



**FOSCL Annual Meeting
Tuesday, April 19, 2016**

Agenda

- 9:30 Registration and Refreshments
- 10:00 Welcome:
Elaine Kjellquist, President
Leesa Aiken, Acting Director of S.C. State Library
Mark Mancuso, Senior Branch Librarian, Lexington Main Library
- 10:30 Jonathan Haupt, Director of USC Press: "Hosting Successful Author Visits"
- 11:00 Kim Boykin: "The Importance of Libraries to Authors"
- 12:00 Lunch by Carolina Catering Company
- 12:45 Tonja Ivey, Computer Design Consulting Service LLC: "Websites 101"
- 1:00 Business Meeting
Election: Vice-President & Treasurer
Presentation of FOSCL Annual Awards
- 1:30 Sharing of FOL Group Activities and Achievements

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Friends of South Carolina Libraries Annual Meeting – 2016
Minutes – April 19, 2016
Lexington County Library (5440 Augusta Rd.)

1. Following coffee, refreshments, and registration, President Elaine Kjellquist called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. and welcomed all present, thanking them for their participation in or support of FOSCL and local Friends organizations.
2. Kjellquist introduced **Jonathan Haupt** of **USC Press**, who discussed the **goals and operation of USC Press** and encouraged everyone to make use of its services for the benefit of Friends groups. He noted that at any given time the Press has approximately 1200 titles in stock, about half of which have a connection with South Carolina. To date, the biggest seller has been Walter Edgar’s *South Carolina: A History*. Haupt invited everyone to take advantage of programs by one of the panels of Story River Books panels—one on May 5 in Columbia, and another a few weeks later at the Spoleto Festival in Charleston. Among recent publications expected to sell well are *State of the Heart* and *Found Anew*.

Haupt highlighted the Young Palmetto Books, a collection of books for younger readers, written to address the lack of high-quality publications with a focus on South Carolina. He also called attention to recent publications of poetry and reflections by writers of their reactions to photographs.

USC Press is willing to help Friends groups locate speakers, especially writers, even those who may not have published with USC Press. Haupt may be contacted at USCpress.com. One of the advantages for Friends groups working with USC Press is that they receive a 40%-45% discount for books sold at one of their events.

Those invited to speak require no honorarium, and there are usually no additional charges. If an overnight stay is necessary, however, it would be helpful for local hosts to provide hospitality.

3. Kjellquist then welcomed the featured speaker, **Kim Boykin**, who grew up in Ellington, SC, and now lives in the Charlotte area. In her presentation titled “**The Importance of Libraries to Authors,**” Boykin explained how as a young person having been diagnosed with ADHD, she was “energized” by a local librarian who sensed what Kim might find interesting and guided her to specific books that appealed to her. Boykin also found herself motivated by special author events and described the evolution of several of her early works, including *Palmetto Moon* and *A Peach of a Pair*, as well as the actual process of seeing them published.

Noting that at least one person in 80% of American households purchased a book last year, she underscored the potential role of Friends Groups in keeping alive an interest in reading in their local communities.

To aspiring writers she offered several bits of advice:

Right now is the best time to be a writer.
Write, keep writing, and participate in a critique group.
Don’t hesitate to self-publish.
Most writers simply want someone to hear their story.
The “big five” publishers are not very supportive in terms of advances, expenses, etc.
Authors owe it to their readers and to book festivals to get their works to the public.

Boykin offered to help writers make contact with other people who want to tell their story, and she shared her e-mail address:

kimboykin1@gmail.com

4. **Tonja Ivey**, owner of Computer Design Consulting Service in Lexington, was invited to describe the kinds of work she does, specifically in the field of Web design. Ivey has helped with the design of Web sites for both the Lexington County Public Library and the Friends of the Lexington Main Library. Examples of services she has provided or can provide are the following: setting up a way for the Lexington Friends to sell tickets for their Father-Daughter Dance through PayPal; providing a link to upcoming events, book sales, and author signings; and preparation of items as PDF files.

Ivey warned that Web sites become outdated quickly and reminded attendees that they must purchase a domain name, ideally one that is very brief. There must be someone to host the domain and someone else to maintain and update it. She stressed that the person setting it up is the main person to be contacted.

Ivey provides a discount for non-profit groups using her services. She requires an hourly fee for setting up a site and a monthly fee for the use of the domain.

5. **New FOSCL officers** were elected for *two-year terms*: **Vicki Davis** of the Greenville Friends was elected **Vice-President**, and **Libby Law** was re-elected **Treasurer**.

6. **FOSCL Awards:**

President Kjellquist noted that the FOSCL Board received a large number of nominations for awards this year, and that naming the recipients proved especially difficult. She then recognized the FOSCL Award winners for 2016:

Sarah McMaster, who is retiring from the Fairfield County Library System this year, received a **Special Award** in recognition for both her long-time devotion to the profession and for her exemplary community service.

The **John H. Landrum Advocacy Award for 2016** went to **Sara Briebert** of **Charleston**. Because Ms. Briebert, who is currently ninety-five years old, was unable to attend the Annual Meeting, Brittany Mathis of the Charleston Library System accepted the award on her behalf.

Two outstanding staff members received this year's **Public Library Employee Excellence Award for 2016**—**Kim Cantley** of the Carolina Forest Library in Horry County, and **Terry Cobb** of the York County Library.

There were also two winners of this year's **Outstanding Individual Award**—**Ray McBride** of Beaufort County and **Pete Stewart** of the Irmo Library in Lexington County.

7. **Sharing Activities and Awards:**

Most of the Friends groups present provided reports of recent activities or announcements of upcoming projects and activities, including, but not limited to the following:

Aiken County Friends expanded upon a previously successful Easter Egg Hunt by adding an adults-only event to make three events in all. They capitalized as well on the local racing

culture by providing a competition that allowed adults to wear stylish hats. Revenues for these events exceeded \$1600.

Charleston County Friends have attempted to focus on younger members, including a “Books for Beer” event modeled on an event in Portland, Oregon, that provided a beer for anyone donating a book at the event. A Charleston brewery donated the beer this year and has agreed to support an annual event. Incidentally, children who brought in a children’s book received a root beer.

Horry County Friends had an “open house” event at their Carolina Forest Branch. Because the area is growing rapidly, the Friends focused on the large number of new families in the neighborhood. The open house was well attended.

The **Lexington Friends** at the main library continued their tradition of the Father-Daughter Dance. At this tenth iteration of the fundraiser, over 1000 tickets were sold. The school district partnered with the Friends. Tickets cost \$30/couple (father and daughter) and \$10 for each additional daughter. Lexington also sponsors a semi-annual Friends-only event, a tea with food provided by a local Italian restaurant; attendees dress up as their favorite characters; and there is an art show.

Newberry County continues its successful “author event.” They sell approximately 125 tickets for this event at \$25 each, with a special rate of \$20 for “Friends.”

Greenville Friends continue to concentrate fund-raising activities on their semi-annual (fall and winter) book sales at the Merovan Center, where they also hold a highly successful First Thursday sale each month. At the main (Hughes) library there are occasional sidewalk sales. The Friends are providing significant support for the second annual Southern Writers Festival, to take place on May 14 at the Hughes Library with Ron Rash, Wiley Cash, George Singleton, and other writers.

Richland Library Friends provide candy to library staff members on National Library Workers Day. Other activities include combined events at the State Museum with participation by the Columbia City Ballet.

8. Prior to adjournment, Libby Law reported that the **registration for today’s meeting** included representatives from twelve or thirteen different counties, a record for the past few years.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Maurice Cherry, Secretary
Friends of South Carolina Libraries (FOSCL)