

FOTL Board Meeting Minutes 9/19/14

Friends of Tennessee Libraries held their regularly scheduled Board of Directors Meeting on Friday, September 19, 2014, at the Mt. Juliet Public Library in Mt. Juliet, Tennessee. The Meeting was called to order at 10:10AM by President Don Reynolds.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Dot Childs, Martha Gill, Ed Jared, Michelle Kenley, Larry Price, Don Reynolds, Dwight Shepherd, Susie Ries, Theresa Venable, and (approved later in Meeting) Wanda Graham.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Connie Albrecht and Julie Webb.

It was noted that on page two of the Minutes of the June Meeting, there was a need to correct “Reis” to “Ries.” Dwight Shepherd made a MOTION to approve the Minutes of the Last Meeting with that correction. MOTION CARRIED.

Ed Jared made a MOTION to approve the Treasurer’s Report as Presented. MOTION CARRIED.

William Sundquist joined the Meeting via telephone to report on a situation in Chattanooga. An audit of the Chattanooga Library revealed policy violations by the library director and other members of the administration related to travel and paid vacations. The Chattanooga Friends were concerned because they had reimbursed staff for travel that in some instances were also reimbursed by city funds. The situation is causing difficulties for the Friends in their fundraising efforts.

The Library Board is reviewing and updating library policies. The Friends are still formulating their response. However, they are now requiring a detailed report on travel reimbursement. Sundquist recommended other Friends groups use this example to get their fiscal house in order with formal, written policies and procedures. This is especially important in the area of Staff-Friends relations. He also pointed out the important role Friends have in telling the library story to the community.

Ruth Hemphill, Director of the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped made a presentation to the Board. She explained that while they are a part of the State Library and Archives, they also operate as part of the Library of Congress. There was a brief history of their services. For their purposes, “disability” means that someone is unable to read print in a standard way. A person can receive services if they are only temporarily disabled. They offer the same books and magazines that are available to the general public. There are 7,000-8,000 patrons in Tennessee. This is about 10% of the eligible population. Hemphill told, and showed examples, of different ways materials are presented and delivered. The program is fully taxpayer funded, so there is no cost to the recipient. She also demonstrated a currency reader that the U.S. Treasury Department will soon be providing free to the blind. Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped patrons will get them first.

Martha Gill gave a Communications report. The September-October issue of the newsletter was at the printer. Board Members were encouraged to pass news items onto her.

The website has been updated with the Governor's Friends of Libraries Week Proclamation and Parent Tips for Reading Aloud. The Grant applications can now be filled out online. There are extra copies of past newsletters available to use for promotional purposes. FOTL now has 669 friends on Facebook. Links for possible posts to the Facebook page should be sent to Gill.

It was reported that the **current Membership is 174-77 individual, 37 families and 60 organizations.**

Susie Ries made a **Motion to reprint the Membership Brochure with updates to the website address and noting the Facebook page. MOTION CARRIED.**

The "100 Ways To Use the Library" poster was discussed. Questions were raised about how to collect ideas for the update and how is the best way to go about implementing it. It was noted that we needed to identify the end result and the focus of the campaign. The possibility of a contest with a cash award for ideas was also raised. Michelle Kenley will work with Susie Ries on the project.

An **update has been made on the Listserv.** There is now a separate Listserv for the Board and one for the general membership. The problem has been fixed so that the Listserv will now take attachments.

Ries made a **Motion to accept proposed Amendments to the Bylaws that will change the designation of "Region" to "Division."** MOTION CARRIED.

The Governor's proclamation designating October 19-25 as Friends of Libraries Week was reviewed. It was noted that thanks should be made to the Governor and the Secretary of State. The President will take care of this. Gill will take care of preparing a media release related to the proclamation. It was suggested to try to get quotes from Tennessee authors for use with publicity.

It was reported that **FOTL is now an official partner of Picture Book Month.**

There was a lunch break from 12:58-1:26PM.

Gill made a **Motion to Approve Wanda Graham to fill the vacant Middle Division Representative position. MOTION CARRIED.**

It was reported that **Colleen Shannon has resigned as an East Division Representative and Debbie Moore has resigned as a West Division Representative.**

[see below for Division Reports]

It was reported that **Miguel Figueroa, Director of ALA Center for the Future of Libraries has been added as a speaker at the FOTL Annual Meeting.** He will also speak at the Tennessee Library Association Luncheon the day before. TLA is paying his expenses.

Annual Meeting Plans: a casual get-together at the Memphis Library on Friday for those arriving early. "Marketing Friends" will be the focus of the Meeting. A tour of the Friends book store and, hopefully, the new teen center will be included. Lunch will be from family-owned restaurants in Memphis. The Memphis Friends are working with the Holiday Inn-

University of Memphis for accommodations. The possibility was raised of chartering a bus that would start in East Tennessee, picking up people along the way, to Memphis.

There was a **brief explanation and review of the “Parents Tips for Reading Aloud.”**

The Friend of the Year Award, FOTL Recognition Awards and FOTL Grants were reviewed. For the Friend of the Year, which is given jointly with TLA and presented at the TLA Annual Meeting, the nominee must be a FOTL Member in good standing that can be nominated by anyone. That deadline is November 15. Recognition Award nominees, which are given at the FOTL Annual Meeting, the nominees can be anyone, but can only be nominated by a FOTL Member in good standing. That deadline is April 1. The FOTL Grants are open to FOTL Group Members. That deadline is March 1.

The Board **worked on creating a Vision Statement.** This is separate from our Mission Statement, which is unchanged. After some effort, three rough draft possibilities were identified: “To help and support local Friends groups integrate their library thoroughly into the life and work of the community,” “To help local Friends groups to achieve their vision,” and “To help local Friends groups make their library a valuable part of their community.” It was the general consensus of the Board that the issue needed more consideration, and will be taken up again at the next meeting.

The Tennesseans Deserve Statement will be taken up at the next meeting due to a lack of time.

It was announced that because of construction renovation at the Mt. Juliet Library, the **Meeting Room will not be available for several of the next regularly scheduled Board Meetings.** The possibility of conducting the December Meeting as a Conference Call was raised. Larry Price offered the use of the branches of the Nashville Library System as possible meeting locations as well.

The book *Beyond The Book Sale: The Complete Guide to Raising Money for Your Library* was recommended by Martha Gill as a good source of fundraising ideas. It is available from ALA. Copies can also be found at Amazon.com.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:43PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dwight W. Shepherd, Secretary

Division Reports

Middle Division

Stewart County Friends of the Public Library has been busy this summer! In June, they had a 10-year anniversary party for Imagination Library at our Visitors' Center, at which they invited all children under the age of five years to join in games, activity tables, picture taking with Curious George, and McDonald kid meals. On September 11, they sponsored the Blue Bus visit at the library, in coordination with pre-school reading hour, which was attended by town/county dignitaries and contributors to Imagination Library. Then this Friday, September 19, they are holding their annual salad luncheon, which is the Friends' big fund raiser for the year. Salads of every kind are available for carry-out and for eat-ins, and it is an event that the whole town looks forward to. They do plan to display the Governor's Proclamation at the luncheon for all to see!

Friends of the Clarksville/Montgomery County Library have been busy in support of the various library functions and events. They made contributions to the Imagination Library, funded several of the Summer Reading programs, are funding an upcoming Sci-Fi event, and have purchased several items of needed equipment. They purchased "Geek the Library" tee shirts for the library staff and Friends board members, as well as purchased some for sale to the public which serves the dual purpose of advertising the library and serving as a fund raiser. Their semi-annual book sale will be the last full week of October.

The **Friends of the Art Circle Public Library** in Crossville and the library were to celebrate the grand re-opening of the Circle of Friends bookstore Sept. 15-19. The bookstore has moved to an area in the library once occupied by the library's café. Daily drawings for prizes were being held! According to the group's newsletter, the Friends made over \$1,160.00 at the July book sale. Members of the Friends also continue to participate in the Kroger Community Rewards Program.

The **Putnam County Library Friends** held its annual Dinner with An Author on Sept. 19 with Vince Vawter as the featured author. Mr. Vawter is the author of the Newbery Award winning novel, *Paper Boy*. He also spoke to students at two middle schools in Cookeville and to young people at a Donuts-with-an-Author event at the library. In addition to these events, the Friends sponsored a book art contest with the sculptures on display at the library and at the dinner.

Members of the **White County Library Friends** helped with the library's extremely successful summer reading programs. The library had 292 adults enrolled in its Adult Summer Reading Program, 653 children enrolled in the children's program, and 92 participants in the teen program. Recently, the group has been getting ready for the library's big Fall Book Sale, Sept. 18-20.

East Division

The **Sevier County Library System Friends** (a co-op of Friends of King Family, Kodak and Seymour Libraries) Fall Book Sale is going on this week.

The Sevier County Friends Book Sale Committee's Inventory Team took the \$100 Recognition Award money they received from FOTL, combined it with \$100 two of their members received as first time attendees at the FOTL Annual Meeting and the reimbursement for their registration fees that the **King Family Friends** gave them (total \$260) and asked the managers of each of the library system's branches to give them a list of six classic books they needed for the collection. Armed with the list, the Inventory Team contacted the local Books-A-Million and explained the situation. Books-A-Million supplied all the books on the wish list for \$259.79.

The **King Family Friends** Historical Calendar, funded by a FOTL Grant, are on sale beginning September 15.

The **Sevier County Friends** have received an Art's Build Communities Grant from the Arts and Culture Alliance of Greater Knoxville for an "Arts@ The Library" program.

Friends Of Kodak Library member Jim Davis is conducting a new program on the second Tuesday of each month at the Kodak Branch Library. "Look What I've Found! A Visual Exploration of the World of Facebook & the Internet" uses a laptop computer, computer projector and 55" screen to display and show that Facebook is more than just a message board. Other internet uses will be explored in the future. The projector and screen were donated by the Friends.

The **Friends of Parrott-Wood Memorial Library** has just purchased two Nabi2 pads for Parrott-Wood Memorial Library's young patrons. Nabi2s are the world's first full-featured Android tablet made especially for kids, the nabi delivers a wide range of experiences to engage, entertain and educate kids including kiddified Web browsing, watching movies and TV shows, reading books, learning math and playing games. Because nabi is a true tablet, it grows with kids over time rather than being discarded like toy tablets. It's also full-featured enough for adults. The staff can enter adult Mode for full Web and app store access. The Friends of the Library have been very supportive and helping the library staff provide state of the art technology for all ages. These Nabi2 are a precious gift for our library. The staff at the Parrott-Wood Memorial Library are so thankful for the Friends of the Library's support.