

Friends of Union County Library (FOUCL) Quarterly Meeting Minutes – April 15, 2026

Present: Judy Baldwin, Linda Beaver, Lauren Burgreen, Marlene Cannon, Vera Coupal, Cathy Dalton, Janet Dittus, Joan Dorogi, Robert Harford, Kathy Lawrence, Mardeene Mitchell, Alice McHugh, Claudia Naylor, Debora Quigley, Connie Rosenberry, Diane Schultz, Jackie Volk, Mary Ellen Watz, Roslyn Wise

This year's \$500 FOUCL scholarship winner, Abby Barrett, was introduced and photos were taken before the meeting commenced. The meeting began at 1:05 PM.

Minutes of Meetings

January 21, 2026, Meeting Minutes were read. Vera Coupal motioned to approve, Judy Baldwin seconded. Membership approved.

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

The library continues its outreach focus:

- Brenna is doing adult storytimes at Stonehenge Assisted Living.
- Library staff were present at the Banff Film Festival sponsored by the Appalachian Trail Association.
- Morgan and Marlene were invited to Georgia Adult Palooza to present information about successful events at UCPL.
- Library staff attended Family Connection Community Resource Day.
- Brenna is visiting Union County Head Start and Daycare.
- The library has been the site for four scam awareness information sessions and received a Commendation from the Sheriff's office for their assistance.

Programs at the library this quarter included:

- Therapy dogs, which is a growing program.
- Galentine's Event, involving blinging books and mocktails.
- BAM Glow event for teens (with 15 attending).

The successful April Bridgerton-themed tea event was briefly mentioned.

Marlene reminded FOUCL members that the library's calendar of events is available on UCPL's Facebook page, at the circulation desk, on the Mountain Regional Library System website, and posted near the library entrance.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Debora Quigley reported from January 1 to April 1, 2026. Total income was \$6,506.86. Total expenses were \$2,540.00. (Itemized budget will be attached to permanent record.) Debora submitted her resignation letter. More details provided under New Business.

Committee Reports:

- FOUCL 30th Anniversary Celebration – Jackie Volk reported: Judy Baldwin is co-chairing with Jackie. Date for potluck and meeting is Wednesday, July 15, 2026, at Choestoe Schoolhouse beginning at 11:30. Sign-up sheet for helping setup and cleanup was circulated. FOUCL will provide fried chicken from Blairsville Restaurant and cupcakes from Ingles. (Claudia volunteered to order and pick up cupcakes). Water, plates, cups, and plasticware will be provided. Retired UCPL Branch Librarian Susie Brendle and retired MRLS Director Donna Howell have both agreed to share memories of the library and the formation of Friends of Union County Library at this event.
- Facebook – Vera Coupal: Followers have increased from 604 to 629 since our last meeting. There were 28,058 views for a 162% improvement.
- Fundraising – Vera Coupal: Serving on this committee with Vera are Mary Ellen Watz, Robert Harford, and Diane Schultz. Memberships were projected to bring in \$5,100 but so far have raised \$4,594.74. Vera has arranged a spot at the May 6 Union County Farmer's Market (8 AM to 1 PM) for FOUCL and plans to get the word out about our organization and solicit memberships while holding a fundraiser by offering "blind date" paper-wrapped books to be sold for a donation of \$5. A sign-up sheet was circulated for volunteers to be at the Farmer's Market with Vera.
- Membership – Diane Schultz – There are currently 93 members. Claudia mentioned the reformatted form being created will have a place to indicate if members are new or renewing.
- Newsletter Editor – Connie Rosenberry: 2nd quarter newsletter will be completed and distributed in May. Connie requested FOUCL calendar dates, photos, and articles be submitted to her early next week.
- Scholarship – Joan Dogori: Six applications were received. The committee (Joan, Cathy Dalton, Mary Ellen Watz) met April 6 to select Abby Barrett as the winner. Committee members will be meeting to discuss ways to improve the scholarship process and whether they recommended more or larger scholarships be awarded. They asked for clarification on deadline dates and contacts at the high school.
- Webmaster – Robert Harford: He will be presenting statistics for the year annually every January. There have been recent additions to the website including an improvement to viewing the calendar and mention of our 30th Anniversary and our search for a new treasurer for 2027.

Old Business:

- Large print books were mentioned as being important to the library collection and it was suggested more purchases be made using funds supplied by Medora Mackinnon's bequest.

New Business:

- New Treasurer needed. Debora Quigley submitted her resignation letter to be effective at the end of December 2026. It will take time to train a new person. Someone familiar with Quickbooks online would be ideal. She is willing to assist the new treasurer through January 2027.
- May 7 Bake Sale: Cathy Dalton volunteered to chair this event which will take place in conjunction with the first day of UCPL's next book sale. The baked goods will be located in the lobby area again. A sign-up sheet for bakers and volunteers to work the sale was circulated. FOUCL members were also asked to sign up to assist shoppers and take money in the Community Room Book Sale. An email will be sent to all members with details and a request for additional volunteers.

- Summer Reading Program (SRP): The first day of registration is June 8, 10 AM to 3 PM. Claudia informed members that UCPL has requested FOUCL members make popcorn using the popcorn machine. Roslyn Wise suggested FOUCL also have a membership/information opportunity in the Community Room narthex on this day, as we did last year. Debora Quigley reminded members to post United Community signs in thanks to their generous donation made to FOUCL to support SRP.
- UCPL requested extra funds for wish list items: Selfie photo booth at \$1,200; craft supplies and prizes at \$200; and a Chomp Saw at \$220.15. These would be used during SRP, but also at other times during the year. Marlene Cannon said her top priority was the Chomp Saw (for safely cutting cardboard). Mardeene Mitchell motioned in favor of purchasing the saw and Alice McHugh seconded it. The motion passed. Further discussion regarding the purchase of the photo booth and craft supplies and prizes resulted in Debora Quigley making a motion to purchase both. Mardeene seconded the motion and a majority voted for FOUCL to donate the money for these purchases. It was suggested that targeted donations might be solicited to cover these costs.
- Vera Coupal informed the members that she has contacted Union County Nursing Home regarding Adult Storytimes and they are excited to have us come. We are scheduled for May 21 from 10:30 AM until 11:30 AM. The North Georgia Mountain Writers Club will be partnering with us by providing short stories and/or reading. FOUCL members were asked to sign up for this event.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, July 15, beginning with a potluck at 11:30 AM at Choestoe Schoolhouse, 1034 Collins Rd., Blairsville.

Robert Harford moved that the meeting be adjourned. Roslyn Wise seconded the motion. Members approved. The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 PM.

Minutes Prepared by Jackie Volk, FOUCL Secretary