



FOLTC

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARIES OF TOWNS COUNTY

FOLTC'S 26TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION HELD ON DECEMBER 12TH

On December 12, 2022, 29 people gathered at Sharp Memorial UMC's fellowship hall to celebrate the 26th anniversary of Friends of the Libraries of Towns County (FOLTC). Special VIP guests included: Cliff Bradshaw, County Commissioner; past MRLS library directors Teresa Haymore and Donna Howell; past FOLTC presidents Doris Tilly (founding president), Janice Cochran (and spouse), Marilyn Pierce, Barbara Hale, Suzanne Carter, and Elaine Roberts (past presidents Jan and John Roberts were unable to attend); and Towns County Library Branch Managers Marlene Cannon and Debbie Phillips (retired). The remaining guests included current FOLTC board members (and spouses) and Friends of the Libraries.

Current president Mary Welken welcomed everyone and introduced Doris Tilly who shared a brief history of FOLTC which began in 1996 and is going strong to this date. The group has grown from 20 members to 163 members. Welken then introduced the Sharp Tones, a musical group from the church, directed by Pam Leslie, who entertained the audience with some lively Christmas songs and jokes before lunch was served. The delicious luncheon buffet was catered by Janice Taylor.

After lunch a short business meeting was held, and officers were elected for 2023, which include: Mary Welken, President; Rose Mary Crook, Vice President; Judith Lee, Corresponding Secretary; Kathy Day, Recording Secretary; and Jim Reynolds, Treasurer.

As a fundraising non-profit organization, FOLTC has raised and contributed approximately \$220,620.00 (directly and indirectly) to Mountain Regional Library and Towns County Public Library since 1996. Funds are raised with yearly membership fees, book sales, bake sales, and 2 permanent bookstores (one at each library) that sell used, donated books and other items. All of the funds that are

raised by the organization go to benefit Mountain Regional Library, Young Harris, and Towns County Public Library, Hiawassee.

Please check in periodically on the website at www.foltc.com and follow on Facebook to find out when events will be held (book sales, meetings, monthly book club, dates to donate books, etc.) and other pertinent information. Membership forms are also available on the website. We'd love for you to join us and help advocate for our local public libraries and all libraries!

Suzanne Carter
FOLTC Publicity Chair