

# ANNUAL REPORT 2022



JANUARY 1, 2022 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2022

**The Friends experienced a few personnel changes this past year.** Bonnie Cap, continued as the FOL President; Mary Hiatt was appointed Vice President; Jessica Aldridge is officially the Secretary; and Rich and Carolyn Bartz switched positions and now serve as Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer respectively. Meanwhile, the Pamlico County Head Librarian, Caitlin Kuhn, who joined us in 2021, unexpectedly left the library this summer, and we wish her well. Caitlin ushered us through several automation ordeals, grant writing efforts and postured us for the all-important Capital Campaign. Library leadership was given temporarily to Shannon Callen and will eventually transition to Sidney Phibbons. Both ladies worked in the Pamlico Library for the last four years and are very familiar with the community and library operations.

**We want to thank Peggy Vick for her contributions as VP, Grant Writing Coordinator, and Membership Chair.** Peggy has agreed to continue with Grant Writing and will guide the Capital Campaign effort. We operated almost two years without a full-time secretary so Bonnie Cap is happy to turn over some of the admin responsibilities to Jessica who volunteered in July. Barry Monk retired after he completed his one-year stint as a Director, and at the Annual FOL meeting in November, we elected Jim Kellenberger as a new Director. Jim joins Sheila Cantine, Dr. Sue Lee, and Dr. Joshua Rose.

**The Internet Book Sale (IBS) team continued its weekly book scanning and processing, and Evie Henderson joined Carolyn Stark and Debbie Favinger.** Kathy Baradyne was the IBS team leader for a year and half, but moved on to other matters, and will continue her work with FOL membership. She leaves the IBS group well trained, organized and

motivated. This particular program began in 2012 and represents over 30% of our annual operating revenue.

**In the spring, FOL members participated in a “fun day” at the library with a Virtual Reality (VR) demonstration that offered interesting possibilities.** Meanwhile, we recognized academic excellence and the financial need of HS senior Nylee Atkins, and awarded the \$1,000 Marybelle R. Hollowell scholarship to her at the Pamlico High School Awards ceremony in May. In March, the FOL had a coming-out event and introduced our own brand of chowder in the Chowder Cookoff in Oriental. The recipe came from the “friends” while our large volunteer base supported all facets of the effort to include advertising the new library. In April, the Oriental Rotary assisted us with an outdoor book sale, and the event provided another venue for showcasing the new library. In late November we conducted a two-day book sale at the proposed new library. The donation-based sale garnered over \$3,200 -- a FOL best! Here, FOL volunteers eagerly participated in site preparation, sales, and follow-on clean-up. We were supported on clean-up day by several members of the Youth Navigating Toward Opportunities (YNTO) and consider all our helpers to be the finest around. Our corporate sponsor family grew again as the Oriental Health & Fitness Center sponsored the FOL in June as they celebrated their 20-year anniversary. Jim Kellenberger provided the culinary support aided by FOL volunteers, and we had another opportunity to tell the story of the new library. The ABC store in Bayboro also joined our corporate sponsor ranks, and we are grateful for their support. Another outdoor fund raiser was planned in October, but unfortunately, Hurricane Ian caused us to cancel our planned two-day participation during the Ol’ Front Porch Music Festival.

**The Friends continued pursuit of the new library with an information briefing to the Pamlico County Commissioners in March.** We described the project and our accomplishments to date, and the county echoed their support for our overall effort. This information exchange was also given to the Alliance City council, the Oriental Mayor and town council, and the general public at the Old Theater in Oriental. The FOL continued to use NC State Grant funding for necessary maintenance, architectural and engineering services. We spent the last of the initial NC State grant funds given to us in 2019 with the purchase and installation of a new HVAC at the new library building in July. We are exceedingly grateful to NC Senator Norman Sanderson, who once again this budget year, championed our cause which resulted in two separate directed grants worth \$1,833,000. Sen Sanderson believes in the worthiness of the new library project and has supported the Friends mightily over the past five years.



**The Friends filed IRS Form 990-N (Long Form) due to our gross receipt and total asset profile.** Our multiyear savings programs, dedicated membership support, and generous donations allowed us to increase our position in Vanguard’s Federal Money Market funds. The funds support general operations of the library and working capital for construction of the new library. At the end of the calendar year, the Friends have over \$150,000 in the operating and building fund accounts. The Friends reinstated our solicitation license with North Carolina and

positioned ourselves for robust grant writing and the capital campaign. The Friends' overall Budget and Balance Sheet is available on the web site as an adjunct to the Annual Report.

**The Friends initially planned a five-year project to complete the new library**, but the pandemic continued to extend the timelines and made everyone realize the inordinate but inevitable cost escalations associated with supply chain delays and shortages in material, equipment, and labor.

With the infusion of NC State grant funds plus the Friends' capital reserve, we contracted with The Walker Group Architecture in New Bern in November. Much of the preparatory work products that Walter Vick compiled were provided to the firm to facilitate the design and construction phases. The Walker Group began work immediately and anticipates ground-breaking sometime in the summer of 2023 with a finished building in late summer 2024. The FOL formed a Project Oversight Committee in October to oversee the architecture/engineering and construction effort of the new library. The committee has representatives from the FOL, Regional Library Board, and the Librarian. This stake-holder committee will provide monthly progress information to all concerned. In the meantime, the Friends continue in 2023 to pursue the "Next Chapter" by focusing on the pursuit of additional local, state, and federal governmental financial support, as well as conducting a vigorous capital campaign. The By-laws were amended and approved at the annual meeting and submitted to the NC Secretary of State in November. The amended By-laws reflect financial reporting on a Calendar Year basis vice a FY basis, articulation of BOD duties, and flexibility in the timing of the annual November meeting.

**The Friends have made significant strides in the past year toward realizing the New Library goal and want to sincerely thank our membership and many supporters.** We still have a lot to do, but the community's urgent needs motivate our efforts, and we feel the generosity and commitment of Pamlico County residents and businesses are unique and will definitely play a significant role in achieving the dream. We could not be where we are without the willing and continuous financial and physical support of our membership and the community at large.

