

Friends of the AK Smiley Public Library
President's Report : Annual Membership Meeting (via Zoom)
June 6, 2021

Year of the Pandemic

With the closure of the library for much of the year, the Friends pivoted to selling books online through Amazon. This is a fledgling effort, as we hope to grow this as another segment of our fundraising strategies. Upon the reopening, we held consecutive multi-day book sales from March through May (raising over \$4,000), as well as holding outdoor Bag Sales during April and May (raising over \$1,000) in Smiley Park. Fortunately, we were successful in our application for COVID-19 CARES Act Nonprofit Assistance grant funding from San Bernardino County, for \$20,000!

Membership

Membership numbers are down from previous years, which can be attributed to the library closure and inactivity for many months. Current membership stands at 564. However, there are encouraging signs – with the reopening of the library and the Bookstore, new memberships, as well as renewals are on an upward recent trend. We thank our community for their continuing support of the library and the Friends during this difficult year!

Adult Literacy

We noted, with pride, that the adult literacy program was mentioned time and again in public letters of support to the City Council during discussions concerning the city budget. Adult literacy continued to be active despite the library closure, as tutor/learner teams met via "Zoom." With the reopening, tutors and learners are once again meeting in person. We thank the community in supporting this essential program, that changes lives, and enriches us all!

Bookstore

This year, our long-time coordinator of the Bookstore, Ellen Schollenberger, relocated to Orange County, to be situated closer to relatives. Ellen's leadership and savvy management positioned our store as one of the finest in Southern California. Friends' groups from other cities have visited, and complimented us on the store. Recently, George and Marie De Lange have been appointed as the co-coordinators of the Bookstore. Please join me in welcoming them to their new roles!

Library Use of Funds

How does the library use funds that we raise? Books for adults, books for children and young adults, electronic resources, audio books, and DVDs are purchased. In addition, this past year, virtual programs were funded with support from the Friends –children's and adult programming.

Volunteer Efforts

How do we make this all happen? It is all due to the efforts of a dedicated core of volunteers. Due to the library's closure for much of the year, volunteer hours were severely reduced. Here is how our activity breaks down for June 2020 – June 2021:

BOOKSTORE, SPECIAL SALES, AUCTION	= 945.40 HOURS
BOARD	= 1875.95 HOURS
TOTAL	2821.35 HOURS

Interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities with the Friends? Contact the Friends' volunteer coordinator, Alice Moore (mikenalicem1120@gmail.com).

Board of Directors

This year, we regretfully say farewell to our departing Board members: Jerry Burgess, Kim Green, Les Kong, Mary Grace (M.G.) Maloney, Sharon Regalado, Ellen Schollenberger, Louise Schumann, and Rebekah Waddell. . Each has contributed to the success of the Friends, and they will all be missed. Rebecca McCurdy will be assuming the role of President. She has many good ideas to move the Friends forward in the post-pandemic era.

Farewell

It has been an honor to serve as your president, and to work with many dedicated volunteers – all with the goal in mind of raising funds for our beloved Smiley Library. Rest assured, I will remain involved as a volunteer supporting the auction, online sales, and bookstore sales efforts. Over the years, I have enjoyed making *friends* among the **Friends!**

Respectfully Submitted,

Les Kong, President, Friends of the AK Smiley Public Library