

Friends honor Former Presidents



Claudia Ray (Faithful Friend Award recipient); Susan Lyle (Friends president); and Terry Plumb (Joann W. McMaster Volunteer of the Year Award recipient)

Two past presidents of the Friends were recognized for extraordinary service at the Annual Meeting, January 29.

Claudia Ray, who served as president in 2011, received the first **Faithful Friend Award**, which is awarded to members who have provided years of volunteer service with “remarkable dedication.”

Terry Plumb, president from 2019-21, received the annual **Joann W. McMaster Volunteer of the Year Award**, named for the organization’s first president.

Susan Lyle, current president, said the Board of Directors decided to establish the Faithful Friend Award to recognize volunteers whose efforts may not be obvious to the public or even to other members. “They can be counted on to handle faithfully some of the essential tasks that keep our organization going,” Susan said.

Board member Deborah Wiegand, who nominated Claudia, said she has been an active volunteer for 23 years, dating to the days of quarterly sales when she helped haul boxes of books to church halls and other venues. For the last 10 years, Claudia has served as a book pricer, working weekly with other team members to prepare donations of books and other items for sale.

Terry was cited for his efforts to start the *News from the Friends* newsletter, which he continues to edit.

“He is an eloquent advocate of reading and is not shy about speaking up in public and on the radio,” said Jim Beamguard, treasurer. “A stronger supporter of libraries would be hard to find.”

Terry also installed York County's first Little Free Library in front of his residence on Eden Terrace in Rock Hill and regularly stocks Little Free Libraries in Rock Hill parks with surplus or discarded books from the Friends or York County Library.

Jim also credited Terry for pushing the organization to be more active on social media and for setting up a sales shelf at Knowledge Perk coffee shop. Most recently, he helped produce *A Community Place: Four South Carolina Librarians Talk About Libraries of Today*, a half-hour documentary that was shown during the annual meeting.

Past Winners of the McMaster Volunteer of the Year Award

2021	Julie and Jim Beamguard
2020	Lois Stimax
2019	Debora and Jack Hutchins
2018	DeeAnna Brooks
2017	Mac Lyle (posthumous)
2016	David Needham
2015	Faye Wyatt
2014	Martha Ferguson
2013	Nancy Coleman
2012	Connie Newland
2011	Janie Matson
2010	Jane Kasemersky
2009	Deborah Wiegand
2008	Joan King
2007	Michael Simmons
2006	Marianne O'Neill
2005	Jinny & Jinilyn Anderson

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Carlton, Jr., Replaces Popular Sculpture

A new bear mascot was installed in December to replace Carlton, the black bear sculpture that stood in front of the Lake Wylie library since 2018 but had to be replaced because of weather and termite damage.

Like his forebear, Carlton, Jr., was paid for with funds from a bequest of the late Anne Carlton, which also has paid for numerous improvements, including the patio near where Carlton, Jr., stands.

Friends of YCL supervised the fund for several years before transferring remaining funds to YCL.

Both bears were sculpted by Rusty Rayfield of Wild Wood Chainsaw Carvings, who created Carlton out of wood from a big tree that had to be taken down, said Rae Lovvorn, branch manager.

Young Carlton has been a big hit, especially with younger patrons, Rae said. “We’re always seeing people take selfies with him.”



Video Highlights Annual Meeting

Instead of a keynote address, the Friends' 2023 *Annual Meeting and Volunteer Recognition* featured the premiere of a member-produced video about how today's libraries are more than a place to check out books. About 50 people attended the event, which was held in the Moore Room of the Rock Hill library Sunday, Jan. 29.

The 25-minute video, *A Community Place: Four South Carolina Librarians Talk About Libraries of Today*, focuses on how modern libraries offer a wide array of non-traditional services. Public libraries in Aiken, Greenville, Charleston and Spartanburg counties are featured.

"Today's libraries drive the economy, provide broadband access for everyone and serve as a place where people of every age may explore their creativity in safe, comfortable surroundings," Friends President Susan Lyle said. The purpose of the video is to help the public better understand the role of modern libraries in building community.

A Community Place, directed by Rock Hill photographer/videographer Terry Roueche, was partially funded by a \$250-grant from the Friends of YCL. The video has been accepted for showing at the *More Than Decent Film Festival*, to be held in Newberry, SC, April 21-24. Prior to general release, it will be shown at the annual meeting of the Friends of South Carolina Libraries (FOSCL) in Aiken on April 29.

Terry Plumb, past president of Friends of YCL and current member of both the YCL and FOSCL boards, served as producer. The late Rev. Randy McSpadden of Rock Hill and Carolyn Roueche assisted with audio recording. The video is dedicated to Randy McSpadden and Margie Herron, FOSCL cofounder. FOSCL also contributed \$250 to the project.

Following the video presentation, new YCL board members were elected and 2023 officers announced (*see article on the right*), and 2022 volunteers were recognized.

Refreshments followed the business meeting

Interim Director Thanks Friends



Julie Ward, Interim Director of the YCL

Thanks to the Friends, the York County Library was able to offer new and expanded programming in 2022, Julie Ward told members during the Friends Annual Meeting.

Julie was named acting interim director, following the December resignation of Jason Hyatt, who took a similar position with the Buncombe County Library in Asheville, NC.

"Thank you for providing another wonderful year of programming for the York County community," she said. "The YCL staff and I truly appreciate the hard work you put into turning book donations into sales."

The Friends contributed \$10,000 toward the first Genealogy & Family History Expo, held at the Courtyard Marriott in Fort Mill on October 15, 2022. "Nearly 200 genealogists, researchers and family history buffs attended a full day of education, friendship, support and fun," Julie said.

Other Friends-funded programs last year included, the *Winter Reading Program*, the *Patchwork Storytelling Festival*, the *Summer Reading Program*, *Back to School backpacks* and *Departmental/Branch Funding*.

While not widely known by the public, the Friends provided \$4,000 for the latter program (*Departmental/Branch Funding*) to allow YCL to pay for unanticipated expenses.

"These particular funds are so helpful for staff to use to purchase things like gift cards for teen programming, a new coffee machine for staff, or refreshments for a retirement party," Julie said. "We are grateful to have this resource to draw on."



Dominique Bunce and her son, Elliott, of Rock Hill admire paintings on display at Friends Books on Main during Art Party last November, a four-day celebration of the arts organized by the Friday Arts Project. Friends President Susan Lyle said the Friends are supportive of art crawls, festivals and other events that promote shopping and awareness of downtown establishments. (Photo by Jim Beamguard)

Susan Lyle Reappointed As Friends President

Susan Lyle, president of the Friends of York County Library, continues to lead the Friends in 2023.

Susan is one of three members of the Executive Committee who agreed to serve another year. Joining her are Diane Ingersoll, vice president/president elect and Judy Gritzmacher, secretary.

Chad Lynch took over as treasurer in January, replacing Jim Beamguard, who continues to serve on the Board of Directors.

Connie Newland, financial secretary, was elected to fill a slot left open by the departure of Cindy Schafer, whose term ended December 31. Connie, a longtime member, previously served on the board.

Judy Gritzmacher and Susan Lyle were elected to serve their second terms on the board. Under the Friends bylaws, board members may serve two three-year terms before having to be off the board for a minimum of one year.

While board members are elected during the Annual Meeting, officers are appointed by a majority of the board.

Other board members include DeeAnna Brooks, Jack Hutchins, Terry Plumb, Joy Price, Debbie Turner and Deborah Wiegand.

2022 was a good year, Says Friends Treasurer

Attendees at the Friends of York County Annual Meeting heard that, financially, 2022 was a much better year than expected.

“Our 2022 budget anticipated we would end the year \$500 in the red. Instead, we added more than \$19,000 to our reserves,” Treasurer Jim Beamguard said during his annual financial recap.

Friends Books on Main, the organization’s retail store at 206 East Main Street, Rock Hill, realized \$64,700 in sales, a 33% increase over 2021. In addition to “gently used” books donated to York County Library, Books on Main also sells puzzles, games, CDs and other items.

Also exceeding projections were online sales (eBay and Amazon), sales at the five libraries and at local coffeehouses, Jim said.

Although the Friends lost sales when Virgin Bean, a coffeehouse in Clover, closed its doors last year, the addition of a sales shelf at Knowledge Perk in Rock Hill more than made up for the loss.

“Operating expenses were 8% over budget, which only made sense because we were selling more books,” he said. That resulted in PayPal fees exceeding budget, along with the cost of additional boxes, tapes and mailing expenses.

The best news, of course, is that enhanced revenue allows the Friends to better serve the York County Library.

“From our total revenue of \$114,500, we gave the York County Library \$57,900 and ended the year with more than \$138,000 in reserve,” Jim said. “In 2023, the Friends plan to give the library \$78,000.”

2022 Milestones

- 45 volunteers provided 5,283 hours of service to the Friends of York County Library.
- The Friends donated \$57,900 to YCL for the Summer Learning Program, the Genealogy and Local History Conference, Bucks for Books, Back to School events and the Winter Reading Program.
- Retail sales have rebounded since the pandemic. Revenues for the year totaled \$114,597, exceeding budget by nearly \$23,000.
- Online sales at eBay and Amazon raised \$19,529, more than \$5,000 over budget for the year.
- Lobby and coffeehouse sales continue to grow. 2022 revenue exceeded \$18,000, more than \$6,500 over budget for the year.
- Friends Books on Main participated with other downtown businesses in the Rock Hill Pride Festival, Art Party and ChristmasVille.
- Friends Books on Main tested the benefits of opening on Sunday over 16 weeks during the summer and fall seasons, with mixed results. Opening for limited evening hours and Sunday will continue to be explored in 2023.



Julie Beamguard, one of the leads for Friends Books on Main, took this nighttime photo of the store’s Christmas window display.

2022 Financial Report

Revenue from sales	
Friends Books on Main	\$64,744
Branch Lobbies	\$16,243
eBay	\$13,991
Amazon	\$5,538
Coffeehouses	\$1,768
Consignment	\$1,453
TOTAL revenue from sales	\$103,737
Other Income	
Memberships	\$6,445
Gifts and grants	\$4,315
Interest, rebates, other	\$97
TOTAL other income	\$10,857
TOTAL REVENUE	\$114,594
Expenses	
Store operations	\$28,541
Supplies	\$3,665
PayPal fees	\$1,379
Newsletter, website, postage, shipping	\$1,316
Cost of meetings	\$974
Insurance	\$899
Grants paid	\$250
Member recognition	\$159
Tax filing, dues	\$175
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$37,358
Contributions to YCL	\$57,900
INCOME MINUS EXPENSES AND CONTRIBUTIONS	\$19,336

2022 Volunteer Hours

GENIUSES (401+)

Jack Hutchins
Susan Lyle
Connie Newland

SCHOLARS (301-400)

Martha Ferguson
Julie Beamguard
Jim Beamguard
Deborah Hutchins
Debbie Turner
Diane Ingersoll

INTELLECTUALS (201-300)

Terry Plumb
DeeAnna Brooks

BIBLIOPHILES (101-200)

Faye Wyatt
Judy Gritzmacher
Deborah Wiegand
Doug Ingersoll

BOOKWORMS (51-100)

Jane Kasemersky
Tom Rouillard
LaRayne Hall
Cindy Marcelais
Jerry Padgett
Bobbie Otto
Joy Price
Claudia Ray



BOOKLOVERS (31-50)

Phyllis Wright
Cindy Schafer
Paula Sparks
Larry Marracini

READERS (<30)

Chad Lynch
Linda Boyd
Jinilyn Anderson
Karen Manera
Laura Ann Gaulin
Samantha Bradner
Mark Newland
Susan Brown
Meredith Fairey
Carter Taylor
Mary Pelletier
Deb Lewis
Susan Mitchell
Avalon Bennett
Jerry Brown
Eric Neff
Diane Maloney
Jill Reese

YCL INFORMATION**All Branches are closed on Sunday****YORK COUNTY MAIN LIBRARY**

138 East Black St., Rock Hill (803-981-5858)

Monday–Thursday: 9 AM–7 PM; Friday–Saturday: 9 AM–6 PM

Drop donated books in Donation Box to the left of the front door.**CLOVER PUBLIC LIBRARY**

107 Knox Street (803-222-3474)

Monday–Thursday: 9 AM–7 PM;

Friday: 9 AM–6 PM; Saturday: 9 AM–2 PM

Drop donated books at Circulation Desk**FORT MILL PUBLIC LIBRARY**

1818 Second Baxter Crossing (803-547-4114)

Monday–Thursday: 9 AM–7 PM; Friday–Saturday: 9 AM–6 PM

Drop donated books at Circulation Desk**LAKE WYLIE PUBLIC LIBRARY**

185 Blucher Circle (803-831-7774)

Monday–Thursday: 9 AM–7 PM; Friday–Saturday: 9 AM–6 PM

Drop donated books at Circulation Desk**YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY**

21 East Liberty Street (803-684-3751)

Monday–Thursday: 9 AM–7 PM;

Friday: 9 AM–6 PM; Saturday: 9 AM–2 PM

Drop donated books at Circulation Desk**York County Libraries In-Person and Curbside Pick-Up at all of the Branches**

Monday–Friday: 10 AM–6 PM

Saturday: 10 AM–2 PM

Charging Station Tables Installed

YCL recently installed outdoor charging-station tables at all five branches. They are topped with an umbrella canopy, topped with solar panels to power the charging stations.

Each table provides:

- Two 110 vac 60 Hz GFCI outlets and four USB Type A power outlets
- Four Qi-enabled wireless charging locations
- Two USB Type-C power outlets
- Dual-port, high-speed USB-C charger ports
- High-intensity LED lighting system with timer and push-button operation
- Ambient lighting activated, at dusk



To join the Friends, fill out a membership form. (See below. Also available on-line at yclibraryfriends.org) and return it to any York County Library location (see branch locations on left) or mail it to: Friends of the York County Library, P.O. Box 10032 Rock Hill, SC 29731

News From the Friends Winter 2023

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FRIENDS 2022 BOARD OFFICERS

President: Susan Lyle

Vice President: Diane Ingersoll

Treasurer: Chad Lynch

Secretary: Judy Gritzmacher

Financial Secretary: Connie Newland

Jim Beamguard

Jack Hutchins

Debbie Turner

Deanna Brooks

Terry Plumb

Deborah Wiegand

Joy Price



Board member DeeAnna Brooks creates items from damaged, discarded books, which she donates for sale at Friends Books on Main. These hand-crafted bookmarks were best sellers.

FRIENDS OF THE YORK COUNTY LIBRARY ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(Please print clearly. Your information will not be shared.)

Membership: ☐ New ☐ Renewal

Date: _____



NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

CHOOSE A MEMBERSHIP LEVEL:

- ☐ Friend (Individual): \$15 ☐ Family Friend: \$25 ☐ Good Friend: \$50
☐ Supportive Friend: \$100 ☐ Best Friend: \$500 ☐ Student Friend: \$10

List the names to include in this membership. (Adults must live at the same address and are limited to 2 per \$25 membership and 4 per \$50 and up)

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____

CHOOSE ONE OF THE 2 PAYMENT OPTIONS:

① ☐ Enclosed is my check made payable to: **Friends of the York County Library**

② Charge my credit card: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover

Name as it appears on card (please print): _____

Signature: _____

Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____ CVC _____

The Friends of the YCL is a 501 (C)(3) organization. Your membership is tax-deductible as allowed by law.

I AM INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING MY TIME AND TALENT. MY AREAS OF INTEREST ARE:

- ☐ Friends Books on Main book store ☐ Library branch book sales
☐ Sorting donated books and materials ☐ Other. Please contact me so we can talk.

Return completed application and payment to any York County Library Branch (addresses above on left)

Or Mail To: Friends of the York County Library, PO Box 10032, Rock Hill, SC 29731

For more information or to contact us, please visit www.yclibrary.org or call 803-272-8303.