space rental expenses for 4 months. Over 100 boxes/flats of books were donated to Dorchester Habitat for Humanity on Monday following the sale. Teachers, home schoolteachers, and other charitable organizations received free books late Sunday afternoon. We were able to hang our banner at the end of the Berlin G. Myers parkway the week of the sale. We are scheduled to have it hung for our next book sale which will be May 1st -3rd with set up on April 30th. Thank you to everyone who shared information with your friends, neighbors, family, etc. We had several people that were first time visitors who plan to be back. We also had visitors who were here on vacation and came to shop! Also, thanks to anyone who has donated their books, movies, etc. to our sale. Without those, we would not be able to have such successful sales.

Harriett Little asked for a moment to discuss an idea about Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Literacy Program and potential donation of children's books at the end of the book sale to children in more impoverished areas of our county. Discussion followed, noting that our county does not participate in this specific program. Cathy Coffey mentioned that most books for that younger age group are gone by the end of each sale. President Westfall stated this idea could be discussed further in a committee setting; she thanked Harriet for the suggestion.

PR/Publicity Committee Report (President Westfall for Autumn Reid)

Autumn will attend the February Executive Board Meeting (4 pm on 2/26 in the SC Room of the Library) to explain online record-organizing tools now available to FOSL officers. Leslie Koller, as a FOSL member and not as a Library Liaison, and Kathy Marrah volunteered to join this committee.

Events Committee Report (President Westfall for Sandra Baden)

At the request of Mary Alice Monroe, "A Summer Tea with Mary Alice Monroe" has been moved from June 14th to June 7th. I was able to move the reservation of Grace Lutheran Church to the new date.

I have been in touch with Micky Styslinger at the ARK about a Sunday afternoon presentation on Alzheimers prevention. The ARK staff are very enthusiastic about doing this. We will be working through the details. I will work with Leslie Koller to ensure the subject matter and date will work with the library needs.

The Susan Zurenda author visit remains on track for May 17th. Please note as discussed that I will be out of town and other FOSL members will need to take over the actual day of event: setting up and taking down chairs; assisting Susan; providing refreshments; introducing speaker; thanking speaker. Main Street Reads will provide books for sale. President Westfall noted that Leslie Koller will introduce the speaker at this event, but volunteers are needed for refreshments as well as clean-up!

President Westfall passed around a roster for members to sign if they were willing to provide refreshments at any events for the balance of this calendar year and not for a specific event. A significant number of members volunteered.

Bylaws Committee Report (Marrah)

The Bylaws Committee has completed revisions to FOSL bylaws. The revised bylaws are available tonight in hard copy. This week they will be emailed to the entire membership. If you would like to compare the new document with the former version, the 2017 document is linked to the FOSL web site at the bottom of the home page: <friendsofthesummervillelibrary.weebly.com>

Advocacy Report (Carroll)

No Report.

Library Liaison: (Leslie Koller, MLIS, Assistant Branch Manager)

Programming:

Programming staff are planning for the Summer Reading Program and presenters. We will be hosting local storyteller Tim Lowry July 10, 2020, 3PM. We will also have a presentation with the South Carolina Aquarium. Summer Reading will launch with a Star Wars event, May 30, 2020 (KIDS ONLY), and end with the Harry Potter Birthday Festival July 31, 2020 (ALL AGES). Both programs were huge hits last year, and we're excited to expand on them. Leslie needs volunteers to help with both events.

We would like to emphasize that the adult programming funds provided by the FOSL are used toward buying raffle and trivia prizes for the Harry Potter program. We did acknowledge this in our giveaways and would like to take it one step further this year by including a congratulations card in all of the main prizes recognizing the sponsorship of FOSL and the collaboration with the Library.

As a reminder, FOSL volunteers would be very helpful for the Harry Potter event on July 31. We will need people to man stations and assist children with games and goodies. Please contact Leslie Koller if you are interested in volunteering.

The Children's Department will host a Daddy-Daughter Tea Party on Sunday, February 16 at 2:00 pm. This is for girls ages 5 and up. If you know a family that would be interested in this event, please share the information with them.

The next big Adult Program that we will be hosting in Summerville is "African Americans and the Vote" on Saturday, February 22 at 2:00 pm. The flyer for this event was shared during the meeting; Leslie wants our assistance in advertising the event so it will have good attendance.

Policy Discussions:

A rough draft of a policy and procedures document pertaining to book donations was shared with the group. Discussion followed. Library Manager Jenn Gleber is working on a helpful brochure that can be given to patrons interested in bringing in donations.

Miscellaneous:

Training provided by the SC State Library about Friends groups will take place Wednesday, February 26, 2-4 pm, in the Westvaco Room. Also invited are the DCL Administrative Team and the Board of the Friends of the St. George Library.

Koller discussed her plan to spend some of the FOSL donation for Library programs on 15 copies of *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* that can be given to children who are interested in reading the book when the library copies are all checked out. This was done last year, due to the generosity of former DCL Board Chair Jim Neal; children were thrilled to receive their very own copy of the book. Karen Petros offered to look for copies of the book in good condition as the Book Sale committee sorts donated books.

Liaison to the *Journal Scene* (Ellen E. Hyatt)

Hopefully an article written to encourage membership will soon appear in the *Journal Scene*. In keeping with our current goal, I included ways individuals could volunteer to help the library through becoming a member of the Friends of Summerville Library.

Also, if we want to donate from our treasury to the South Carolina Academy of Authors, the time is now to ensure mention in the program. Checks should be made payable to SC Academy of Authors, and mailed to the following address:

The SC Academy of Authors
701 Gervais Street
Suite 150-195
Columbia, SC 29201

The 34th Induction weekend (Fri., April 17-Sun., April 19) is taking place in Aiken.

Inductees are **Pam Durban** (writer of novels, short stories, and essays); **Andrew Geyer** (writer of fiction, inspired by his travels around the United States and four continents); **Steven Naifeh** and the late **Gregory White Smith** (known for their 1991 Pulitzer-Prize-winner biography of abstract expressionist Jackson Pollack and also for their 10-year project resulting in a biography on Van Gogh); the late **James M. Legare** (writer of poetry).

Upcoming Dates:

- SCSL Training for Friends and DCL – February 26, 2-4 pm, Westvaco Room of the Library
- FOSL Executive Board, 4 pm February 26, SC Room of the Library
- March General Meeting, Tuesday, 3/10/2020 at 6:30 pm, Westvaco Room, Seago Library
- April 3 - Friends of SC Libraries Annual Meeting, Beaufort, SC; let Becky know if you would like to attend this one-day event.
- April 3-5 Flowertown Festival-shared booth with DCL
- April 19-25 – National Library Week
- April 30 – May 3, 2020—Gigantic Book Sale!
- May 17 – Book Talk at Seago Library with Susan Zurenda (*Bells for Eli*)
- June 7 – Author Tea with Mary Alice Monroe introducing her new release, *On Ocean Boulevard*
- July 31, 2020-Harry Potter Birthday Festival-ALL AGES-ALL DAY EVENT- Harry's 40th Birthday (1980-2020)

For the Good of the Order (Open to All for Contribution)

“It is good to love many things, for therein lies the true strength; and whosoever loves much, performs much and can accomplish much: and what is done in love is done well.”--Vincent Van Gogh---(shared by Ellen Hyatt)

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40PM

Our Mission:

The mission of FOSL shall be to act as a bridge between the George H. Seago, Jr. Library, commonly known as the Summerville Library (hereafter in this document, “the Library”) and the community by:

- 1) Increasing public awareness of, focusing attention on, and expanding the use of the Library as a valuable resource for an informed community.
- 2) Initiating, organizing, promoting, and encouraging cultural and educational activities.
- 3) Encouraging gifts and endowments as well as raising funds in support of the Library and FOSL activities.
- 4) Working with the Dorchester County Library Board of Trustees, the Dorchester County Library Director, and the Summerville Library Branch Manager in a spirit of mutual cooperation.

____ Mission Statement from the November 2017 version of the FOSL Bylaws _____