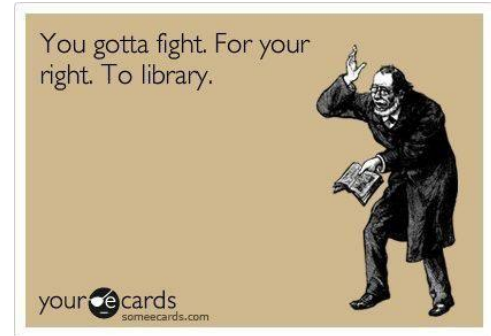


Friends of the South Coastal Library
March 25, 2025
Director's Report



Hello all---

The actions this past week to shut down the only agency that provides federal aid to libraries and museums is mind-boggling. Public libraries get less than **half a percent** of the total federal budget to provide public service—and we share that with museums all across the country too. It's not as though libraries can "cut" their budgets much anymore. We've been working for years on reduced budgets, even as inflation keeps rising. Libraries don't even run "living on a shoestring budget" classes anymore—we don't need them. We live them. So, if you see a staff member, please remember they could be stressed, frustrated, afraid and even a bit angry at the world right now. Maybe give them a smile. Or chocolate (you know how we are here).

- County budgets have been submitted/presented. We don't know yet what will be cut, as the county now has to "fit" all the departments' budgets together and figure out how to fund what is most important across the board. Our county administrator has said to prepare for a rough year.
- The first phase of budgets and performance evals are done, and thank you for giving me space to get them done. We'll be deep in the next round of eval work in a couple of weeks but at least I can look out a window for a few minutes now. Now it's on to wrestling the new timekeeping/payroll software to the ground until it cries uncle.
- The Beachside Book Festival will be held on Saturday, April 26th. I'm glad some of you have been able to purchase Baldacci tickets and will update you if any new info comes out about this.
- Have run flyers and ready to post both in-house and on our site/social media for The Good Earth Dine & Donate event. There are about 100 flyers on the table in the FOSCL office. If you need more run off, just let me know. We'll start publicizing in the library around the start of April.
- Finally, thank you for all your kind words and support of the library during a very stressful time. It means a lot to my staff and me.

*Sue Keefe, 3/21/25
l://DirRep 32525*