

Friends of TN Libraries Board Meeting Minutes 12/12/14

Friends of Tennessee Libraries Board of Directors met via Conference Call on Friday, December 12, 2014. The Conference Call was made by accessing a system provided by the Tennessee Library & Archives. **The Meeting was Called to Order by President Don Reynolds at 11:05 AM EST.**

BOARD MEMBERS TAKING PART: Doreen Flash, Martha Gill, Michelle Kenley, Don Reynolds, Susie Ries, Dwight Shepherd, Sally Smith and Theresa Venable.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER TAKING PART: Julie Webb.

Susie Ries made a **Motion to Approve the Minutes of the Previous Meeting with the revision of the sentence, “People do not have to be permanently disabled to receive this service.” To “People with a temporary disability can also receive this service.”** **MOTION CARRIED.**

Theresa Venable made a **Motion to Approve the Treasurer’s Report as Submitted.** **MOTION CARRIED.**

Martha Gill gave an **update on Communications.** We now have 711 Facebook friends. She posts 1-5 items to Facebook daily. The Website has been updated and new material added to it. Gill reported that she had been paying the \$25 monthly website hosting fee to Slamdot, but would no longer do so beginning in January. It was noted that there were funds budgeted for this expense. She also reported that she had been ordering 100 extra copies of the newsletter to be used as promotional giveaways. Because of the lack of demand, she was going to cut that number back to 25.

The possibility of increasing the number of copies to group members was discussed. Ries made a **Motion to increase the number of copies of the newsletter to group members from 1 to 3.** **MOTION CARRIED.**

It was **reported that Michelle Kenley has been doing a terrific job of sending the newsletter to legislators through email.** Martha Gill provides a PDF of the newsletter that is put into an app, SimpleBooklet.com, that makes it readable online. A MailChimp account is used to send it out. This allows the possibility to track who opens it and how many times it was opened. The September/October newsletter was sent to 164 recipients (163 legislators and the FOTL listserv). As of December 5th, 50 opened it and five clicked on it. It was also used to send out the Governor’s Proclamation on Friends of Libraries Week to 121 news outlets. Of those, 50 opened it and two clicked on it. The addresses for the news outlets was obtained thanks to Connie Albrecht.

Sally Smith **reported on preparations for the Annual Meeting.** The final agenda will be set in January. The caterer is onboard. Miguel Figueroa from the American Library Association has been confirmed as one of the speakers.

[Division Reports are at the end of the Minutes.]

The President noted that his report to the Tennessee Library Association was on pages 8-11 of the Agenda. In addition to the Governor's Proclamation of Friends of Libraries Week, Brentwood, Knox County, and Sevier County governments also issued proclamations recognizing their local Friends groups. FOTL's role as a co-sponsor of National Picture Book Month was noted. We are the first state Friends group to serve as a co-sponsor. It was reported that the Member List-serv is up and running.

It was reported that **there has been a request from Kingston for us to hold a workshop on starting a Friends group.** It has been scheduled for January 17.

The Friend of the Year Award was discussed. There were five nominees submitted, however two of them failed to meet the qualifications. It was noted that the qualifications had been clearly spelled out long before the deadline. The nominations for the three eligible candidates were reviewed. Gill made a **Motion to select Williamson County Friends as Friend of the Year by Acclamation. MOTION CARRIED.** The possibility of splitting the award into two separate awards—one for large size groups/large budgets and one for small size groups/small budgets was raised. It was noted that this would require TLA approval as well since the award is given jointly with them, and they actually pay for the cost of the award. The President will check with TLA about this.

A Vision Statement for FOTL was discussed. After reviewing work previously done on this subject and some discussion Ries made a **Motion to Adopt the following as our Vision Statement: "To support local Friends groups in their efforts to integrate the library thoroughly into the life and work of their community."** MOTION CARRIED.

There was **discussion about the need to change the time requirement on Meeting Notice set forth in the Bylaws in relation to Board Meetings and when Minutes are to be sent to the Board.** It was the general consensus that we should take out references to specific times and replace them with wording to say that notice will be given a reasonable time before meetings, and Minutes of Board Meetings will be sent out a reasonable amount of time after the Meeting. The Secretary will prepare the needed amendments and send them out before the next Board Meeting.

Consideration of the Tennesseans Deserve statement in regards to libraries was tabled due to programs being developed by the State Library System that may impact that document.

It was reported that the date for Tennessee Library legislative Day has not been set up yet. It could take place before the next FOTL Board Meeting. Once notification of the date is received, information about it will be passed along.

It was reported that National Library legislative Day is set for May 4-5. William Sundquist attended last year as FOTL representative. Someone needs to check to see if he would like to attend this year.

The Secretary will check on cost estimates for a bus to transport people from across the State to Memphis for the Annual Meeting.

The next Board Meeting will be March 20. It will be held at the Bellevue branch of the Nashville Public Library.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:18PM EST.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dwight W. Shepherd, Secretary

DIVISION REPORTS

WEST:

Memphis Friends has a successful Book Sale in October. They celebrated Halloween by providing candy and books at the library and the branches. Their used book store, "Second Editions," is open six days a week. It will be open seven days a week for the Christmas holidays, with hopes they can eventually have it open seven days a week year round. They are making a significant contribution to the new teen center at the main library; the Friends' name will be attached to part of that center. They have also been busy distributing free books through the community, including at bus depots and Little Free Libraries. In all, 30 groups are getting books from the Friends. They are also supporting holiday celebrations at the main library and all 17 branches. The Memphis Friends have also reached out to the Library Foundation, and the two organizations are trying to be more supportive and help each other.

MIDDLE:

The **Cheatham County Library** has had surprising success using old fashioned paper chains as a fundraiser. People can add a loop to the chain for a quarter. The chain's loops are red, green and white to tie into the Christmas season. They are placed around the library. They are also holding monthly book sales. There is a sale table at the front of the library.

The **Cheatham County Friends** hosted a fundraiser featuring the Willis Clan, a family of 12 children that perform Irish and bluegrass music. They range in ages from 22 to 4. They have been featured on NBC's America's Got Talent and the Today show. The Willis family donated their time for the event. The event was filmed for an upcoming tv show. FOTL Board Member Doreen Flash was among those interviewed for it as well.

EAST:

The **Sevier County Friends** (a coalition of the King Family, Kodak, and Seymour Friends groups) took part in a 10 Mile Yard Sale. They sold paperbacks, children's books and VHS tapes. The spot they set up on was donated by one of the businesses along the sales route.

The **King Family Friends**, in only their third year of existence, have committed to fund \$4,250 in programs and projects at the library, and have pledged another \$3,000 towards construction of an outdoor reading/WiFi structure. They have almost sold out of the Historical Calendars that they received a FOTL grant to produce.

The **Kodak Friends** hosted their annual Membership Appreciation Reception in November. It featured selected readings reflecting on the holiday season, including observance of the 75th anniversary of Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer as a book, 65th anniversary as a song, and 50th anniversary as an animated tv special. Ten individuals who have volunteered at the Kodak Branch during the past year were each recognized with two Rudolph themed Christmas ornaments, a gift certificate for a free Redbox movie rental, and having a book donated to the library in their honor. The three members of the branch staff were shown appreciation with a Rudolph themed ornament, a collector's tin of cookies, and a check for \$35. The entire library system staff was recognized by a donation to the Library Foundation in their honor and a 75th anniversary edition of Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer book donated to the Kodak Branch. It was noted that the book donation also coincided with National Picture Book Month.

The **Seymour Friends** celebrated the 2014 end of their ongoing lecture series "How We Live: Then & Now" with a covered dish dinner that was open to the whole community. One of the area churches offered to let them hold the event in their fellowship hall because the overwhelming response to the event the previous year strained the meeting and kitchen space of the Seymour Branch Library. The lecture series was begun through a FOTL Grant.

CHATTANOOGA METRO:

The **Chattanooga Friends** hosted their final book sale of the year and their annual meeting. They dispersed their yearly library staff appreciation gift (\$50 to each employee). They also hosted the Library Journal Director's summit.