

**Wilkes County Library Advisory Board Meeting Minutes**  
**March 8, 2023**

**Members present:** Glenda Adams, Wilkes Friends of the Library president; Jennifer Chatham; Bill Davis; Camilla Day; Brenda Dobbins; Tammy Holston, Regional Finance Director and interim Regional Director; Arnold Lakey, board chairman; Suzanne Moore, Wilkes County Librarian; Ola Norman, Traphill Friends of the Library president; Bill Sexton, Wilkes County commissioner substituting for Casey Joe Johnson; Beth Foster Tharrington; and Martha Towns.

**Members absent:** Casey Joe Johnson provided a substitute: Bill Sexton

The meeting was **called to order** at 4 pm in the conference room of the library by chairman Arnold Lakey.

**Minutes** of the January 11, 2023, meeting were approved with corrections. Motion for approval was made by Bill Davis with a second by Brenda Dobbins.

The **Wilkes Friends of the Library** president, Glenda Adams, noted the orientation of new board members, planning for upcoming events, and aligning goals with those of the library.

Ola Norman, **Traphill Friends of the Library** president, reported that the branch is doing many good things. Deb Beckel, new branch librarian, is hosting and planning more programs and increasing membership in the Friends' organization.

**Correspondence and Communications** report from librarian Suzanne Moore, mentioned the receipt of a letter of appreciation from the Wilkes Partnership for Children for the library's contribution of cookies and staff for "Cookies for Cuties," Former board member, Sharon Underwood, expressed gratitude to the library staff for the program "Library Lovers" in February.

**Old Business** included an explanation by Suzanne Moore of the two Friends of the Library and two Wilkes Library Board at-large members needed by the Endowment Board. After being asked for clarification, Suzanne gave the meeting time as 4 pm, Monday, March 13 and upcoming business as a review of gifts in response to the end-of-year mailing. Some topics, such as an appreciation event for donors, are still open. It has been proposed that the Endowment Board meet quarterly. Arnold Lakey is a member, but an additional member from our board is requested. Camilla Day will try to attend the next meeting to determine whether or not she would be interested in becoming an Endowment Board member. The renovation committee has not met, but Suzanne presented an update that Jim Lyle of the Taupe Gallery visited the library, accompanied by another designer, to explore possibilities and needs for the library renovation. Hopefully, they will have a rendering soon.

Introduction of **New Business** began with a discussion of Bill Davis and Beth Tharrington's Wilkes Board terms ending in August, 2023. Their Regional board terms end a year later. The County Commissioners, after a proposal from Arnold Lakey, have approved extending Bill and Beth's terms until July, 2024. Arnold referred to the board's by laws stating that a member served until a replacement is appointed. (Section II.4) Since no current board members go off the board in 2024, this will align with efficient rotation. Thus confusion and training of new board members who could serve only a short time would

be avoided. Three applications for new terms on the board were presented by Suzanne Moore. Glenda Adams inquired if there is clear language in the bylaws to address this situation. (See Section II.4) Also discussed was the convenience and location of the board's meetings. It was decided that the meeting time should be 4 pm in the Friends of the Library room which will be reserved.

**Tammy Holston, Regional Finance officer and interim regional director**, in reference to the May regional board meeting, noted that Bill and Arnold will need to provide substitutes for themselves, since they may not be able to attend. Brenda Dobbins volunteered as local vice chairman to attend. Tammy will coordinate with each local librarian to serve light refreshments at each regional meeting.

**Wilkes County librarian, Suzanne Moore**, reported on library activities, the most recent "Yadkin Valley Magazine" had a two-page spread with several photos of library activities. Nicole and Bridgett organized and advertised a series of cooking demonstrations on Taste of African cooking. The library received a new kitchen edible education-cooking cart, offering cooking, refrigeration and storage space and the community fridge arrives soon. The Fridge provides a place to distribute produce from the library's community garden as well as individual and Market Place donations. A brochure on environmental wellness is coming and Camilla Day will present "Mend to Spend", March 16, at the Masthead, with whom the library is collaborating to kick off financial wellness programs. Ed Brenegar will make a presentation on his book, Circles of Impact on March 28.

A brochure and additional information on the Traphill Library book club, the Reading Trap's reading selections and co-ordination with Two Rivers Cinema films was shared by Suzanne Moore. These films can be viewed free, with a code word entry, every first Saturday at 1 pm. The Veteran's History project resulted in a visually appealing and informative booklet which is on sale for \$15. Publishing was enabled by a grant and support from the towns of Wilkesboro and North Wilkesboro. Suzanne has already shared this with the county commissioners where it received high praise. Other items mentioned were: day hikes on the Mountains to the Sea trail and an art exhibit in memory of Cheryl Kilby. Most programs will be held in the Friends room at 5:30 pm, Thursdays.

Recently received were new books of high interest for low readers. Volunteers from the Rotary Club placed identifying stickers in the front of each book. Suzanne also discussed "Talking Trash" to address the problem with litter in our county. Newport News, VA has created a litter clean up kit which can be checked out to patrons. She stated that we want to do something similar.

**A report from the County Commissioners** was presented by Bill Sexton, substituting for board member, Casey Joe Johnson. There is an effort afoot to move toward trash clean up in the county. Currently the county must pay \$150 to clean a one mile section. Mountain View Fire Department will send a truck to protect roadside trash clean-up workers. If the group is a 501C entity, the county will pay the collector \$3 per bag of trash. A new small kit is currently offered by the state according to Martha Towns.

Although Suzanne Moore will have a knee replacement within the next few weeks, she will still work from home and attend meetings via zoom.

**Tammy Holston** presented the report of the **Director of Libraries**, noting that the director position and three others are open. She referred board members to the budget sheets for both region and counties and reviewed monies received, transferred and spent. A full budget report is updated and loaded to the board's webpage bi-monthly. Staff evaluations and work plans are complete. We will hear about

approval of several grants by June. In February, Suzanne submitted a request for a LSTA grant for \$39,172 for library lockers to be placed in Wilkesboro. A 10% match is required. Kilby filed E-rate forms which were accepted for about \$45,000 per year. This will partially be used for MyLibro, a phone app on which patrons can scan books for check out and access the library schedule. Changes and announcements will be posted. The cost is about \$5,000 per year for a generic app. Suzanne contributed that most of the budget changes are donations to the Veterans' History project or in memory of Jane Tugman, Mara Lynn's mother. Suggested by Arnold Lakey is that we remember the Rotary Club for help with projects. Members contribute to the Rotary Foundation and take an interest in the use of these funds by different organizations. He referred to Jeannie Richardson as a person who willingly coordinates to make work easier. Wilkes Community Foundation does similar work, according to Suzanne.

**Adjournment** was approved by the membership after a motion by Bill Davis and second by Jennifer Chatham.

The next Wilkes Library Board meeting will be held Wednesday, May 10, at 4 pm in the Friends of the Library room.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Foster Tharrington, Secretary