

Friends of the Del Webb Library Hosted Regional Friends of the South Carolina Library Meeting

Friends of the Del Webb Library hosted a regional Friends of the South Carolina Library meeting with Friends of the York County Library at the end of last month.

Over two dozen Friends members from across the state attended the meeting, which was held at the Del Webb Library. There were speakers from SC State Library who talked about advocacy as well as a keynote speaker Jim Casada, retired Winthrop Professor and author. Local Friends chairs discussed how they raise money to support their local libraries through book sales and memberships.

Dr. Casada talked about how much libraries have been a big part of his life—inspiring him to become a lifelong reader and writer. He said he reads five or six books per week and has a personal collection of over 15,000 volumes. He said he has been to libraries all over the world including Library of Congress and British Library; however, his favorite library is the one in his hometown of Bryson City, NC. He said it was there that he was encouraged to keep reading— it was also the same place where, later in life, his mother worked as the local librarian.

“To me, books are so important,” said Casada, “libraries have always been very meaningful to me.”

Casada worked as a history professor at Winthrop University for 25 years. He’s published over a dozen books and hundreds of articles over the years. He is most well-known for his hunting and fishing publications such as “Innovative Turkey Hunting” and “Beginner’s Guide to Fly Fishing.”

Friends of Del Webb Library Membership Chair Dorene Grant discussed how she has partnered with local businesses to offer discounts to patrons who are Friends of the Del Webb Library members. She said incentives from businesses along with early entry to the Friends book sales encourage community members to support the library by becoming Friends members.

Annual Friends memberships cost \$15 for individuals and \$25 for families. These funds pay for all the library's community events such as family movie nights as well as other items on the library’s wish list like new computers.

This year, Grant was able to raise \$10,000 in membership money—all going back to the library. She gives thanks to the over 25 businesses who are partnering with the library through their discount program for making it possible. Businesses such as The Southern Nest, Red Bowl and All Paws Grooming.

Visit dwfriends.org for more information on becoming a member and the benefits.

Photos credited to Lee Layton, Secretary of Friends of the Del Webb Library.

Pic1: Jim Casada stands with a collection of his books at the meeting.

Pic2: Dorene Grant shows the business contract she uses to sign up business partners for the Friends membership discount program.