

FOLIO Board Meeting
Via Zoom
January 7, 2022

FINAL

Board Members Present: Wayne Hanway, Sharon and Jon Douthitt, Cecilia Brown, Gerry Hendon, Judy Haught, Candace Baird, Diane Pennington, Dr. Karen Neurohr, Dr. Melinda Howard, Angie Lewis, Linda Pye, Dr. Bill Hagen, Teresia Jors, Sharon Saulmon, Sandra Austin

Advisory Board Members Present: Melody Kellogg, Jackie Kropp

President Hanway called the meeting to order at 10:03. Sharon Saulmon made a motion that Sandra Austin be elected as Secretary. Wayne Hanway seconded. The motion passed. Congratulations to Teresia Jors on her marriage.

The minutes of the October 16, 2021 Board meeting and the November 15, 2021 Executive Committee meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Candice Baird emailed her report out earlier in the week. We are only \$235 away from reaching our goal of \$6000 on the Endowment. There are several checks outstanding which will bring us to \$125 needed to reach that goal so that our contribution will be matched. Any contributions at this time would be greatly appreciated.

Gerry Hendon moved to accept the Treasurer's report and Melinda Howard seconded. The motion passed.

President's Report: President Hanway emailed his report out earlier in the week. He was very excited about approving the contract with Valerie for the Ready2Read@Your Library project, and getting a huge boost from the Oklahoma Department of Libraries in the form of an invitation to apply for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to purchase programming materials, supplies, and a large quantity of new children's books for the participating libraries. The application was submitted and approved. Program schedules for 2022 are complete. He mentioned censorship concerns with legislation that is out there. He reiterated that FOLIO and all Oklahoma Friends of Libraries groups need to be aware of threats to the freedom to read and be ready to support our libraries and librarians whenever and however they are attacked. If talking points are needed ODL can help. He reminded us online registration is now live for the OLA conference. FOLIO's main day will be Friday, March 11th. For our annual Author talk and Awards program, the author will be Oklahoma author and Cherokee Nation member Traci Sorell. She writes fiction and nonfiction books, short stories, and poems for children. A former federal Indigenous law attorney and advocate, Traci lives with her family on her tribe's reservation in northeastern Oklahoma. Wayne is hopeful that the Omicron threats will be over by

that time and the conference should go on as planned.

ODL/Federal Relations Report: Jackie Kropp began the report as Melody was involved in an Advocacy Meeting with the OLA Advocacy Committee meeting. They recently met with Carmen Forman from the Oklahoman and gave her a tour of ODL and explained their role with public libraries. This was in response to concerns about SB1142 by Senator Rob Standridge. MMR, Milner, McSpadden and Robinson, the firm that OLA uses as their lobbyist is working on an education campaign to counteract some of the censorship concerns that have come up recently.

ODL recently submitted an ARPA proposal for construction and renovation of public libraries facilities for \$239 million dollars. This is because of a survey from libraries on their needs. They are hopeful that some of the projects will be funded. ODL would appreciate any attempts the FOLIO board would make in approaching their legislators about these projects. This contact is especially important if your legislator is on the Joint Committee for Pandemic Relief. This list is easily accessible on the state's website: <https://oklahoma.gov/arpa/about-arpa/joint-committee-on-pandemic-relief-funding.html>

Only one public library related bill pre-filed. It is a request bill from TCCL authored by Senator Rader to amend the commission meeting requirements.

AWARDS: Best Friends Award: Diane Pennington reported that there was only one entry from the Stilwell Public Library Friends Society. Their population is less than 10,000. Highlights from their application involved working with local ICTC to implement a landscape project, preparing kits for summer reading, Booksale, and Garage sales. Sharon and Diane recommended that since there was only one entry they should receive the entire \$1000 budgeted. The motion carried. Sharon asked that we keep the winner and the award amount secret until the award presentation is made.

There was much discussion about paying the registration fee and/or lunch for recipients of awards. The thought is that many of the small libraries do not have the budget to pay registration fees for award winners and they may not have the opportunity to be present otherwise. After much discussion it was felt the decision should just be made for this year's recipients. This year it would not strain FOLIO's budget for OLA but another year with more winners it might. The committee moved that The Best Friends Award winner, Stilwell, should have the registration fee for OLA paid for one representative and a gift card provided for lunch. The motion passed. We will need to consider registration fees and lunch cost for the future when preparing the budget next year.

AWARDS: Friends of Libraries Week: Angie reported that South Oklahoma City Friends and McLoud Friends won. The checks for the cash award have already been sent but she has not had an opportunity to present the certificates. She will be scheduling those soon. There will be an article in the newsletter highlighting the libraries and what they have done.

AWARDS: Hall of Fame - Wayne reported that there were none.

AWARDS: Seed Grants – Bill reported that McLoud had submitted a revised application and wanted to renew their group. They received a grant for \$200 that was approved by the Executive Committee.

AWARDS: Scholarships: Cecy reported that there were seven applicants which is fewer than last year but there was a shorter time period to apply. The applicants are all worthy. The committee will be working on a ranking process and the winners should be chosen by January 31. There is plenty of time to notify them and make certificates.

By-Laws – No report

Endowment – Candace already reported that we are very close to getting the matching money so Sharon Douthitt asked that if anyone hasn't made a donation this would be a great time to do so.

Financial Review/Audit –Diane reported that the audit is completed for this year. The next audit will begin next fall.

History/Archives – No report

Legislative – Sharon Saulmon reported that school librarians are really being scrutinized and the Metropolitan Library had several censorship requests. If those requests are not honored they will go public.

Censorship seems to be popping up all over. If there is an opportunity to talk to legislators the point should be made that FOLIO is for freedom of access and the right to read.

Melody joined the meeting at this point. She mentioned SB1142. This bill says that if someone complains about materials in a school library and they are not removed fines and jail time could result. At this time ODL is not responding. School libraries already have policies and procedures regarding questioned materials so they are approaching this as more of an opportunity to educate proactively and quietly. If this bill is put in place it is duplicative and unnecessary. It is hoped it will die on its

path through the legislative process. Public libraries are not included at this time but it could happen.

A legislative agenda has been proposed to present to OLA. It will be shared with FOLIO after it has been approved. Some of the issues included are freedom to read, fully funded school libraries staffed by certified personnel, and ODL supporting their role in fully funded libraries and museums. It is hoped that a delegation can visit Washington DC even though ALA is not sponsoring a Legislative Day. Melody will keep FOLIO informed.

Literary Landmarks: Judy reported that 3 projects are in the works: Tony Hillerman scheduled in May in Shawnee; Mel Tolson in Langston; and Rennard Strickland in Muskogee. Questions arose about timelines for plaques so Bill was asked if everything was going well with the Tony Hillerman tribute. Bill reported they hadn't talked in a while and he was encouraged to call and finalize the program so the plaque could be ordered in time. He reported that plans were for the Friday before Memorial Day so that Hillerman's service in WW2 could be recognized. There is a Navajo artist nearby that might be able to attend to represent the Navajo nation and of course his daughter will attend. The group would also like to raise enough money to bring the biographer to attend the program as well.

Karen was questioned on how things were going with Mel Tolson. She reported that there was not much movement. They have not applied yet although she has been working with them. Covid has not helped and this type of event is different than their normal activities so the project is still in the works.

Sharon and Jon Douthitt would like to have the Strickland project go on but they cannot be involved at this time. They very much would like to have him recognized but finding family or people in Muskogee that know him will need to be researched. Karen would like to add Joyce Carol Thomas from Ponca City. She will do some research and asked Sharon Saulmon since she is from Ponca City if she might be able to help and she agreed.

Membership: Gerry reported that membership is down. We have 190 members - 105 individuals, 38 Friends groups and some 47 libraries. FOLIO members might check to see if their Friends group has joined this year. Dues cover the Fiscal Year rather than the calendar year. FOLIO's fiscal year is July 1 – June 30. Several years ago postcards were sent out reminding members to renew. FOLIO received enough memberships to pay the cost of postage with a little left over during that campaign. Gerry suggested those postcard reminders be sent out again. The alternative is to put a story about membership in the next newsletter. Since the newsletter is being put together now she will make sure to send information to Sharon along with a form and hopefully gain a few more members.

FOLIO members should always mention joining FOLIO when visiting libraries. Members might also suggest to relatives and friends who love libraries to join. FOLIO memberships support libraries in Oklahoma. When newsletters are sent out they are sent to around 900 people including legislators in hopes they will read about the organization. There is one legislator that bought a membership and is still paying dues!

Candace encouraged everyone to use the forms available online. It's so much faster and easier to use the online application!

Newsletter: Sharon Saulmon reported that the next newsletter is in the process of being prepared. If you have anything please let Sharon know by email right away so she can leave space. She needs to have the information by early the week of January 10! She would like to have it out by the beginning of February so readers will be reminded to register for OLA if they have not before the registration deadlines.

Outreach Ambassadors:

Northeast – Sharon Douthitt reported that they are on lock down as are many of the groups so there is no report at this time. Mannford wants to reorganize so Sharon will pursue that when Covid has lightened up.

Northwest – Karen reported that she passes on the newsletters to libraries in her area. Guymon contacted her about FOLIO and she sent information to them. They needed information about how to work on the relationship with their friends group. She was glad to hear that the library was scheduled for the Ready2Read program. She is hoping that can help the relationship problems between the library staff and the Friends group.

Southwest – Judy reported that Elk City Library is undergoing renovation. During the library renovation, the library is being housed in Carnegie Hall, a nearby building owned by the city. The Friends helped with the move by shelving books. Because that building is not large enough to accommodate meetings, the Friends meetings and any library programs are being held at City Hall. The group is also working on creating a StoryWalk®. They are working with business and community groups in moving that forward.

Southeast – Bill reported that he and Teresia attended a meeting at Sulphur because they are interested in starting a group. Teresia took a lot of material to them and Bill took an application for a Seed Grant to them. Teresia followed up with an email after their visit to Sulphur. She will continue to help them as needed. Bill also did a Let's Talk About It program sponsored by the Friends in Atoka. They are interested in doing another.

Publicity/Media Marketing: Sharon reported that she emailed her report on Facebook. We reached around 100,000 last quarter. A viral post has been circulating and has over 3.1 million views. A FB page was started for Ready2Read in the middle of December. The link is: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/r2rok>. Everyone is welcome to find it on FB and join. The 34 – 44 age group appears to be the largest users of the FB posts. There was also a campaign about the Endowment Fund that reached a large group. Be sure and look over the report Sharon sent out on email for more stats.

Webpage: Several updates were made during the month of December. We probably won't do another update until after the newsletter is put out. Please let Candace know if there are any suggestions to be made. She is always open to suggestions.

Special Projects: Sharon Saulmon reported that after the retreat she was excited to work with ODL by writing a grant suggested by Melody. 35 libraries were contacted that participated in a survey sent out several years ago. Valerie Kimble had many ideas for materials and books needed so they were included as Sharon wrote the grant and submitted it. ODL will provide the materials and ship those. FOLIO will provide the volunteer to train, create a FB page, and upload materials to Google Docs that anyone can use to create a love of reading for young children. One of the things in the Memo of Understanding is to acknowledge our donors. Sharon will send that information to Candace so we can toot our horn about this great program is slated to last for eighteen months. The project will be evaluated at the end and the information shared with ODL. The schedule needs to be finalized through the spring, a press release and flyers created so that it will be easy for the libraries to comply with acknowledging their donors. The MOU was distributed in December with the libraries that they will provide staff and volunteers for the training and the audience although there is one library receiving individualized training because of a prior agreement. Each library participating will receive around \$1,500 worth of materials for their collection to be made available for circulation. They will also receive some supplies such as CD's and flannel board materials. Valerie is going to present her first session next week. Eleven more are scheduled for the spring. Looking ahead as far as budget those libraries in the panhandle cannot be easily accessed in a day so funds for travel will need to be provided. The three libraries in the panhandle could hopefully be scheduled together. Northeast Oklahoma might also be a problem. Sharon forwarded a list of the 30 cooperating libraries. Wayne expressed his pleasure at the thought of libraries receiving the training. Children's librarians are not easily found in many of the rural areas of our state so this will be such a great program. An added note from Sharon is that Valerie got permission from Pioneer to use those materials she developed while employed there.

Annual Conference Planning: Registration is open online. Wayne recommends you don't wait. He feels that the conference will go on even with Covid.

FOLIO Fund Raising: Sharon Douthitt reported that there is nothing planned beyond the Endowment Fund. She mentioned that Claremore Friends is also planning a StoryWalk® and has provided \$6000 for very permanent StoryWalk® items. A full time children's librarian has just been hired in Claremore and they are very excited. If there are ideas for fund-raising please pass those on.

Gerry reiterated that we are dollars away from meeting our goal. Everyone is encouraged to donate if they haven't already. She also wondered if it was time to consider applying again for another matching grant from the Kirkpatrick Family Foundation. It takes month for the application to be completed and they want a date from the organization when a motion was made to apply. It was recommended by the committee to apply for a matching grant from the Kirkpatrick Family Foundation Fund for the coming year. The motion passed. Sharon reported that the list of matching grants on the Kirkpatrick Family Foundation Facebook page was not very long so we should feel privileged to have received one.

Unfinished Business: Melinda shared that the Metropolitan Library will be having its Booksale in February. Safety measures for Covid are being implemented including a limited number of shoppers in the building, wider aisles and masks. There will be 2 years of books so come early.

Candace reported that Helmerich Branch Library in Tulsa began their ongoing Booksale in October and so far they have averaged \$100 a week. These funds help to pay the cost of storage which has been made necessary because of Covid. They will be meeting next week to schedule an actual Booksale.

New Business: Karen had a question about a report from ODL on Friends groups and libraries statewide. Wayne and Melody don't remember seeing one but Melody will check on that and share it with FOLIO.

Announcements:

* FOLIO Annual Meeting and Board Meeting/OLA Annual Conference, March 9 – 11, 2022. Elections will be held so attendance is critical. The FOLIO program is having Encouraging Health and Literacy through Nature, includes StoryWalk® and should be a good one.

*National Library Week, April 3 – 10, 2022

*National Library Workers Day, April 5, 2022

Wayne asked for a motion to adjourn. Karen made the motion and Bill seconded. Wayne declared the meeting adjourned.

