

Friends of South Carolina Libraries (FOSCL)

Our beginning...

In 1988 local Friends groups, trustees, and librarians in South Carolina saw the need for a statewide organization that would help foster, create, and support local Friends of the Library groups and that would provide networking opportunities for those local groups to work together to support library services throughout South Carolina.

A small group, led by Penny Davis of Charleston, with support from South Carolina State Library Director Betty Callahan, began to explore possible goals and objectives for such an organization and to develop a draft of bylaws and a constitution. In February of 1989, a small steering committee met and decided to convene a statewide meeting in April 1989 at the Northeast Branch of the Richland County Public Library. At that meeting, a motion to form the Friends of South Carolina Libraries (FOSCL, pronounced “fossil”) was approved.

In a flurry of activity, FOSCL’s interim group of officers, Penny Davis, Catherine McFadden, Nancy Redding, and Carolyn Gilstrap organized the first annual meeting of FOSCL held at the Hilton Head Branch Library on November 15, 1989. At that meeting, permanent officers were elected; Susie Hudson, Mike Burkhart, Phil Groben, and Carolyn Gilstrap. Filing for incorporation had been completed, FOSCL had a mailing address, and IRS tax-exempt status was in the works. With initial financial support from the Friends of the Greenville County Library and a grant from the South Carolina State Library, the group was up and running.

Our mission...

- To help foster, create and support local Friends of the Library groups, and to provide a means for these groups to work together for the betterment of library service in South Carolina
- To serve as a resource for local Friends groups
- To promote wider knowledge of and use of libraries as cultural and information centers
- To advocate for financial support for all libraries in South Carolina
- To support improved library education in South Carolina
- To support the Library Bill of Rights



Friends of the Oconee County Library came to the Annual Meeting ready to “Celebrate Reading”!

Our leadership...

FOSCL is governed by a volunteer board of directors composed primarily of Friends members from around South Carolina and retired librarians. Two of the most exciting recent additions to our leadership group have been an author and the director of the Pat Conroy Literary Center making the circle of those who love books, those who work with books, and those who write books complete!



The FOSCL board is a fun-loving group! From left to right: Sarah McMaster, Jonathan Haupt, Libby Law, Maurice Cherry, Marlena White, Kim Boykin, and Elaine Kjellquist. Not pictured: Helen Ann Rawlinson, Paul Dove, Maryellen Ham, and Valinda Miller.

Our members...

FOSCL members include individuals as well as library Friends groups. Contribution levels are \$10, \$25, or \$100 for individuals and \$20 for Friends groups. 2018 totals so far are 31 Friends groups and 60 individuals.

Our projects...

FOSCL's signature activity is our Annual Meeting which brings together Friends, librarians, authors, and speakers to share news and information. For many years the meeting was hosted by either the Richland County Public Library or the Lexington County Library, both of which are centrally located in South Carolina. The 2018 annual meeting was held at a new branch of the Greenville County Library. (See pictures for highlights from the 2018 Annual Meeting.) Occasional additional regional FOSCL meetings have been hosted by other libraries giving members an opportunity to visit libraries around the state.

A second major activity through the years has been the FOSCL Awards program. This project is intended to recognize individuals who have made outstanding contributions in various areas of support for South Carolina public libraries. Individuals or groups may be nominated for recognition in four categories:

- Outstanding Individual Award
- John Landrum Advocacy Award
- Public Library Employee Excellence Award
- Outstanding Elected Official Award

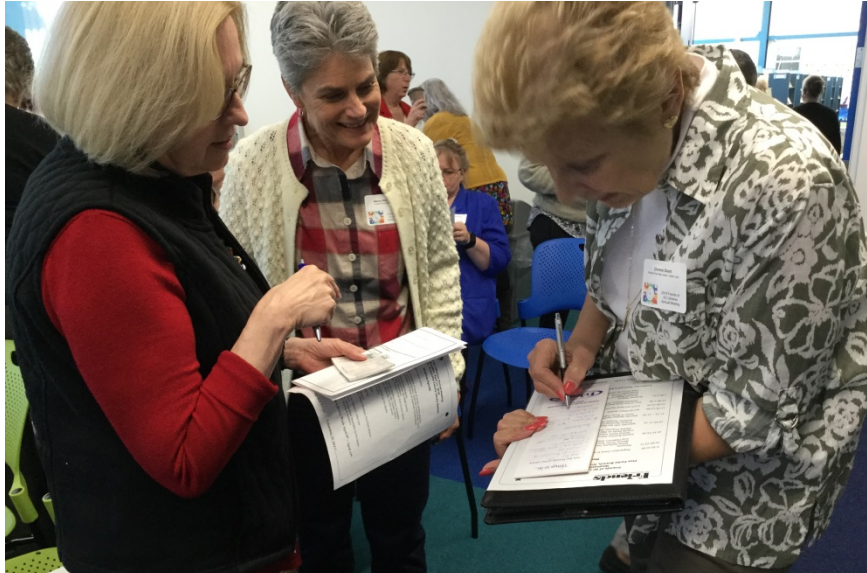
Awards are presented at the Annual Meeting each year.



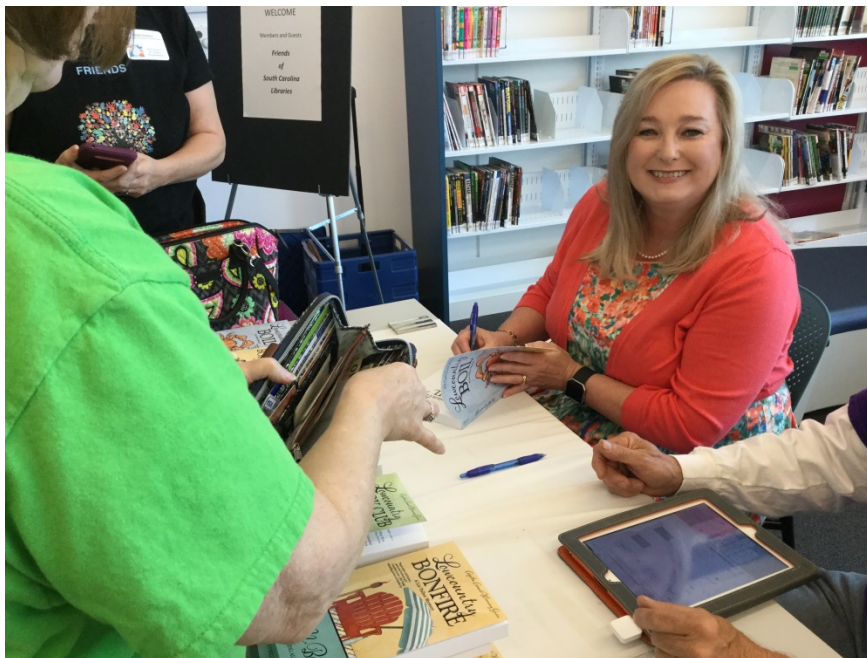
FOSCL President Elaine Kjellquist (right) presents the 2018 Outstanding Individual Award to Sharon Purvis with the Friends of the Harvin Clarendon County Library. Proud Library Director Charlotte Johnston (left) looks on.

FOSCL also offers grants in amounts up to \$250.00 for support of library Friends organizations in South Carolina. Grants may be used for expenses related to incorporation of a group, obtaining tax-exempt status, revitalization of a “dormant” group, organizing an annual meeting, or initiating local programs.

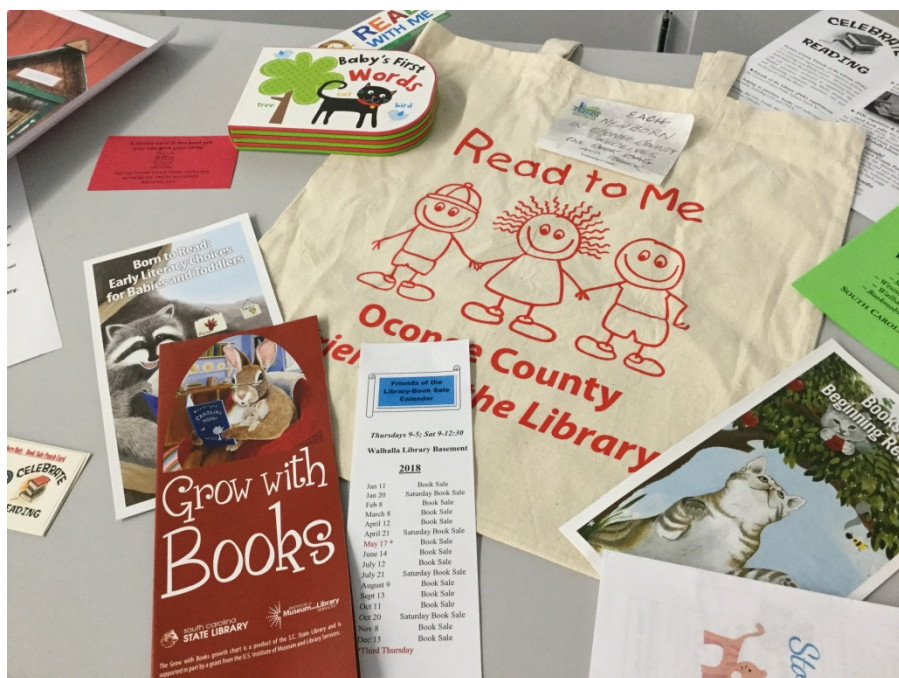
A new project of FOSCL is to support the ALA Literary Landmarks program in South Carolina. The Dr. Benjamin E. Mays Historical Preservation Site in Greenwood will receive designation in 2018. FOSCL will contribute to the cost of the bronze plaque.



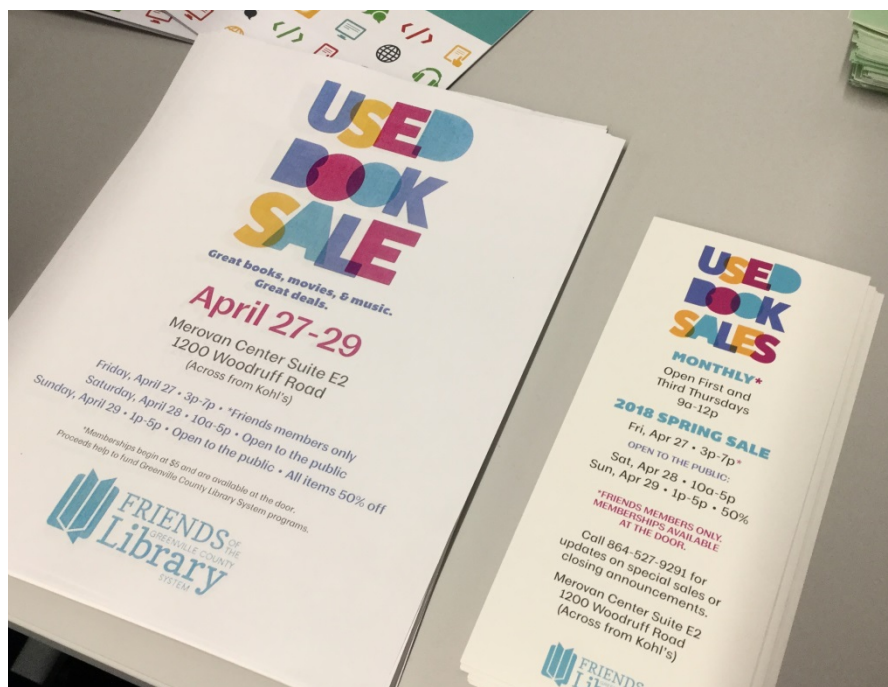
The Annual Meeting is a great time to share ideas about Friends projects!



Keynote speaker Susan Boyer signs books at the Annual Meeting. Susan writes the Agatha Award-winning Liz Talbot mystery series.



Friends groups share their promotional materials at the Annual Meeting.



Book Sale Time!