

**Friends of the South Coastal Library
Board of Directors Meeting
Monday, December 4, 2023, 7:00PM
President's Report**

General: Hello again Everyone! I will begin by saying that all is well with Chris, and how much I appreciate your caring thoughts. Please continue to send healing thoughts and prayers for our friend Norbert.



FOSL: Friends of Delaware Libraries, of which FOSCL is a dues-paying member, held its annual meeting on Monday, November 13 at the Dover Public Library. Theo Loppatto and I participated for South Coastal. The agenda included three presentations, one from a library in each Delaware County, on the successes of a library Friends group. Duck Creek Regional Library presented on their 18-year journey from idea to achievement of a tax district to groundbreaking (which will happen soon.) Friends of the Lewes Public Library presented on their unique library funding model, of which the Friends are an integral part. Lewes Friends buys all of the books for the library! They have quite a large dedicated space in the library for a shop, office and storage. They sell new children's books, used books at a very specific and labor-intensive pricing scheme, and a wide variety of Friends swag including tee shirts, tote bags, mugs, magnets, ball caps, etc. In planning for and developing the shop the Friends had a local small business owner mentor. The store is open full-time and staffed by volunteers. They also hold specialized used book sales throughout the year, focusing on one type of book or genre. Newark Public Library presented on their programs and projects in New Castle County as well. They, too, bring in local children's book authors (Ilona Hollan, for example.)




Got me to thinking that it could be fruitful to exchange author names with other Delaware libraries, and perhaps even collaborate for combined author visits to share costs. They also mentioned a website overhaul of which they are proud, and said that a program team from the University of Delaware Capstone Program helped with the update. Newark produces a lengthy newsletter for its 320 Friends members (<https://>

friendsofthenewarkfreelibrary.com/page-18093), and uses an editorial committee to produce it. They participate in Delaware Gives, DoMore24Delaware.org, a program something like Giving Tuesday (<https://www.degives.org/fundraisers/friends-of-the-newark-free-library>).

I will have a few FOSL brochures for anyone who wants to join as an individual, and if you would like to attend the meeting with me next year, just let me know.

November 18, 2023
Dr. Lowell W. & Barbara S. Perry
257 Henning Dr.
Quantico, MD 21408



Dear Dr. & Ms. Perry

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Friends of the South Coastal Library (FOSCL), I am pleased to thank you for your generous October 2023 donation of \$2,000.00. You are so joined that you have chosen us for this gift.

The role of our library in supporting educational and community needs is both broader and more important than ever, and FOSCL is proud to support our outstanding community library in this mission. The South Coastal Library (SCL) is continuously growing and changing to meet our community's evolving needs, and FOSCL finds support by raising funds, sponsoring events, providing library collections, and by promoting use of library resources and services. Members contribute time as volunteers, donations, fundraising, activity support, connect friends and so much more.

As a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, EIN 51-0319912, our work also relies on volunteer donations such as yours. With the help of such gifts we can continue to fund programs and services at the library for the benefit of library patrons and our community. We are very grateful for your generosity.

No gift of any directly made contributing to help the library in its service to patrons. No goods or services were received in return for this donation. This letter is your receipt and should be retained for the purposes.

With Warmest Appreciation,

Scott Collins
President

cc: FOSCL Board of Directors
Sue Kralic, Library Director

Donations/Contributions to FOSCL: We received another substantial personal donation of \$2000.00 to FoSCL (see left, which I also emailed to you) and a \$400.00 donation from the Posner-Wallace Foundation. Is anyone familiar with them and/or know why they chose foscl for this gift?

Building & Grounds Committee: While Norbert is directing his energy toward healing and rehabilitation, Steve Embrey will assume the role of Acting Chair for the Building & Grounds Committee. Steve and Tony are transitioning that responsibility now. Thank you, Steve.

Delaware Deaf Fest '23:

Sue and Team SCL knocked it out of the park with a display table full of deaf-theme craft kits and giveaways, library card signups -- even ASL candy pops! SCL sponsored the kids craft making space and it was mobbed! Thanks to Christine who manned the room, making buttons, setting kids up with craft activities, and organizing the kiddo chaos. Kudos all around.



Looking Ahead: In October I included here some questions and thoughts about FOSCL's future for you to ponder as we ease into our January-February break. My hope is that everyone will have thoughts and opinions, and I look forward to hearing them. Please send me note or give me a call. To get the ball rolling I will share one of my own, below, as you consider the challenges we face:

I believe we need a creative, dynamic Revenue Development Committee. I choose that label carefully. The purpose would not be to focus directly on asking for checks. FOSCL is the envy of many "Friends" Boards because of our robust reserves and successful annual Tour, but relying on the Tour for an overwhelmingly large portion of our revenue is risky. There are lots of creative revenue-producing ideas to consider —

many of which came up during last year's budget cycle — and we need a Board group to drive us forward in this area. Who shares interest in this project and will join in to collect the ideas that have surfaced in recent years, generate and explore new ideas, consider feasibility, risk, and cost/benefit of the ideas, prioritize them for community value, added publicity value, and low financial investment/risk, coordinate with the Tour to avoid overlaps, and move foscl in these new directions? Please let me know of your interest.

Even if this is not your wheelhouse or interest area to lead, we are all part of the decision making around these issues and ideas. I ask that you please speak up and share your thoughts; join or chair one of the new groups working on these challenges; and most of all, take every opportunity to serve as an Ambassador of FOSCL. You are so appreciated, and our very best face to put forward to the community.

In a related note, Board member Edie Dondero attended a virtual presentation, "Beyond Book Sales: Fundraising Tips for Library Friends Groups" offered by the Delaware Libraries Association. Here is the link Edie shared to view the recording:

<https://youtu.be/qoFP0Xsivmo>

More Food for Thought About the Role of Libraries in the Community: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2023/11/06/public-library-healthy-communities/>

What to expect at the December meeting: Just a reminder that the focus of the December meeting is the FY 2024 Budget. The Finance Committee received the Library Director's "wish list" of items that would not otherwise be funded from other sources, as well as the budget recommendations of each of our project Chairs. In light of the overall FOSCL financial position and the growing issue of an annual deficit that is not an ideal enduring habit, the Finance Committee will share their recommendations for spending cuts. As Sue does every year, please think about ranking your priorities so you will be ready for this discussion.

No FOSCL Board meeting in January or February, But of course project and program committees meet all year long. Remember we have a FOSCL Zoom account if you need it. Our next meeting is: **Tuesday, March 26, 2024.**

Please let me know of any errors/omissions noticed in this report.

Respectfully Submitted,
Barb Calkins

2024 Meeting Schedule

(January - no Board meeting)

(February - no Board meeting)

Tuesday, March 26, 2024

Tuesday, April 23, 2024

(May - No Board Meeting)

Tuesday, June 25, 2024 (Nominations Meeting)

(July - No Meeting)

Tuesday, August 27, 2024

Tuesday, September 24, 2024 (Annual Meeting open to the public)

Tuesday, October 22, 2024 (New Board Member Orientation Meeting)

(November - No Meeting)

Monday, December 2, 2024 (Annual Budget Meeting) Please note the MONDAY date!