



FOLTC

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARIES OF TOWNS COUNTY

Winter 2024

FOLTC Officers:

President: Mary Welken

Vice President:

Rose Mary Crook

Recording Secretary:

Kathy Day

Corresponding Secretary:

Judith Lee

Treasurer: Jim Reynolds

**Friends of the Libraries of
Towns County**

P.O. Box 159

Young Harris, GA 30582

Website: www.foltc.com

Email: foltc22@yahoo.com

**[Facebook.com/FriendsOfThe
LibrariesOfTownsCounty](https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfTheLibrariesOfTownsCounty)**

“Like Us” on Facebook

LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

As we begin 2024, a heartfelt thanks goes out to everyone who has helped support FOLTC and our two libraries in 2023. Your contributions are valued, whether you volunteered in our bookstores, served on the Board, donated/purchased books, baked goodies for the bake sale, made a financial donation, became a new member, or renewed your membership. Plus, a special thank you goes to the library staff for all of their assistance throughout the year. You have all played a vital part in helping FOLTC support our libraries.

During the entire month of February, FOLTC will be having an “Inventory Reduction Sale” at both bookstore locations. All books on the shelves will be on sale. The funds that the Friends raise through our book sales continue to provide library materials and educational outreach programs that enrich the lives and minds of so many in our communities. Please plan on attending as there are many great titles on the shelves.

Our meetings for 2024 are: February 13 (TCPL); April 9 (MRL); June 11 (TCPL); Aug. 13 (MRL); Oct. 8 (TCPL); Dec. 10 (MRL). If you would like more information on how to be involved, please attend a board meeting, check out our web page (www.foltc.com) or Facebook page (Friends of the Libraries of Towns County), or email (foltc22@yahoo.com).

FOLTC BOOKSTORES’ INVENTORY REDUCTION SALE IN FEBRUARY

With the arrival of a new year, the Friends decided to have an Inventory Reduction Sale at both FOLTC bookstores during the entire month of February. Every book on the shelves will be sold at reduced prices. **Please note that the shelves will NOT be restocked during the sale.** The goal is to sell all the books before bringing out donated books in storage at the beginning of March. Thanks to the many donations of preowned

books made to the bookstores, room is needed to put “new” titles on the shelves so shoppers have more choices for purchase.

This will be an ‘honor system’ book sale. Exact change or checks written to FOLTC must be placed in each bookstores’ red money box. Adult hardback books will cost \$1.00 each. Paperbacks and all children’s and young adult books will be \$.25 each or 5/\$1.00. CDs, DVDs, and jigsaw puzzles will be \$.25 each.

The Inventory Reduction Sale will take place from **February 1st to February 29th** during regular library hours. Mountain Regional Library, 698 Miller St., Young Harris, is open on Mondays - Thursdays from 10:00 – 5:00. Towns County Public Library, 99 S. Berrong St., Hiawassee, is open on Tuesdays – Fridays from 10:00 – 6:00.

If you are interested in donating books for FOLTC bookstores, there is a regular monthly donation day: Mountain Regional Library on the first Monday of each month; Towns County Public Library on the first Tuesday of each month. Donations will not be accepted in February. Please visit our website at www.foltc.com. Click on the Events tab and then Book Donations for the list of the types of items that are accepted to be placed in the bookstores and those that are not accepted.

The Friends of the Libraries of Towns County bookstores are able to operate and raise funds for the libraries thanks to the generous donations of preowned books by members of FOLTC and the communities.

Every book that is purchased generates funds that are given to Mountain Regional Library and Towns County Public Library to supplement their revenue for new books and other library materials, children’s and adult programs, staff development, and other requests by library staff.

Please join Friends of the Libraries and help support your essential public libraries! Follow on Facebook at: Friends Of The Libraries Of Towns County.



LIBRARY HAPPENINGS



The second quarter of FY2024 has been a resounding success. Firstly, Storytime is maintaining its non-summer levels of participation with an average attendance of 14. Last quarter we started a toddler Stay and Play which was off to a rather slow start. The program is catching on a bit more now though the numbers of

attendees average in the single digits, people are letting others know and intentionally meeting at the library with their small children. The original goal of the program was to provide a place for parents and children to socialize and meet to play. With that in mind, I would say that the program is being successful.

Our Halloween Carnival was held on the 26th of October and brought in just over 30 patrons, many of them in costume! They were able to participate in 'ghost' bowling, ring toss, and other carnival style games while getting candy and popcorn! Our pumpkin carving/decorating contest saw several entries, and the winner won books, a bag, and reading light.



Hot Chocolate and Homework, which we started in October, hasn't taken off. We are still advertising it on our monthly calendar but as of now, no students have taken part. We launched Bingo as a monthly adult program in November. So far, the feedback we have received is positive and there are several who have said they expect to

bring friends for future dates.

Last but not least, we ended the quarter with "Cookies with the Grinch!" This year saw a very large turnout both for the event (68) and the Storytime (47) just before it. Our newest hire at the library, Rachel Singleton, was our Grinch and posed for many photos with



patrons at our Christmas tree. Children and adults alike decorated sugar cookies with sprinkles, marshmallows, and icing while dining on popcorn, candy, festive Chex mix, and Grinch punch!

In the third quarter of FY2024 we plan to continue with our regular programming of Storytime, Bingo, and Stay and Play. We will also be putting on a February program in co-operation with the Master Gardeners and the extension service centering around the Great Backyard Bird Count. The current plan is to offer patrons the chance to not only observe birds and learn about the bird count but to make and decorate a bird house. A second program, revolving

around the beginning of growing season, will begin the planning phase in late February or early March. Summer Reading Program planning is also starting in the third quarter with the theme of “Adventure Begins at your Library.”

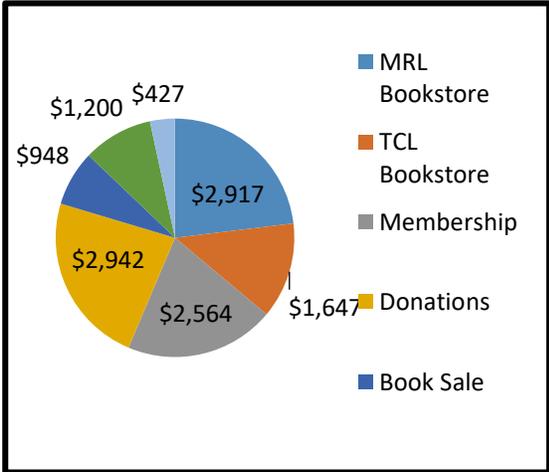
RECOMMENDED READING

“Remarkably Bright Creatures” by Shelby Van Pelt: An exploration of friendship, reckoning, and hope tracing a widow’s unlikely connections with giant Pacific octopus.

NEWS FROM OUR TREASURER

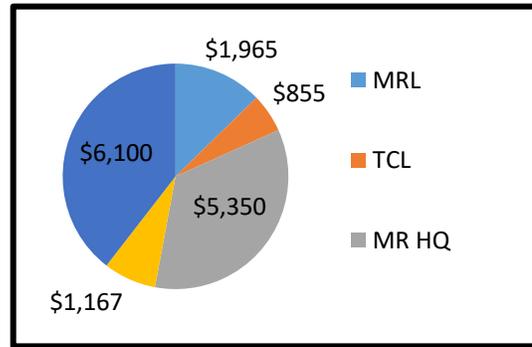
FOLTC INCOME
\$12,645

2023 was a year that showed how much Towns County appreciates its libraries and Friends of the Libraries of Towns County. Our income increased by 22% over 2022. Sales at the bookstores, donations, and the annual book/bake sales showed increased participation by you, our supporters.



FOLTC EXPENSES
\$15,437

2023 Expenses decreased mainly because Towns County libraries went back mid-year to having managers at both libraries. This was a great thing because the programs being put into effect by these managers have increased library attendance and participation. FOLTC is prepared to fund these imaginative ideas and programs in 2024.



SPECIAL FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARIES OF TOWNS COUNTY (12/31/2023)

PATRONS (Donated \$100+)

Barbara & Bob Bone
Coca Cola Foundation
 Mary & James Edwards
H&H Tradesmen
 Deborah Reynolds
Sven's Counseling

John Bowen
 Anna Dancu
 Gary & Linda Dye
 Leon & Judith Lee
 Jim & Trish Reynolds
 Mary & Dave Welken

Marilyn K. Brown
 Bill & Kathy Day
 David & Joyce Geiger
Peach State FCU
 EE & DR Staton

DONORS (Donated \$50+)

Dorothy Beck
 Bill & Darlene Pilcher

Alvin & Sybil Fickle
 Lajeane & Noel Turner

Diane Lesko
 Neal & Jean Turner

SPONSORS (\$30+) AND BUSINESS SPONSORS (\$35+)

John Carawan

Jane Farrell

Julia Giller

Charles & Megan Hume

Roberta Rankin



FOLTC MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Friends of the Libraries of Towns County is to provide financial support for Mountain Regional Library and Towns County Public Library and to advocate for public libraries. FOLTC is a 501(c) (3) non-profit.

FOLTC MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL FORM

Date_____

Name_____

Street_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Phone#_____

Email_____

MEMBERSHIP TYPE New Member_____ Renewal_____ Gift/Other_____

Individual \$12____ Family \$24____ Sponsor \$30____ Donor \$50____ Patron \$100____

Gift \$_____

Business Member \$35_____ Business Donor \$50_____ Business Patron \$100_____

PAYMENT OF MEMBERSHIP DUES is for one year of membership; renewal is the anniversary of your joining date. Membership dues and gifts are tax deductible as FOLTC is a nonprofit 501(c) (3) organization. **Business Members** will receive a thank you letter. **Business Donors** will receive a letter and a framed certificate of appreciation. **Business Patrons** will receive a letter, a certificate, and a copy of their business card included for one year in the FOLTC newsletter which is published quarterly and distributed by email or mail to all members. **Make checks payable to FOLTC.** Membership forms and payments may be placed in the red money boxes in the Friends' bookstores in Towns County Public Library in Hiawassee or Mountain Regional Library in Young Harris, or mailed to FOLTC, P O Box 159, Young Harris GA 30582.

When you invite your friends to become a Friend of the Libraries of Towns County, area children are the big winners!

Let's work together and increase our membership in 2024!