

**Minutes – March 5, 2021 [ZOOM Format]
Friends of South Carolina Libraries (FOSCL)
Regular Quarterly Board Meeting, 10:00 a.m.**

- Present:** Marlena White, President; Maurice Cherry, Paul Dove, *Susie Faulconer*, Libby Law, *Ray McBride*, Sarah McMaster; Helen Ann Rawlinson, Kitty Spires *Prudence Taylor* [Names of *new Board members* appear in *italics*.]
- Absent:** Mary Ellen Ham, Jonathan Haupt, Donna Lolos (State Library Liaison), Valinda Miller

Call to Order

Marlena called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. She reported that Donna Lolos was under the weather and that Jonathan Haupt had a conflict and might join the Zoom meeting later. She welcomed the **three new Board members**—**Susie Faulconer**, previously from Virginia and now living in McCormick; **Ray McBride**, recently retired from the Beaufort County Library System and now living in Ormond Beach, Florida; and **Prudence Taylor**, recently retired from the Greenwood County Library and now living in Greenville.

She then invited the other Board members to introduce themselves to the new members. Marlena noted that at some point during the meeting she would be capturing a Zoom photo image of the ten members present.

Minutes: January 8, 2021

Ray moved approval of the minutes, Paul seconded, and they were accepted by acclamation. Marlena thanked Maurice for having submitted the minutes, and Maurice reminded everyone that he could not have completed the assignment without the vital assistance of Libby, who routinely takes notes of all meetings and shares them with him.

Treasurer's Report

Prior to this meeting Libby provided Board members with a complete financial report through Feb. 24, 2021. She reported an **End-of-Year balance** of **\$6,094.72**, and thanked Helen Ann for again having reviewed the annual financial records, so that they could be closed on January 19.

Libby stated that recent income has been from memberships, and that expenditures were related to the Awards mailing sent out a few days ago. The **current balance** is **\$7,457.28**

Budget Questions:

Budget for Speakers: Although this is not a specific line-item issue, the budget allotment of **\$250.00 for Regional Meetings** and **\$2,750 for the Annual Conference** should prove adequate to cover these expenses.

Budget for Professional Associations: We have funds designated for the following:
United for Libraries: \$50, covered by the State Library’s statewide contract
Literary Landmark: \$250 [We have no information about any 2021 initiatives;
and there is concern about the cancellation of the 2020 Landmark program
in Aiken]
S. C. Library Association: \$100

Membership Report

Board members received current data on membership by e-mail prior to the meeting. Libby reported that the drop in overall membership is probably attributable to the Covid crisis. With assistance from Kitty, Marlena has used Constant Contact to try to reach groups that were FOSCL members in 2020 but have not yet renewed membership, as well as 2019 group members who failed to renew in 2020 or 2021. Marlena reported that many of the e-mails bounced. She plans to make additional personal contacts with individual members who have not renewed so far as well.

Marlena asked the Board for advice as to how to respond to an issue that came up recently. One Friends group has a large supply of donated books on hand. They are not planning to have a book sale this year and would like to offer them to a Friends group that would like to have them for possible use at their own sale. Following a brief discussion, the Board unanimously agreed to affirm as policy that “we do not share our contact list with others.” However, there was no opposition to Marlena’s recommendation that we offer to share such information through our newsletter, Facebook, and other means. She will respond to the FOL group making the offer.

Annual FOSCL Awards

A recent mailing was sent to remind groups of the *March 15 deadline for FOSCL Awards nominations*. Libby will check the p.o. box and send them to Marlena, who will forward them to Board members, all of whom are *invited, though not required* to participate in a *special Board Zoom meeting at 10:00 a.m. on March 19*.

Paul, chair of the Awards Committee, asked for a ruling by the Board as to whether sitting members of the FOSCL Board could be nominated for any of the annual awards. Following some discussion, Marlena moved that sitting members of the FOSCL Board not be eligible for annual FOSCL awards. Paul seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved. Sarah volunteered to craft the wording of the policy, and we will include it in future calls for awards nominations.

Planning for 2021 and Beyond

“Virtual Visits with Friends”:

A document titled “FOSCL Request for Proposal – Program Presenters” was developed by Marlena and Kitty and sent to Board members prior to the meeting. It detailed items related to the “Virtual Visits with Friends” initiative and included background on the

program speaker's qualifications, suggested topics, available live dates, speaker recognition, speaker compensation, and contact information. Board members unanimously approved the compensation amounts and other details of the proposal.

Dates and times for the virtual visits were determined at the FOSCL Board meeting on Jan. 8, 2021, and several recommendations have been made as to topics for each session. Tentative programs are as follows:

April 8, 6:00 p.m. [during National Library Week]: Presenter still to be identified. Curtis Rogers is considering the possibility, and he will send information to others. Sarah will reach out to Randy Akers (SC Humanities). Marlena will follow up with logistics and will also speak with Jonathan Haupt about other possibilities. As a fall-back plan, Marlena has offered to facilitate a program on "Preparation of Grants."

July 15, 6:00 p.m.: Presentation by **Rachel Ramjattan**, author of *No More Duct Tape Fundraising*, and a professional fundraiser. Kitty, who has attended one of her presentations and was impressed with it, has already been in touch with her and reports that Ramjattan has accepted the assignment for our speaker fee of \$200. Although she usually receives considerably more for her presentations, Ramjattan is willing to speak *provided that we connect her speech to her book*. Susie asked that purchasing information for the book be included with all publicity for the presentation.

[For brief background information about Ramjattan, see the note at the end of these minutes.]

Oct. 21, 6:00 p.m.: topic to be determined

Document of Resources:

Kitty suggested the preparation of a "**Document of Resources for Friends Groups**," to include such things as legal information for small profits from the USC Law Center (Marlena will make initial contact, and Helen Ann will follow up), resources from SC Humanities and the SC Arts Commission, lists of local authors in various areas, such as one to be provided by Prudence, and similar items.

Annual Conference

There was a general discussion of the next annual meeting. For the time being we have targeted **Friday, November 5**, for a *hybrid conference* (virtual with a limited in-person audience). The critical element at the moment is the identification of a location where we can be guaranteed appropriate technology necessary to meet the needs of a virtual audience. (Board members again applauded the superb facilities arranged by Ray McBride, Jonathan Haupt, and others in the Beaufort area for the recent Annual Conference.)

Regional Friends Update – *Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)*

Marlena reported considerable success in our efforts to make connections with the statewide Friends Groups in Georgia, North Carolina, and Tennessee. A result of their collaboration is a model “Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Friends Groups and Libraries” that could conceivably become a national model for cooperation among other statewide groups.

Marlena moved that FOSCL pay the membership fees to become a member of each of these statewide groups (Georgia, \$50; North Carolina, \$35; Tennessee, \$75). Kitty seconded, and the motion was unanimously passed. Several FOSCL Board members urged Marlena to encourage those representing the other statewide organizations to consider providing reciprocal group memberships, and she agreed to do so at some point in the future.

Friends Group Database

The Board discussed the need for current information about each Friends group in the state. As was the case several years ago (2017-2018), each FOSCL member will contact FOL groups for several libraries and let Marlena know which groups/libraries they wish to contact, *or they will be assigned contacts*. Libby will send the latest information on record to Marlena for dissemination, and Marlena will provide suggested talking points. In addition to securing updated information, we would like to inform library directors and FOSCL contacts (local FOL presidents or designated liaisons) of our recent initiatives and upcoming activities and find out how they have dealt with the COVID crisis.

Ray McBride will secure information for the libraries in ***Beaufort County***.

Maurice Cherry has agreed to provide information for the same counties whose information he updated in 2017: ***Abbeville, Anderson, Cherokee, Greenville, Greenwood, Laurens, Oconee, Pickens, and Spartanburg***

All other counties and libraries are “up for grabs”! So, please pitch in!

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Maurice Cherry, FOSCL Secretary, with considerable support from Libby Law

Future Meetings

Special Meeting to review 2021

FOSCL Awards Nominations: ***Friday, March 19 10:00 a.m. [Zoom format]***
(if your schedule permits)

Quarterly Board Meeting: ***Friday, June 4 10:00 am [Zoom format]***

Quarterly Board Meeting: ***Friday, Aug. 13 10:00 am [Zoom format]***

Quarterly Board Meeting: ***Friday, Oct. 1 10:00 am [Zoom format]***

To Do:

All Board Members:

If you have not done so, let Marlana know which counties/libraries you are willing to survey to secure requested contact information (phone numbers, e-mail addresses) and to provide updates about FOSCL initiatives and to find out about their own activities during the pandemic. [Marlana will provide “marching orders for this, once you identify your targeted areas/libraries.]

Marlana:

Send necessary information to Libby concerning procedure for our joining statewide Friends Groups in Georgia, North Carolina, and Tennessee.
Encourage statewide Friends Groups in GA, NC, and TN to become reciprocal members of each of the statewide Friends Groups in the four-state region.
Share information about the availability of a large quantity of donated books with Friends Groups by means of e-mail, Facebook, newsletter, etc.
Check with Jonathan Haupt for possible presenter for one of the “Virtual Visits with Friends” sessions and follow up with Randy Akers [SC Humanities], if necessary.
Collaborate with Kitty on preparation of the *Document of Resources for Friends Groups* (e.g., information from the USC Law Center Non-Profit, SC Humanities, local authors suggestions from Prudence, etc.)
Continue sending e-mail membership reminders to Personal Level Friends who have not renewed for 2021.

Libby:

Send Award nominations to Marlana by March 17.
Send Friends Group Contact Information to Marlana.

Maurice:

Prepare Minutes of today’s Board Meeting, Jan. 8, 2021.

Prudence:

Send list of local authors to Marlana

Sarah:

Reach out to Randy Akers [SC Humanities]; Marlana will follow up with logistics.
Provide wording for declaring ineligibility of current, sitting members of the FOSCL Board to be nominated for FOSCL award; send to Marlana, Paul, and others in need of text.

[About Rachel Ramjattan from the “Good Reads” online site]

Rachel Ramjattan was born in Kingston, Jamaica, to Jamaican parents. She grew up in the Blue Mountains before migrating to the United States in 1987.

Fundraising since the age of 12, Rachel is an engaging storyteller. She has spoken to fundraising and social impact audiences with one goal: Make fundraising's best practices accessible to everyone. Best known as "a fundraising coach with equal parts creativity and compassion," her passion is empowering people to change the world.

While she's received many accolades, the ones she treasures most are, "You make fundraising simple and do-able" and "You make me feel like I can become a successful fundraiser and actually enjoy it!"

[printed from “Good Reads” site on March 5, 2021]