

**Friends of the Libraries of Towns County**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**December 7, 2010**

The meeting was called to order at 12:15 P.M. by President Marilyn Pierce. Marilyn welcomed the 29 people present to our Christmas Meeting at Moschetto's. (See attendance attached.) Reverend John Kay said grace before meals and the meeting was adjourned for lunch.

Following lunch, there was entertainment by Frank McKinney on keyboard, Melanie Beighley on flute, and Brittany Boyer who performed some Christmas songs for us. The meeting resumed with Marilyn introducing John Roberts, a 10 year member of FOL, who in turn talked about the efforts, talent, and time donated over the years by the Hales- Jim and Barbara – to FOL, particularly in the area of book sales. Marilyn presented Jim and Barbara with an honorary life-time membership in FOL. Library Board Members present were asked to introduce themselves.

Towns County Commissioner Bill Kendall had asked to address the meeting with some issues concerning the county, mainly the Splost, (Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax), which is scheduled to expire on June 30, 2011; SPLOST revenue has to be used for capital outlay projects and not for salaries. The 7% sales tax that we have now is comparable with those in the surrounding counties. It is the Commissioner's intention to place an item on the ballot of March 15, 2011 that, if approved, will reinstate the Splost on July, 1, 2011 for a period of 6 years. Commissioner Kendall went on to state the needs that the cities and county would be facing in the upcoming years, namely the maintenance of the 400 miles of county roads, the expansion of the Hiawassee Library, need for a new fire truck with the capability of reaching the taller buildings being constructed, as for example those at Young Harris College. There were several other needs he mentioned as well. The Commissioner's main concern was in getting the word out that his proposal "is not a tax increase in any way" but is maintenance of the 7% sales tax we have now.

Marilyn called the business part of our meeting to order. The Meeting Minutes, now on our web site and transmitted electronically to the officers, were approved as written.

Treasurer, Jim Reynolds, presented the Treasurer's report showing a balance of \$9,093.13. They were approved as read.

Committee Reports:

- Corresponding Secretary, Maureen Gustafson, has sent out 10 pieces of correspondence since the October 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- Membership Chair, Jane Farrell, reported that our membership is declining and there are many non-renewals. We shall be discussing ways to remediate this at our next meeting.
- Barbara Hale stated that the January book for the Book Bunch, the classic, The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald, will be discussed on January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Donna has the bookmarks listing the selections for the year ready for distribution and will soon have the display of the same books ready in the library.
- Communication Chairperson, Jan Roberts, stated that we have 91 members who have provided e-mail addresses. In order to efficiently distribute our newsletter electronically, she is hoping to get more e-mail addresses and to that purpose, there is a sign-up sheet at the front desk in the Mountain Regional Library and at the Hiawassee library as well.
- Publicity Chairperson, Jan Cochran, was not present.

Library Report by Branch Manager Sandi Vaughan:

- Sandi thanked the membership for their contributions to the libraries.
- Since we did not have a requested firm amount for the staff Christmas Party, a motion was made and seconded to pay those expenses incurred "within reason."

- The kits for covering parent/child topics with reading material and props inside need some kind of display structure from which they can be hung. Once this is obtained, then the kits can be checked out.
- Mountain Regional recently purchased some juvenile music CD's which are shelved in the Children's Department.

Old Business:

- The winner of the contest, *I Love My Librarian*, for which Donna Howell was nominated, had not yet been announced as of today, December 7.

New Business:

- Chairmen John and Jan Roberts announced the dates of the April Book Sale as Thursday, April 14th for members only, then Friday and Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> for the general public. This book sale has a smaller number of books to be sold but they are quality books. As far as the August Book Sale is concerned, the dates will be Thursday, August 18<sup>th</sup> for members only, Friday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, Saturday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, Friday, August 26<sup>th</sup>, and Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup> for the general public. The book sales are the source of most of our revenue.
- Andy Moschetto was presented a book, The Gigantic Book Of Fishing Stories, by the FOL in appreciation for the many generous things he does for our organization. It will return to our collection when he has finished reading it.
- The slate of officers for the coming year was presented by Nominating Committee Member Maureen Gustafson. They are: Co-Presidents- Barbara Hale and Marilyn Pierce, Vice-President- Doris Tilly, Recording Secretary- Position needs to be filled, Corresponding Secretary- Maureen Gustafson, Treasurer- Jim Reynolds. The slate of officers was accepted by acclamation.
- Our next meeting is February 1, 2011 at 10:30.
- Meeting was adjourned at 1:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen C. Gustafson  
FOL Co-Secretary