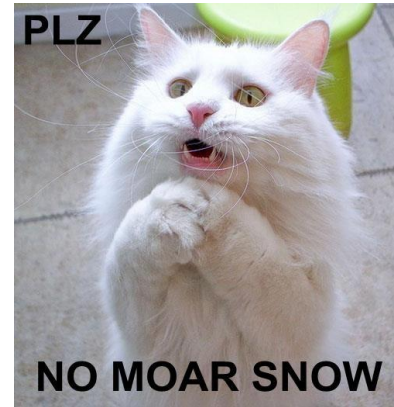


Friends of the South Coastal Library
February 25, 2025
Director's Report



Hello all---

First things first: spring can come along **ANY** day now.

- Newspapers.com continues to show strong usage and a good draw to getting a South Coastal Library card. From July through December 2024, there have been 4,100 searches through the database, from a low of 137 in July to 1,213 in November. It is a great asset to our community.
- The Library Speakers Consortium, funded by 2 large donations, went live on our website at the start of January. They offer 3 live author events a month, plus access to all their archived author talks, nearly 100 currently. Right now, it is advertised on the slider graphic bar at the top of the home page and we are trying to get it a "home" on the site. Until then, here is the direct link to our access point via the parent company: <https://libraryc.org/southcoastal> Shortly after publicizing the service, we checked statistics to see if anyone had noticed it yet. Yes. Yes, they did. A dedicated corp of 10 to 20 people had already watched ALL the archives and people were signing up for the upcoming events too. The service is \$3,500 annually. I am putting it in my county budget request, but that is due in February. With only a month or so of statistics, I am not sure if they'll fund it. I may have to pull the fee out of our FOSCL programming line because it could be something we don't want to lose. At a minimum, a year's worth of statistics is needed for a true evaluation.
- All tech equipment, software and hardware, appears to be working again after the ransomware attack. Please let your friends and neighbors know we are back in business.
- Thank you for partnering with the Chamber of Commerce for the Fire & Ice festival. I hope the desired result of more publicity for FOSCL and some extra funding was helpful.
- Heat—or the lack thereof—is still an issue in the library. Staffing, lobby, PC classroom and FOSCL office are all affected by this HVAC unit. Nobody objected, so I have borrowed the FOSCL space heater when we need it, depending on where staff are trying to work. As of today (2/21), it is still down, having been repaired twice. Cross your mitten-wearing fingers for us.
- Finally, please bear with me for the next two months. It is budget and performance evaluations for the next two months. If my office door is closed, slip chocolate under it.

Sue Keefe, 2/21/25
l://DirRep 22525