



Karen Cassity, Jackie Volk, Joy Wilson, and Debora Quigley

Friends of Union County Library (FOUCL) held their annual Christmas luncheon and book exchange at Vincent's Coppertop Restaurant on December 16 and new officers were installed at that time. We are pleased to announce the 2025 officers are: President Karen Cassity, Vice President Joy Wilson, Treasurer Debora Quigley, and Secretary Jackie Volk.

We accomplished a lot in 2024 as we fulfilled our mission statement - advocating for libraries, literacy, and lifelong learning. Some achievements included:

For Libraries - We purchased a popcorn machine to be used during Union County Public Library (UCPL) events. We contributed to the purchase of periodicals (magazines and newspapers) for UCPL. We supplemented funding for the Summer Reading Program at UCPL and provided volunteer assistance. We started a games' borrowing program at our library. We funded the purchase of WISH List books for children and adults (community requests) for our library. We honored UCPL library workers during National Library Workers Week in April. We purchased two new sewing machines to be used in classes held at UCPL. We contributed to Mountain Regional Library Staff Training Day. We facilitated the purchase of two new library carts, with financial assistance from Coldwell Banker, for our library's use.

For Literacy – We provided picture books to families in our UCPL community. We sponsored ten children through our donation to First Readers. We coordinated the purchase of new books for Isaiah 117 House through a generous donation from Rick's Rental.

Lifelong Learning – We hosted a poetry event during National Poetry Month in April. We hosted an Appalachian Trail presentation, led by John Turner, in June.

We even took time for fun! Our July membership meeting was held after a potluck lunch at the Union County Senior Pavilion, and we co-hosted Clued-In Ugly Sweater Murder Mystery games in December (with much laughter and many ugly sweaters).

Our FOUCL members contributed many volunteer hours as we assisted with the Summer Reading Program and other library events; held two bake sales (May and November); had a successful raffle of a miniature schoolhouse donated by member Kathy Lawrence; and received, sorted, priced, and sold Christmas-related items at our Everything Christmas Sale. You can often spot us at the library in our green vests, or through the appearance of Owl-iver, our mascot.

We are accepting new memberships and renewals now for 2025. There are three ways to pay. 1) Go to foucl.org, print the form, write a check, and drop them off at the UCPL circulation desk; 2) Go to foucl.org and pay with a charge card through PayPal; or 3) Pick up a membership form at UCPL, fill it out, and drop it (with cash or check to FOUCL) at the UCPL circulation desk. Members will NOT be receiving a membership form in the mail this year. Our IT consultants, Robert Harford and Dan Cassity, are moving us into 21st Century technology. We hope you'll give a hoot and join us!



**Advocating for Libraries,
Literacy, and Lifelong Learning**