

FOTL Board Meeting Minutes 6/20/14

Friends of Tennessee Libraries held their regularly scheduled Board of Directors Meeting on Friday, June 20, 2014, at the Mt. Juliet Public Library in Mt. Juliet, Tennessee. The Meeting was Called to Order by President Don Reynolds at 10:17AM. A Quorum was Present for the purposes of conducting business.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Gerald Beavers, Ed Jared, Larry Price, Susie Ries, Don Reynolds, Dwight Shepherd, Lynette Sloan and Martha Gill (Sloan and Gill approved later in meeting).

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Martha Gill and Julie Webb.

Introductions were made by everyone present. Lynette Sloan was introduced as the new State Library & Archives Liaison.

There was a review of Board Member Packets that had been prepared by Pres. Reynolds with assistance from Martha Gill. **Robert's Rules of Order in relation to "Procedure in Small Boards" was also reviewed. Among the procedures noted were a more relaxed formality, that motions do not need to be seconded, when a proposal is perfectly clear a vote can sometimes be taken without a motion's having been introduced, and motions can be approved by general consent without a formal vote being taken.**

Dwight Shepherd made a **Motion to Approve the Minutes of the previous meeting as submitted. MOTION CARRIED.**

Ed Jared made a **Motion to Approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. MOTION CARRIED.**

There was discussion about using the remaining supply of License Plate Frames as promotional items and as incentive/recognition awards since sales have become very sluggish. **The idea of applying to the State to issue a "Support Libraries" license tag was raised.** Because of the minimum number of orders required before such tags are approved, it was felt it would be best to try to partner with the Tennessee Library Association and/or Tenn-Share if we decide to pursue this.

Susie Ries gave a **recap of the Annual Meeting.** Appreciation was expressed for William Sundquist and the Friends of Chattanooga Library for all their work in putting together the meeting. Among the things from the meeting that could be most beneficial to Friends groups of all sizes were the long range/strategic planning process (Chattanooga Friends' can be found on their website, www.friendsofthelibrary-Chattanooga.com) and the low cost of 3D printers.

It was reported that **Sundquist had attended National Legislative Day in Washington, D.C. and had done a great deal of networking during that time.**

An update was given on anti-obscenity bills in the State Legislature. A bill passed the House this year but was not taken up in the Senate that would update or give a clearer definition of "obscenity." There is currently nothing in state law that exempts libraries from obscenity laws. Several years ago a library was sued for distributing obscene materials-books dealing with witchcraft.

It was noted that the TLA website tracks bills in the State Legislature that are related to libraries. The American Library Association website tracks bills in Congress that are related to libraries.

The President **reviewed ongoing activities that FOKL was doing and possible new activities.** He also **presented the information in a calendar format to make things easier to track.**

The possibility of creating a "Best Practices for Friends Groups" document was discussed.

Martha Gill was accepted as the Knoxville-Knox County Metro Representative to the FOTL Board By General Consensus.

There was a lunch break from 12:20-12:48. Larry Price left the Meeting at this time due to a prior commitment.

There was discussion about the FOTL Listserv. It was decided to set up a second Listserv for the general membership, fix the Board Listserv to take attachments, and add an option to the Listserv to allow members to "opt out" if they desire.

It was reported that FOTL now had 614 fans on Facebook.

Gill asked the Board to consider reducing the printed newsletter from six issues a year to four. The consensus of the Board was to go to four issues a year.

The Friends of the Year Award and Recognition Awards were discussed. It was decided to recognize all nominees for the Friends of the Year Award at the FOTL Annual Meeting with a certificate, one year free membership in FOTL, and the opportunity to work on a FOTL project of their choice. In addition, the Friend of the Year winner will continue to be recognized at the TLA Annual Meeting with that award. **Recognition Award winners** will continue to receive a certificate and check for \$100, and will now also receive a free one year FOTL Membership and the opportunity to work on a FOTL project of their choice.

The Membership Committee report **Membership was increasing.** Membership has gone from 128 in Jan. '13, to 152 in Feb. '14, to 160 in Mar. '14, to **172 in June 2014.**

The 2014 Annual Report was reviewed. This is the report Reis gave at the FOTL Annual Meeting and to TLA.

There was discussion about confusion in the term "region" since the FOTL Regions and State Library System Regions no longer coincide. The Board reached a consensus that FOTL change from calling their representative's areas "Region" to "Division." The Secretary is to prepare the necessary Amendments to the Bylaws and send them out in time for them to be voted on at the September Board Meeting.

National Picture Book Month was discussed. It is possible for FOTL to become an official "partner" in this nation-wide project. There is no cost to FOTL to become a partner. We would help promote the event and be listed on their website. Jared made a **Motion to become an official Partner. MOTION CARRIED.**

Reis made a **Motion to accept Barbara Taylor as a Representative from West Tennessee. MOTION CARRIED.**

There was an overview of "Tennessee Deserves." This is a document outlining the fundamental library services that Tennesseans deserve and should expect.

A report was received from the Memphis-Shelby County Representatives on preparations for the 2015 Annual Meeting. They are excited and getting ready. The local Friends will host a reception Friday night for those who arrive early. This will be a Meet & Greet with refreshments. Plans for the meeting on Saturday include "Marketing Friends" by the marketing director from the Memphis Library, a tour of the Memphis Library Teen Center, ideas for income generating/outreach areas, and a buffet luncheon from family owned and operated restaurants.

See below for Regional Reports.

The President announced that at the next meeting the Board would: consider endorsing Tennessee Deserves, work on Mission/Vision Statements, and look at strategies for Board Development.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:54PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dwight W. Shepherd, Secretary

REGIONAL REPORTS

Middle Region:

The Friends of the **Art Circle Public Library, in Crossville**, are participating in a Kroger Community Rewards Program to help fund library projects. In May, the Crossville group held its annual book sale. These Friends also have some interesting ideas for meetings; they hosted a Friends group from Sevierville at their May meeting, giving both groups an opportunity to share ideas about how to serve their libraries. Then the Crossville group had a picnic for the June meeting.

The **Friends of the Clay County Library** has received its third publication in a series based on interviews with “old-time residents of Clay County.” The publications are for sale. The main fundraiser for the group is a twice- yearly chili lunch, with the main customers being working people who have the lunches delivered. (I don’t know when the two chili lunches occur.)

The **Putnam County Library Friends** have announced that Vince Vawter will be the featured writer for the group’s annual Dinner with an Author on September 19 at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church. Mr. Vawter is the author of Newbery Award winner The Paperboy.

Linda Johnson, president of the **Friends of Sequatchie County Public Library** said that one of her members had already sent information about the Sequatchie County group to the newsletter. I hope it was sent to Martha.

White County Library Director Cathy Farley continues to praise that library’s Friends group for its support for all library activities, including summer reading programs for all ages.

Wanda Jared has established contact with the president or newsletter editor of each member group in her area of eastern middle Tennessee, except White County. The White County Library director stays in touch with her, however.

Clarksville Public Library June 9-July 18: Summer Reading Programs June 16-20: Scholastic Book Fair July 1: Start the “Geek the Library Program

Stewart County Public Library June 23: Celebrating the 10 year anniversary of the Imagination Library Dover, TN at the Visitor’s Center on U.S. 79

Houston County Public Library June 21-July 1 Summer Reading Programs July 25, 4:00 p.m. Artist of the Month: Melanie Hazen August 29 at 4:00 p.m. Artist of the Month: Kathryn Adams (photography)

Beavers has begun contacting regional libraries for news and upcoming agendas. He is wanting to develop a listserv for the region.

East Region:

Friends of King Family Library held their Annual Meeting in May with author Stephen Lynn Bales as the guest speaker.

Friends of Seymour Library are kicking off a new event on June 20. "Summer Sounds and Sweets" is a monthly series at the gazebo beside the library. It features free music with drinks and desserts available for purchase. Proceeds go into the building fund for expansion of the Seymour Library.

The Seymour Friends are continuing their "How We Live: Then & Now" lecture series. The latest one featured a speaker from The King's Academy (originally known as Harrison-Chilhowee Academy), a private school operating in the community for over 125 years.

The **Friends of Sevier County Public Library System** (a cooperation of the Friends of King Family, Kodak and Seymour libraries) reports \$16,098 from book sales for fiscal year 2013-14, which ended June 30.

Members of Friends of Sevier County Public Library System traveled to Crossville to meet with members of the Art Circle Library to share book sale ideas.

Friends of Sevier County Public Library System, Friends of Knox County Library and Friends of Tellico Village Library are beginning preliminary discussions of joining together for a vintage book sale. The sale would most likely take place somewhere in Knoxville. This may be the first ever Regional Book Sale carried out by multiple Friends groups. Friends of Blount County Library have also been contacted about joining the endeavor as well.

Friends Of Kodak Library co-sponsored Kodak Heritage Day with the Northview Optimist Club. This was the biggest event in the approximate 10 years the groups have been holding the event. A commemoration of the Civil War was the theme of this year's Heritage Day. It featured an infantry camp, a surgeon's tent, General Robert E. Lee and President & Mrs. Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln recited the Gettysburg Address as part of the opening ceremonies. There were over 20 crafts vendors, additional crafts demonstrators, live entertainment, antique autos and antique farm tractors, games for kids, a silent auction and a barbecue lunch.

The event was held on June 7, 2014, which was D-Day Plus One Plus Seventy Years. As part of the opening ceremony, a service members banner from World War II put together by one of the local churches was donated to the Kodak Heritage Handcrafted Collection at the library. This was the first time the banner had been seen in public in around 60 years. It contained the names of service members from the community embroidered on individual stars. One was a gold star, signifying that that serviceman lost his life while on active duty. The donation was facilitated by the Kodak Friends.

The **Friends of Jefferson City Library** have said goodbye to their long-time library director and are welcoming a new one as they move forward with plans to construct a new building to house the library.

Knoxville-Knox County Metro: The Friends have recommitted to bring authors to the community for programs. They are supporting a new exhibit at the Museum of East Tennessee History called Reading Appalachia. It features authors from Appalachia area or have a setting in Appalachia. They have formed a Board Development Committee. The Committee is charged with compiling a list of characteristics for Board Members. It has also identified the need to have geographic diversity and members with experience on non-profit boards and budget experience. It works to actively get recommendations for board members, and interview all recommendations. Gill suggested FOTL may want to use this as a model for our own Board development.

Nashville-Davidson Metro: The Nashville Friends are in the process of amending their charter and revising their bylaws. They hope to have a revitalized Board soon.

State Library & Archives: Sloan gave an overview of the State Library & Archives and the services they offer. Copies of a new pamphlet, "Tennessee Public Libraries Roadmap" was distributed to the Board.