

FOLIO Annual Membership and Board Meeting
Oklahoma Library Association/Mountain Plains Library Association Conference,
Embassy Suites, Norman, OK
Friday, March 10, 2023 *with corrections from June 30, 2023 meeting*

Members Present: Candace Baird, Sharon Douthitt, Jon Douthitt, Bill Hagen, Judy Haught, Gerry Hendon, Melinda Howard, Angie Lewis, Karen Neurohr, Linda Pye, Sharon Saulmon, Wayne Hanway, Teresia Jors

FOLIO Emeritus Members Present: Eugene Earsom

Advisory Board Present: Natalie Currie, Connie Armstrong, Bill Young

Tuttle Public Library, FOLIO Member: Lori Dennis

PLPL Friends, Poteau, Present: Conner Ciesla, Suzie Bigler, Leah Montgomery

FEML Friends, Eufaula, Present: Robyn Burris

Call to Order - President Judy Haught called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.

Minutes - The minutes from the January 13, 2023 Board Meeting stand approved as written.

Annual Treasurer's Report - Candace Baird previously emailed the partial 3Q report and presented copies at the meeting. She announced that the endowment goal was met as we received almost \$6600 toward the fund this year. She expects to hear soon what our distributions will be. She also shared that we received some funds from Amazon Smile but that program is no longer in operation.

President's Annual Report - Judy Haught sent out her report via email. Her report included information about the endowment challenge, Best Friends Award, FOLIO scholarships, bylaws, Literary Landmarks, and more. There was no discussion.

Roll Call of Friends Groups and Highlights of Activities -

- Robyn Burris, Eufaula Memorial Library, shared that their group was working on partnering with the city of Eufaula to address much needed maintenance needs to the library building.
- Conner Ciesla, Patrick Lynch Public Library, Poteau, discussed their efforts to increase membership among their Friends organization.
- Lori Dennis, Tuttle Public Library, shared that Tuttle Library had just become a municipal library this January and was excited about the transition.
- Melinda Howard, Friends Board Member at Oklahoma County Metro System, discussed the annual book sale that takes up two buildings at the fairgrounds. She said despite raising book prices, they grossed \$320K in sales

but due to the expenses involved (transportation of books, cost of fairground buildings, etc.), they were looking for ways to decrease expenses.

- Candace Baird, Friends of the Helmerich Library, said they were gearing up for their book sale in April. Their Friends organization was able to give over \$20K in grants to all branches in Tulsa City-County Library this year.
- Bill Hagan with Friends of the Shawnee Public Library described the ongoing book sale and said they were having success with theme sales. The Friends organization will sponsor a poetry contest in April in honor of Jim Spurr. Bill also shared that the group held its first in-person annual meeting this January and elected officers. He shared that the Friends group was grateful to utilize volunteers from the OBU student body and Shawnee Honor Society.
- Eugene Earsom, Friends of Moore Library, stated that their book sale would begin this coming Thursday (for members) and run through Sunday. They are looking forward to a city bond issue that if passed, would result in a new library building.
- Sharon Douthitt, Friends of Library Board in Claremore at Will Rogers Library, shared that they were hoping to install a second StoryWalk® after the success of their first one. They are not currently having annual book sales but continuous lobby sales instead and are finding this to be successful. Through the Friends endowment, they are able to provide the library with approximately \$14K in support. They are considering a Bling for Books fundraiser much like that of Anadarko Community Library and are currently researching electronic signs for the front of the library. Sharon discussed her concern about censorship and encourages everyone to advocate for freedom of speech. Jon Douthitt spoke in support of freedom of speech, as well.
- Sharon Saulmon, South OKC Library Board member, expanded upon censorship stating that the bill is expected to die in the house but that this does not solve the local problem. Sharon shared that their Friends group had a book sale twice a year and would use \$10K toward a makerspace and summer programming. They may also sponsor a Little Free Library at their local YMCA.
- Karen Neurohr, Stillwater Friends of the Library Board, shared that they sponsored a fall and spring book sale. This year was Stillwater Library's 100th anniversary so the Friends organization would assist with that celebration. She also stated that money from the book sales supported the summer reading program.
- Angie Lewis, Friends of Chickasha Library, celebrated their 11th annual Chocolate Celebration on February 13th. They netted over \$8K and will use those funds to renovate the circulation desk. There were 18 community organizations that set up a table and provided 200 cupcake-sized servings of chocolate. Sponsorships were sold, and participants purchased tickets for \$6 then received a box and chose six pieces of chocolate from the organizations. A bake sale completed the event.
- Teresia Jors, Stratford Friends of the Library, reported on the Stratford Trails & Tales (StoryWalk®) Kick-Off Event that was held on March 4th. Over 350

community members attended and enjoyed the StoryWalk®, inflatables, food vendors, face painting, archery tag, stickball, and more.

- Judy Haught, Friends of the Elk City Carnegie Library, described a new project called LitFix, a teen subscription box that will run this summer from June-August. At the first of each of the three months, participants will receive a bag with a book, activity, and snack. They will determine book interest by having teens fill out a survey. The hope is that when participants come to the library to pick up their subscription box, they will also check out other books utilizing the library more. Judy also talked about their Imagination Library and how even though such a positive program, censorship issues arose with a Friends member.

Committee Reports and Essential Business

Best Friends Awards – Melinda Howard shared that the Elk City Carnegie Library was awarded the Best Friends Award this morning and while they were the only applicant, they were extremely active in supporting the library and community. They were presented a plaque and \$1000.

Friends of Libraries Week – No report.

Hall of Fame - Judy Haught announced Bill Young as our Hall of Fame recipient. He was presented with his award during the morning Awards and Author Program. Bill thanked FOLIO for the award.

Seed Grants - Bill Hagen reported that we have not received any applications this year. He also explained that Bristow had applied last year and was asked to do a small amount of work then resubmit but they have not done so to date. Judy suggested that we design a handout that would further explain the process of obtaining nonprofit status.

Scholarships - Melinda Howard reported that we had 11 applications for this year's scholarship and gave three \$1000 awards to Katherine Witzig, Joshua Caudill, and Kathryn Hall. Presentations took place this morning at the Annual Awards and Author Program with all three recipients present. She also shared that a previous recipient visited with Melinda at the FOLIO table during conference and expressed her appreciation for the award. She shared that the awards assisted her in graduating without student loans or debt and was very appreciative. Gerry Hendon explained that the endowment has allowed us to increase the scholarship amount we can offer and the importance of supporting the endowment.

By-Laws - Sharon Saulmon described the changes that were to be made to current bylaws. Most of the changes are cleaning up language in the Bylaws, i.e., make timelines broader, eliminate the annual luncheon, change the Legislative Committee to the Advocacy Committee, etc. Connie Armstrong explained that while the Library of Congress initially signed an agreement to transfer Library Landmarks from

United for Libraries to the Library of Congress Center for the Book, they then rescinded that agreement. In order for the Oklahoma Center for the Book to partner, Connie explained she must be involved in the Literary Landmark Committee. Connie also explained that the John and Nancy Cole Endowment allows each Center for the Book to apply for \$5000. The wording was changed to "designated" guidelines rather than "Library of Congress." Members unanimously voted to approve bylaw revisions.

Endowment - Melinda Howard and Judy Haught will be working together on the Endowment Committee. Many thanks were expressed to Sharon Douthitt and Gerry Hendon who have worked so hard on this committee. Melinda discussed utilizing an automated membership program that would reduce time and increase productivity. The cost for the program, also used by the Oklahoma Genealogical Society, is \$300 per year. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.

History/Archives - Karen Neurohr had no report. Sharon Saulmon reminded us that this is FOLIO's 45th anniversary!

Legislative - Sharon Saulmon reported that she and Melinda Howard had been attending the advocacy committee meeting virtually; the committee is monitoring 30 to 40 bills and that the MMR reports moving archives to a new building looks positive. She also shared that Senate Bill 251 will limit the liability of library systems to \$250K. She stated that the last day for bills to be heard was March 22 and that there is a legislative day planned which she will keep us informed about. Finally, Sharon encouraged all to talk to our city councilmen, go to townhall meetings, and gather support where possible.

Literary Landmarks - Connie Armstrong discussed Literary Landmarks under bylaws previously. A motion was made by Sharon Douthitt to partner with OK Center for Book. The motion was seconded by Linda Pye. Motion passed unanimously.

Membership - Gerry Hendon passed out the membership report and shared that the number of members this year had decreased from the two previous years. Currently, we have the following paid memberships: 97 individuals, 45 Friends groups, 38 libraries. Our total paid in dues to date is \$4010 and donations of \$2627 bring our total to \$6,637. Eugene Earsom suggested we ask Gerry if our library or Friends groups were members as she would provide us with that information. Judy Haught suggested we pursue corporate sponsors more.

Newsletter - Sharon Saulmon reminded those present that the newsletter comes out quarterly and the next deadline is March 20. She encourages news to be emailed to her so she can include it in the newsletter. Printing of the newsletter has moved to Weatherford, and Linda Pye shared that the printing was going well with the printshop also tabbing newsletters and taking them to the post office.

Nominating - No Report

Outreach Ambassadors

Northeast – Sharon Douthitt described a program called “Books You Love” in which local people (ex. City manager, principals, students, etc.) are asked to share with the community books that they enjoy. Sharon contacted the Bristow Library and is assisting them with an election process. She shared that the group is off to a good start, currently planning a book sale and yard sale. She also shared that the Tahlequah Friends of the Library were interested in forming a board as they currently only have officers. Catoosa Friends of the Library are struggling to get restarted after the pandemic.

Northwest - Linda Pye stated that Weatherford previously had an active group. She recently met with the president who told her they were involved in projects such as planting outside the library.

Southeast - Bill Hagen shared he had sent copies of bylaws as reference to a group that was not getting along with library staff. This group had no turnover of officers in years. He also discussed an incident in which a (now previous) library staff member was made a member of the Friends of the Library Board and has since brought conflict between the library director and Friends group.

Southwest - Angie Lewis reported the Chickasha Friends group was doing well. She also will be meeting with Tuttle Friends members soon to help them with ideas. A conference participant from Cache, OK, came by the FOLIO table and inquired about FOLIO, so Angie will reach out to them, as well.

Publicity/Media/Marketing

Facebook - Sharon Saulmon shared that the FOLIO OK Friends Facebook page resulted in 4 to 5 posts per day. She looks for book sales and fundraisers to promote. She also shares inspiring library projects, grants, and leadership tips. Sharon thanked Eugene Earsom for his ideas regarding the page. Finally, she is happy to monitor Facebook pages of Friends groups sharing their activities.

Web Page - Candace Baird met with Bruce Stone, webmaster, last night and he will be out of the country for several months. She is working on getting the software on her computer to manage the FOLIO webpage. She suggests we get all applications and forms on the website before Bruce leaves for this trip.

Special Programs - Sharon Saulmon reported that Ready2Read has been a wonderful program. Valerie Kimble has traveled all over the state training library staff at no charge for the past 18 months. The project wraps up at the end of May,

2023. Thirty libraries have benefited from learning story time techniques, and parents have learned more about how to teach their own children. Adrienne Butler will take over the Ready2Read Facebook page and keep it up-to-date with information about new techniques, themes, storybooks, and more.

Unfinished Business - Sharon Douthitt has been working on FOLIO brochures that can be presented to libraries, Friends groups, and others who might want to learn more about what FOLIO has to offer. She presented ambassadors with 25 brochures each.

New Business - Natalie Currie, ODL Director, reported that the department received an increase from IMLS of \$200K. There was no ODL Board Meeting today as there was no quorum. She shared that Representative Mark McBride from Moore submitted House Bill 2557 which would allow renovations to the State Archives Building and since the bill failed the deadline to be heard on the floor, it would be part of the appropriations process. On February 15, Natalie, Connie Armstrong, and Jennifer Green (archivist) visited our legislators to share information about ODL services for elected officials and state employees. She discussed the recent turnover at ODL and is excited that Kaylee Reed from the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art would be the new PIO as of March 20th. With several vacancies within ODL, she encouraged any who were interested or knew of qualified persons who might be interested to contact her. On the state level, the Broadband Office received a \$500,000 Affordable Connectivity Outreach Grant. Regarding federal updates, Natalie just returned from Washington D.C. where she met with Sen. Lankford and staff, Sen. Markwayne Mullin and staff, and the Legislative Director for Rep. Tom Cole. She relayed that there was library support from the federal level and that she was encouraged by the discussions that took place. Natalie's entire report was emailed to all FOLIO board members.

Announcements

- Freedom of Information Day - March 16, 2023
- National Poetry Month - April 2023
- Read Across OK at OKC Zoo - April 11, 2023
- National Library Week, April 23-29, 2023
- National Library Workers Day - April 25, 2023
- Children's Book Week - May 1-7, 2023

Judy Haught reminded attendees that the next FOLIO Board Meeting would be held sometime this summer.

Adjourn - The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Submitted by Acting Secretary Teresia Jors

