

**Wilkes Library Advisory Board Meeting
July 5, 2022**

Members present: Glenda Adams, Wilkes Friends of the Library President; Jane Blackburn, Appalachian Regional Library Director; Bill Davis; Brenda Dobbins; Casey Johnson, Wilkes County Commissioner; Suzanne Moore, Wilkes County Librarian; Ola Norman, Traphill Friends of the Library President; Beth Foster Tharrington

Members absent: none

Vice Chairman, Ola Norman called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm in the Wilkes Friends of the Library room.

The minutes of the May meeting, previously emailed to board members, were corrected by the addition of new board members Brenda Dobbins and Arnold Lakey. After corrections were made, the minutes were approved by the board by motion of Bill Davis and a second by Brenda Dobbins.

Traphill Friends of the Library report was presented by Ola Norman. Good attendance at the book club meeting and Jammin' at the Branch were noted. Summer reading continues and gem mining is upcoming.

Glenda Adams, **Wilkes Friends** president, reported that the Antique Appraisal, one of the popular Friends' programs, will be held August 20, in the Friends' room. All are invited and those who wish to have an item appraised should purchase a ticket at the front desk as soon as possible since there are only 40 tickets available. Librarian Suzanne Moore suggested that the Friends may wish to sponsor the September author visit and book signing of The Tannery.by Michael Almond.

Other than a memo from the county about the budget, there was no **correspondence nor communication**.

Old Business included a discussion of library improvements by Suzanne Moore. She distributed pictures and diagrams of possible fixtures and furniture. While attending a Metrolina Conference in Charlotte, she saw examples of a nesting chair, desks, stage, and cabinet which were ideas she discussed. She is awaiting quotes. Also coming soon are ideas from Alex Poorman, interior designer from ASU, for the production of a formal design plan for the upstairs area. This will necessitate matching funds.

The library has now received almost \$16,000 in memory of Rose Herring. A paper bark maple, Rose Herring's favorite tree, has been planted in the children's garden area by the Apple Blossom Garden Club. The Town of North Wilkesboro awarded the library a façade grant for up to \$2,000 to be used for pressure-washing the library's building and cleaning its dome roof which is scheduled for the end of July. The amount of the match to the grant for pressure washing was asked by Casey Johnson. An estimate of \$2,000 was given and \$1,400 is requested from the county commissioners to complete the project. It is hoped that the county will also contribute funds for updated building maintenance. Suzanne is attempting to co-ordinate the building appearance with various necessary improvements. It will likely be 2022-23 before it all comes together. The front sliding doors were delayed in production, but will be coming soon.

Proposed candidates for the board were discussed at length. Also, one board member is needed to serve on the endowment board, and one on the regional board. Arnold Lakey was suggested to serve on the regional board. Suzanne Moore will write a letter to the county commissioners to recommend his appointment. Other persons were suggested and board members will ask if they are willing to serve and complete an application before determining whom to recommend to the county commissioners for appointment. The next local advisory board meeting will be September 6, 2022.

New Business, presented by Jane Blackburn, concerned a nominating committee to present names of officers of this board. Casey Johnson, Brenda Dobbins and Beth Tharrington will meet to discuss officers for the next year. Currently our representatives on the regional board are Bill Davis, Casey Johnson, Arnold Lakey and Beth Tharrington. The regional board will meet July 21, at the Ashe County Library.

Wilkes County Librarian, Suzanne Moore shared her enthusiasm about the summer reading program: 640 registered participants! A panel discussion of the book, Driving with the Devil, with Neal Thompson and NASCAR Cup Series Driver Erik Jones will be offered twice in the coming days. Much involvement with the Veterans' History Project was shown as Suzanne and Mara Lynn Tugman shared information about the Project when they attended the Metrolina Library Conference in Charlotte. Suzanne was a member of a panel discussion on "How Libraries Are Serving Veterans" in Washington, DC, June 24-27. The Wilkesboro town council and the Wilkes county commissioners also were the recipients of information about the project. Other outstanding features currently are the concert with the Heritage Museum and Arts Council in recognition of African-American Music History Month, the showing of "Miss Juneteenth," and a grant submission to the Freedom to Read Foundation for funding to assist with programming for Banned Books Week, September 18-23.

Regional Librarian, Jane Blackburn discussed the financial reports and activities of the region.

The financial reports for the regional library are not complete now. They can be accessed on the ARL board documents by next week. We can refer to the board documents page which shows how we ended the fiscal year 2021-2022. The county library requested an 8% increase from the county commissioners' budget, but Wilkes was allotted 4%. This is \$30,000 less than was requested. Ashe and Watauga county commissioners allocated the amounts requested for libraries. Jane noted that, with what we received, we can make adjustments in other areas and give the employees what they need. Everyone will receive raises. This year, we will take more from fund balance than we planned to cover our shortfall from the county. Bill Davis asked if each county asked for a certain amount. This was answered as no; each county asked for a different amount.

All staff positions are currently filled. The InterLocal Agreements are now finally signed and sent to the state library. We are waiting to learn specifics about ARCA money, but no statement has been received from the state as to how we can spend the money. Expenses will be allocated month by month until 2024. Other information is available from the board documents page as to grants and allocations.

Highlights include: \$15,000 from a Bright Ideas grant from the state for all three counties. That is \$5,000 for each county. It is anticipated that Wilkes will use some of these funds to print the magazine for the Veterans' History Project. The RFID technology program has been discontinued because it did not prove worthwhile. A modified ECF request has received approval to purchase 10 more laptops for patron check out, divided between all 5 locations.

Motion for **adjournment** was made by Arnold Lakey with second by Bill Davis. The next local advisory board meeting is scheduled for September 6.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Tharrington, Secretary