

Wilkes Library Advisory Board Meeting
Tuesday, January 4, 2022

Members present: Glenda Adams, Wilkes Friends of the Library president; Becky Ball; Jane Blackburn; Appalachian Regional Library Director; Bill Davis; Casey Joe Johnson, Wilkes County Commissioner; Arnold Lakey; Gwen Minton, chairperson; Suzanne Moore, Wilkes County Librarian; Beth Foster Tharrington; Ola Norman, Traphill Branch librarian; and Sharon Underwood

Members absent: Brenda Dobbins

Chairperson Gwen Minton **called the meeting** to order at 3:34 in the Friends of the Library room with a greeting of "Happy New Year."

The **agenda** was approved there being no additions or corrections. Motion for approval was made by Becky Ball with second by Casey Joe Johnson.

The **minutes** of the January 4, 2022, having been distributed via email to board members prior to the meeting, we approved by motion of Bill Davis and second by Becky Ball.

Friends of the Library Reports

Wilkes Friends president, Glenda Adams reported that the Friends group has reorganized with committee responsibilities. The executive committee is working with Librarian Suzanne Moore to align their plans with the five-year strategic plan. Monthly book sales have been great. Glenda did not have a financial report at this meeting. A request was made for bookmarks listing sale dates and Glenda promised to have them at our next meeting. The bookmarks are courtesy of Paul Barelski.

Traphill president Ola Norman reported on their meeting last week at which Suzanne Moore was introduced to the membership. The Reading Trap, the branch's newly organized book club gathered at the Roaring River Vineyard to plan and discuss books. This has received enthusiastic participation and many compliments. The Traphill Friends voted to donate \$1,000 to the library for programs and materials.

Correspondence and Communication shared by Suzanne Moore noted the receipt of letters from the local Head Start group and the beginning of classes. The library received a grant with Headstart for baskets of books for kindergarten on social and emotional learning. One book mentioned was We Do Not Eat Our Classmates, a T-Rex story.

Old Business included the appointment of local and regional board members. Arnold Lakey was welcomed as a new member of the local library advisory board. Two board members' terms will expire in July and the county commissioners will appoint new members. Terms are four years and are staggered to provide continuity. Gwen Minton requested that we submit names to her at the March meeting after asking if the persons are willing to serve. The

application is on the county website. Our board recommends individuals and the county commissioners then consider the persons and determines who will be appointed to the board. Bill Davis suggested that Suzanne and Jane determine the length of terms and who would fill vacancies. The resident locations should also be considered.

New Business consisted of 2021 wrap-up and 2022 plans.

The regional strategic five-year plan has been printed and distributed. Each librarian created local plans which were aligned with the region. An inside sheet provides information pertinent to each of the three county libraries. The Regional board meeting is scheduled for January 20, 2022. The interlocutory agreement was reviewed and Jane Blackburn met with Tim Owens of the NC State Library via zoom of the NC State Library to review changes, most of which represent we have been doing. This will go to the County Commissioners for review and approval.

Director of Libraries for the region, Jane Blackburn, reported that she and Tammy Holston have created the draft budget for the current fiscal year. There is one staff position open in the region: youth services in Ashe County. We are still waiting to hear how much of the \$10 million in one-time State Aid ARPA money we will get, and the details of when we will receive it and how we can spend it. Although it is possible that our region would receive as much as \$200,000, there may be some usage restrictions.

ARL was awarded \$40,000 LSTA Adapting Technology grant to provide firewall software for the region, new, refurbished PC's (50) for public use in all libraries, one new PC for each county and a top-of-the-line microfilm reader/scanner/printer to be placed in Wilkes. The Wilkes Genealogical Society will provide \$5,000 toward the microfilm reader. One of the laptops will be set up for patrons to use for videoconferencing, telemed, etc . . .

Wilkes Librarian Suzanne Moore reported on several other sources of acquired funding. Among them were a grant from Texas A & M University for veteran-related programming (\$1,000), support from Flettie Alifair Church Literacy Grant (\$500), and \$2,500 from First Books for Save a Child.

The Wilkes library also received an LSTA Literacy at the Laundromat grant of \$3500. Wilkes Literacy will partner with the library to provide programs and supplies for the Laundromat Literacy project targeting the Latinx population.

Grant money received for the region and for individual libraries as of 1/5/22, in 21-22, is \$98,610.

Deborah Britton from the county commissioners' library research committee suggested that our local and regional boards meet in a retreat setting.

Jane Blackburn also reported on where we are concerning COVID 19 status along with staff and patron precautions.

A special marketing team has been created and there are on-sight activities and other innovative programs. A partnership with the town of Wilkesboro provided new fishing poles for patron use. Suzanne visited the monthly veterans' coffee to promote the Talking Service Book Club meetings and the Wilkes County Veteran History project.

Librarian Suzanne Moore presents a quarterly report to the county commissioners on library successes and needs. She has organized a staff marketing team, created a monthly calendar backed by a coloring page, and researched, submitted applications, and obtained staff scholarships to provide for professional conferences. A recent newspaper article on the Banjo Pickin' Librarian at the Farmers' Market was commented upon by Sharon Underwood.

Looking ahead, Food for Fines will be from Jan 10-15 to give patrons a chance to start the new year with a clean slate. Suzanne has instituted activities for well-being in the workplace with a challenge each month. The Friends of the Library are being asked to help supply water for the new water cooler, a hydration station. To celebrate National Library Week in April, she wants to host a library open house and will work with the Friends to advertise this and encourage community and individual connections with the library.

Budgets and Finances were reported upon by Jane Blackburn. Even though we budgeted less from Fines/Feed for this fiscal year, these revenues are still running ahead of budget. We are waiting to learn how much of the \$10 million in one-time State Aid ARPA money we will get, the details of when we'll receive it and how we can spend it.

For pertinent data, please see the board document page on the regional website.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Foster Tharrington
Secretary