

**Wilkes Library Advisory Board Meeting
November 2, 2021**

Members present: Becky Ball; Jane Blackburn, Appalachian Regional Library Director; Bill Davis; Wilkes County Commissioner, Casey Joe Johnson; Gwen Minton, chairman; Suzanne Moore, Wilkes County Librarian; Beth Foster Tharrington; and Sharon Underwood

Members absent: Ola Norman, Traphill Friends of the Library

The meeting was **called to order** by Chairman Gwen Minton at 3:30 pm in the Friends of the Library room.

The **agenda** was approved as written following a motion by Bill Davis and a second by Becky Ball.

Wilkes Friends of the Library president Glenda Adams was unable to attend the meeting due to a conflict.

Traphill Friends of the Library president, Ola Norman was not present but Wilkes Librarian Suzanne Moore spoke of new programs recently begun at Traphill Library. A book club is in the works and Suzanne has been pickin' and grinnin' on Saturday afternoons.

As to **correspondence and communication**, Suzanne Moore mentioned thank you notes complimenting Youth Services head, Elizabeth Lee.

Reporting on the recent meeting of the **County Commissioners' Library Research Committee**, Casey Joe Johnson noted the presentation by Timothy Owens, representing the State Library of North Carolina, which showed the benefits of a regional library system over a county operated library. Johnson stated that he was looking forward to the responses to the google poll form he sent to members of the committee. The county manager is also assembling additional information requested by committee members.

There was no old business.

New Business concerned upcoming meetings. The Appalachian Regional Library board meeting will be in Watauga on November 18. The next local board meeting will be January 3, 2022.

The **report of the county librarian, Suzanne Moore** began with the announcement that she is now officially a Wilkes County resident, having purchased a home on Boone Trail.

Advocacy and outreach programs included: the attendance September 29 of Leadership Wilkes participants and Suzanne attending the Wilkes County Commissioners and the Wilkesboro Town Hall meetings to present new library goals and objectives. Suzanne was interviewed by Carl White for a *Life in the Carolinas* podcast: A "Banjo" Librarian. Suzanne and Laura

McPherson, from Ashe, presented sessions on the Veterans' History Project and Talking Service Book Club at the Libraries and Veterans National forum (virtual). Grants were submitted to publish books on veterans. The veterans' history project will be launched in February, with a special event featuring photojournalist and veteran, Martin Tucker's exhibit and book: "A Thousand Words."

There were 62 new card holders registered during Library Card Sign-Up Month. Secret, wrapped books, displayed throughout the library, sparked interest in the Banned Books Week celebration. Military Suicide Prevention Awareness was recognized with toy soldier reminders throughout the library. Under Finances and Resources, Elizabeth Lee received a grant for \$2,500, through First Books, to be spent on materials on social and emotional learning. Kilby, the regional tech authority, received funding from a SL adapts grant to obtain refurbished laptops for patron checkout. A collection of health-related books was won by Deb Beckel in NNLM's book spine poetry contest. Becky Ball inquired about Brigett Adams' ARSL conference in Reno. Bridgett received a grant to attend the conference. There is a grant in the works for partnership with the Wilkes Historical Museum and the Health Foundation for a "Communities for Immunity" program. December 3, half-day staff training will include a surprise fire drill and CPR refresher class. The library also has AED's for staff use.

Jane Blackburn, Appalachian Regional Library Director, reported that The annual report has been sent to John Yates to review with the commissioners. The auditors found no irregularities and the auditors will attend the regional board meeting to present their report. The State Aid budget will be submitted soon. In budget and finance, the region spent less than was received and budgeted less for fines and fees because figures were backed off last year, due to the pandemic.

Application has been made for a grant to purchase furniture and books for use in a Laundromat. Wilkes Literacy may be willing to partner with the library on this program. A \$40,000 LSTA grant for adapting technology has been applied for and this requires no match. Grant activities for 2021-2022 have resulted in \$37,000 in the region.

COVID restrictions remain much the same as two months ago. Many children's programs are being held outside.

In other business, Bill Davis reported that his research as to whether the chairman can vote in case of a tie was answered as "no." This is not covered in our bylaws. In the 2015 Roberts' Rules of Order, he found that the chairman can only vote in small committees, not large committees nor in the full board. It was determined that we will check our bylaws to clarify this. Casey Joe Johnson started a book club in his fourth block class. They have read Soft Rain and will next read The Weasel. For Christmas interest, they will read Seraphina, about a Biltmore House ghost.

Chairman Gwen Minton issued a thank you to all board members and adjourned the meeting. Respectfully submitted, Beth Foster Tharrington, secretary