

Friends of Union County Library (FOUCL) Quarterly Meeting Minutes – Jan 21, 2026

Present: Judy Baldwin, Vera Coupal, Cathy Dalton, Joan Dorogi, Robert Harford, Lucy Mastej, Mardeene Mitchell, Claudia Naylor, Suzy Pleticha, Debora Quigley, Angela Ridley, Diane Schultz, Jackie Volk, Mary Ellen Watz, Joy Wilson, Roslyn Wise

Following a potluck lunch, Claudia Naylor called the meeting to order at 12:35 PM.

Minutes of Meetings

November 19, 2025, Meeting Minutes were read. Mary Ellen Watz motioned to approve, Robert Harford seconded. Membership approved. Meeting Minutes were sent as an attachment to the email reminding members of this meeting. Several members said they would prefer the meeting agenda and previous meeting's minutes be provided in hard copy form at subsequent membership meetings.

Report from Union County Public Library (UCPL) Branch Manager Marlene Cannon

October: Spooktober was successful; UCPL saw an estimated 4,500 people at Boo Bash. November: A Taylor Swift event brought 100 people into the library; a Book Sale was held in conjunction with a FOUCL Bake Sale and Owliver greeted people that day. December: a Bluey Christmas event had 102 people attend; the Cooking/Potluck Club cookie exchange was very successful; Morgan won a marketing grant (one of seven in the state) which resulted in UCPL being featured in Georgia Public Library Service's magazine, *Library News* (Marlene provided copies for our membership).

Summer Reading Program (SRP) planning is underway. Morgan has created an advertising flyer for the public, which could be personalized for FOUCL to help promote these events. The theme for 2026 is Unearth a Story and UCPL will be emphasizing dinosaurs, Night at the Museum, and the 250th anniversary of the United States of America in their programming.

There were 938 new library card signups in 2025. UCPL's goal for 2026 is to have 1,000 new cards issued. There were 206 programs and 135,000 items circulated last year.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Debora Quigley reported that the November Bake Sale brought in \$1,200. We had a loss of \$2,483.64 in 2025 because of purchases made from UCPL's wish list, including new furniture for the children's area. 91% of all funds raised by FOUCL went to UCPL – an excellent use of funds for those examining how monies are distributed. The FOUCL budget for 2026 was presented with a projected income of \$13,100 and anticipated total expenses of \$9,254. Robert Harford moved to accept the budget. Mary Ellen Watz seconded the motion. Membership approved. (Itemized budget will be attached to permanent record.)

Committee Reports:

- President Claudia Naylor informed attendees that sign-up sheets were available for those wishing to join several newly forming committees.
- Events: Claudia Naylor reported she will chair the Events Committee.

- Facebook: Vera Coupal, who manages FOUCL's Facebook page, reported that our Facebook currently has 604 followers and views were up 68% over November.
- Fundraising: This committee is being led by Vera Coupal who reported that a letter has been created for use when approaching businesses for donations. The letter explains a three-tier rate for contributions (\$150 Silver, \$250 Gold, and \$500 Platinum) and what benefits will be provided at each level. Currently, this committee includes Robert Harford, Mary Ellen Watz, Debora Quigley, and Vera Coupal. More members were encouraged to join them.
- Membership: Vera Coupal reported for this committee. So far in 2026, we have 43 renewed members, with six new members in 2026. Others currently working on this committee are Mary Ellen Watz and Diane Schultz.
- Newsletter: Editor Connie Rosenberry is already working on our next newsletter, which will be published in February of 2026.
- Webmaster: Robert Harford made his yearly report. December 2025 saw the highest yet number of unique visitors and number of visits to our website. The highest number of pages viewed occurred in August. Robert concluded it was a good year overall for our website. (Graphic will be attached to permanent record.)

Old Business:

- Committees looking for volunteers include a Scholarship Committee, a committee to select picture books to be given in March to library families during storytime, and a committee to select gifts to be given to UCPL staff on Library Worker's Day in April. Members were encouraged to sign up.

New Business:

- 30th Anniversary Celebration: Claudia reported she has secured Judy Baldwin and Jackie Volk to work on this committee and that a special celebration will take place at the July meeting. A full committee will be set up at the April meeting.
- The Summer Reading Program: Assistance, either monetary or in volunteers, has sometimes been requested and we informed Marlene that we are willing to assist again in 2026. Claudia will coordinate with Marlene and Brenna to find out and present what might be needed at our April meeting.
- Judy Baldwin was presented with a framed Thank You for her time acting as our Interim President in 2024 and 2025.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, April 15, beginning at 1:00 PM in the UCPL Community Room and may include a speaker after the meeting is concluded. Our July meeting will include a potluck beginning at 11:30 AM and it is hoped that we can again secure the Choestoe Schoolhouse for this meeting and anniversary event.

Cathy Dalton moved that the meeting be closed. Joan Dorogi seconded the motion. Members approved. The meeting was adjourned at 1:25 PM.

Minutes Prepared by Jackie Volk, Secretary