

**Loudon County Library Board Meeting**  
**Thursday, June 27th, 2024**  
**Greenback Public Library**

**Call to Order:** 5:07pm by Chair Ruth McQueen

**Present:**

**Trustees:** Ruth McQueen, Diane Strever, Eileen Connolly, Brandy Styer, Brenda Lutz and Beth Waldmann

Excused: JoAnn Hart, Cindy Benefield and Pauline Barbour

**Directors:** Mark Williams, Susan Dorsey, Martha Guldán, Kate Brewster and Gina Geremia

**Ocoee River Regional Library Representative:** Liz Schreck

**Introductions:** McQueen asked all in attendance to introduce themselves and share something good that happened to them in 2024.

**Approval of Agenda:** Styer moved to approve the agenda. Strever seconded.

**Public Comment:** None

**Approval of May 2, 2024 Meeting Minutes:** McQueen corrected that six candidates instead of four for the Tellico Village Public Library director position. Schreck noted that the reminder was for Title VI training, not Title XI. Connolly moved to approve the May minutes with the previous corrections. Strever seconded. The following vote to approve the minutes was unanimous.

**Ocoee River Regional Library Report:** Schreck reported that the training sessions have ended for the fiscal year. In addition, the public library service agreement has been received. The standards survey deadline is on July 15<sup>th</sup>. Schreck reported that board member Lutz completed the trustee certification process. The Loudon County Library Board is now 100% trained. Schreck also shared the “Support Rankings for Tennessee Libraries by County.” Loudon was ranked 74 out of 95 with low capital support.

**County Liaison:** No report.

**Director Reports:** See attached.

**Standing Committee Reports:**

**Budget:** No report.

**Bylaws:** No report.

**Library Directors’ Reports:** Reports attached with no additions.

**Comments from the Chair:** McQueen said the library board is an amazing group that is valuable and appreciated. The group when asked always smiles and says “yes” whether its serving on committees or helping board members. There is camaraderie.

**Community Outreach:** Committee chair Waldmann shared that Lenoir City city councilwoman Jennifer Wampler spoke up in support of the Loudon County Library Board storybook trail. A negative comment about the trail was made in the “Lenoir City Speaks Out” Facebook group. Wampler along with many other citizens sprang to the storybook trail’s defense. Waldmann will send Wampler a thank you note on behalf of the board.

Thanks to all the volunteers who helped make the Lenoir City Arts and Crafts Festival booth possible. Each volunteer shared what they observed during their shifts. Those observations follow. Also, a special thanks to the library directors who donated bookmarks and pencils for us to pass out.

“Most of the Loudon County folks were from Lenoir City. Had several who made photos of the Summer Reading Programs and library opportunities. Gave out dozens of lollipops & pencils & some stickers. Should have kept count of total number of people that I talked with, but will try to remember to do that next time. All had positive opinions & good attitudes about the library system.”

“I encountered several people brand new to the area, encouraged them to check out their library and told them about Storybook Trail and Summer reading programs. One young man was from another (very rural) county. We talked about interlibrary book ordering if his library didn’t have what he’s looking for. One LC man wondered why the library isn’t open on Saturdays because he works. Had a nice conversation with a quartet of young ladies (middle schooler, high schoolers, college grad) encouraged them to visit library and read over the summer. Eldest is an RN and was interested in LC craft group. Got a great book recommendation from a very avid reader. Promoted Libby app. It started to rain and people traffic shrunk. It was fun people watching, too.”

“People seemed genuinely happy to see our presence at the festival. They thanked me for volunteering! No one showed interest in our summer reading programs. Multiple adults were happy to get a new pencil and book marks. Two children visited the booth for suckers and stickers. Overall, I felt like my time was well spent and having a presence at the festival was worthwhile.”

“Talked with lots of families about the summer story programs at our libraries. Talked up the storybook trail to families as well as grandparents looking for activities for their visiting grandchildren. Educated several visitors to our booth about the Libby app. I also fielded a question from a pair of working parents about why the Lenoir City library isn’t open on weekends. Perhaps no surprise, there was interest in the Lenoir City Library’s crafting booth at the arts and crafts festival!”

**Imagination Library:** McQueen spoke with Loudon County Education Foundation (LCEF) Executive Director Michelle Lewis about the efforts to raise money to continue funding the Imagination Library in Loudon County. The program costs \$25,000 each year. LCEF appointed a committee and is making great progress. United Way Loudon County has increased funding. LCEF is trying a new initiative called a “reading tree,” which is similar to an “angel tree.” People can pick a card off the “reading tree” to sponsor a Loudon County child for Imagination Library. McQueen is checking to see if those trees could be placed in Loudon County libraries.

**Other Business:**

**Director Evaluations--**McQueen reports the library director evaluation process will begin after the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday.

**Nametags—**McQueen wants to make sure all board members have nametags. Styer and Lutz still need the nametags. Efforts will be made to make sure they get the nametags.

**Future Projects/Ideas—**McQueen suggested the board have a booth at Loudon RiverFest similar to the booth at the Lenoir City Arts and Crafts Festival. The event is Saturday, August 17<sup>th</sup> from 4:00pm-10:00pm at Legion Park. Styer made a motion to have the RiverFest booth. Waldmann seconded. McQueen will make arrangements to reserve RiverFest booth space.

Williams pointed out that the library image evaluations must be done every three years. This year is the year for the image evaluations for Loudon County libraries. The deadline is June 30, 2025.

Schreck added one final reminder that the collection development and internet policy have to be evaluated each year.

McQueen thanked all and said “you are appreciated!” She shared that Benefield deserves an extra pat on the back for her stellar job on the Personnel Committee while undergoing cancer treatments.

**Board Meeting Date:** The next board meeting will take place on Thursday, September 5th at Philadelphia Public Library.

**Adjournment:** 6:21pm

Respectfully Submitted,  
Beth Waldmann, Secretary

**Attachments:**

Library Director Reports

**Loudon County Library Board**  
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**Library Director Reports**

**Lenoir City Public Library**  
**Submitted by Susan Dorsey**

We hosted a Diaper Drive/Mother Resources Fair which was set up by a variety of community resource agencies. In slightly over two hours, we had 380 people attend. This is a new record for us as far as I know! Our fb views for the event reached over 15,000 people!

- Our MLS volunteer updated our website and OPAC to emphasize our new Spanish Language Collection. Our OPAC now has Spanish Language as an option for browsing!
- The local newspaper was notified of Jeremiah King's MLS student project, 1000 libros, and asked for his contact info. Hopefully an interview is coming and the library will have some good outreach!
- Summer Story time is just kicking off for us in July! We hope for a great turnout this year!
- Adult and kid reading programs are well underway with kids earning free Panda Express kid's meals and adult entering a drawing for prizes.
- Standards survey and Title VI certifications have been completed.
- Crafters group has picked up new members during summer months! It is a lot of fun!
- Canning lid testing by UT extension – big hopes but low turnout!
- We are saving gently used children's books for DAR drive to provide books for children undergoing traumatic situations. The books will be in kits carried by first responders. The DAR also donated a book for our reference collection. The book documents with citations every TN pioneer patriot.
- I proctored two college tests for a virtual student this month.
- We have updated our Emergency Evacuation Plan
- Our best volunteer has organized our volunteer folder with easier access to signature sheets, time sheets, and task lists. This streamlines the process for staff to sign someone up for hours needed for scholarships.
- We had a patron make one staff member cry last month. The patrons are moving out of state, and we were all so sad when we got the news. The patrons said that our library was the one the best parts of their lives in Loudon County. It was a bittersweet reminder of how important the library system is for many, many folks.

**Philadelphia Public Library**  
**Submitted by Mark Williams**

Attended CE Social Media seminar at Ocoee Regional on Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>. Finally finished spending the last of the 2023-2024 Pettway Grant. Summer reading program ran from June 4 to June 13 by partnering with Philadelphia Elementary School (PES) K and 1<sup>st</sup> grades. Student attendance was half of the historic amounts. Teachers and director were perplexed. Completed Title VI requirements on June 12<sup>th</sup>. Completed Standards Survey on June 14<sup>th</sup>. Tellico Village

book club members, led by Ms. Gail Lyman, visited the library on June 21<sup>st</sup>. Interviewed by new PES librarian, Rachel Reidy, as part of a class assignment on June 25<sup>th</sup>.

## **Tellico Village Public Library**

### **Submitted by Gina Geremia**

I'm almost finishing my 4th week and I'm still here! Learning a lot and forgetting almost as much.

- I spoke at the State of the Village meeting along with the co-president of the Friends. She spoke about the past and I spoke about the future of the library.
- I submitted a 500-word blurb on what the library has to offer for a newsletter that highlights businesses or organizations in the village.
- I worked with the Friends on what was needed for the Tech Grant that was due on June 17.
- Carol purposely left the library programs/presentation schedule light to give me time to get settled. We had 2 presentations in June and 3 scheduled in July so far. That's not counting Friend's events including a reception in celebration of the designation of 10 official state books by TN legislature where I will be speaking along with TN State Rep. Lowell Russell on the importance of these books. I have acquired all 10 books and they are on display and available for circulation after the presentation July 17th.
- I was interviewed by the Connections, the TV newspaper, and am getting very positive feedback on the article even though I was a bit mortified.
- Met with Nikki from Ocoee for training on the Statistics spreadsheet. I'll be meeting with her again. And probably again. And again.
- I made my first book purchase of 23 new books.

## **Loudon Public Library**

### **Submitted by Kate Clabough**

Pettway Grant update: we have received the shelves we ordered with our grant money. Barb and a Tennessee Promise volunteer have been busy putting them together. Our next round of microfilmed documents are done and digitized. The company I have been working with went bankrupt but they managed to get things back to me in a reasonable amount of time. I did have to contact them and ask them to return the microfilm. They sent it last week.

Summer reading story hour has been a great success. Miss Brenda has been engaging the kids with her ukulele and story reading. A fun time is had by all.

We rearranged arrange the books and toys in the children's section to better serve the needs of our little patrons.

We purchased a set of books recommended by the Girl Scouts for their own summer reading program with a generous grant from the Loudon Women's Club.

Otherwise, it has been business as usual here. Lots of printing, genealogy requests, computer help, impromptu Libby classes, and checking out books.

Oh, and we published a book. I have several talks and book signings coming up including one I need to get on the calendar at the Lenoir City Library. Woohoo!

## **Greenback Public Library**

### **Submitted by Martha Guldan**

- Mark and I attended the Social Media training provided by Regional. It was interesting to hear current social media trends. Facebook proves to still be the best way to promote libraries.
- We hosted two successful summer reading events, with two more to come. We have given out countless reading logs and prizes. We are looking forward to the ZooMobile visit on July 18th.
- We also hosted a canning lid testing afternoon with the UT Agriculture Extension Office. Our results were like Susan's at LCPL. We had big hopes but low participation.
- CE Webinar: "A Trauma Informed Approach to Dealing with Difficult People."
- We circulated 451 items in May! Summer is always a busy and exciting time at our library, and this summer is no exception.