



*Please email

FriendsOfLibrary.wat@gmail.com
with any changed email addresses.

*Annual meeting: October 19th,
2pm, Library Community Room

*Christmas Party: December 14th,
6pm

President's Message

By Penny Mack

I continue to be amazed and so appreciative for the dedication and hard work of our program committee chairpersons, loyal members, and volunteers. Your ongoing commitment to our Friends of the Library organization helps to ensure the success of each of the programs that we commit to.

One example, we recently held our annual book sale. The participation of so many of our FOL volunteers helps to make this annual event incredibly successful and generates thousands of dollars each year for our organization which directly benefits our local library.

We hope that you will be able to attend the annual meeting in order to hear about our year, enjoy coffee, juice, and a treat, and to have the opportunity to sign up for one of our committees.

And finally, a big thank you to each of our FOL board members for the encouragement and timely advice and wisdom that you provided me this past year. Your kindness was greatly appreciated.



2025 Used Book Sale

By Co-Chairs Shelly & Doug Alvine,
Maureen & Jeff Anderson,
Brad & Sharon Brandsrud

The 2025 Used Book Sale is in the “books” and was amazing again! Over 28,200 donations were received at the Codington County Expo Building, County Fair, HyVee, and the Prairie Lakes Wellness Center. After days of hauling, sorting, and re-sorting books, the sale started on Friday, September 5th. Between 30 to 50 volunteers showed up each day. If we average six hours per day for all of the volunteers that comes to 1,362 hours of sorting and moving books. We sold over 72% of the books, CDs, and DVDs and moved a lot of free things to new homes. The remaining items were donated to Goodwill. Volunteers heard good comments about the venue, organization, and book selection.

Prices for books remained the same as the last three years. Sales totaled \$17,288, and grants expected to be received from Modern Woodmen, Watertown Community Foundation and Thrivent total \$3,250. More details will be available at the annual meeting on the expenses as the bills are received. The grants will cover all the expenses for the venue, advertising, and purchasing totes for next year's sale. The space rent and advertising are well worth the extra expense. Jeff and Doug placed yard signs around town.

Thanks to Modern Woodmen, Watertown Community Foundation, Thrivent, County Fair, and HyVee for financial support and space for gathering donations. Thanks to the Great Plains Lutheran High School students for their help in transporting books at the end of the sale.

Next year's sale will be in the same space at the Codington County Expo Complex. Labor Day is late, so set up will be on September 8, 9, and 10, 2026. Sale dates are September 11, 12, and 13, 2026.

The Friends of the Library volunteers are the best, and we can all be grateful for their hard work. The amount of book donations from the community is astounding, so be sure to thank everyone you know who donated.

FOL Board Members

Penny Mack
Diane Drake
Jo Elkins
Cindy Voight
John Tangren/Brad Brandsrud
Dawn Johnson
Mary Antrim
Gennie LaFramboise
Sue Pearson



Program Committee

By Olivia Forman, Mike Mullin, Sharon Ballard, Shelly Alvine, Mary Antrim, and Laura Hinman

The committee organized three programs that were held this past spring for the public to attend. They were: "Experience the 1900's in Watertown" with Christy Lickei, "Scam Alert" with Lori Fryer and Lynlee Alley, and "South Dakota Dairies: Where It Has Been and Where It Is Going" by Greg Moes. All were held in the community room at the library.

This fall, two programs are confirmed.

- On Monday, October 20th at 7pm, Casey Feininger and B.J. Bolton will discuss "Demystifying AI: Practical Uses for Work, School, and Life".
- Saturday, November 1st at 2pm, we will be holding a birthday party to honor Jane Austen on her 250th birthday. Lois Hart and Jane Miner will be the presenters.

We thank Shelly Alvine for creating program flyers, posting on Facebook, and sending e-mails to our FOL members for upcoming events.



Summer Reading Outreach

By Annie Mullin

This year, we were asked to do two visits for the Camp Chance kids as part of the summer outreach program. We structured it like last year. Each group was split into thirds. The smaller groups were taken on a tour of the library, read a story, and picked out their own two books to take home.

A few numbers:

- We hosted 45 2nd & 3rd graders on July 8th and 54 4th & 5th graders on July 15th.
- We bought and gave away 249 books.
- We gave away around 130 Friends bags to kids and volunteers.
- 168 fruit juice popsicles were enjoyed by kids and volunteers in the sun after the library visit.
- We had 22 total volunteers with 16 present each day.

A great time was had by all! The kids were very enthusiastic again this year. (Pictures weren't allowed, but you should have seen the older kids sitting under the tables in the community room, reading their books!)

Thank you all so very much for participating!



Reach Out to Read

By Diane Drake

The Friends of the Library distributed books to children through Toys for Tots, the Christmas Shoe Box for South Dakota Native American children, and the Beacon Center.

FOL Grants

By Shelly Alvine

Grants to Library

- \$5,000 - books purchased for summer reading prizes
- \$2,700 - zoo passes
- \$1,100 - Starr Chief Eagle presentation
- \$500 - library anniversary celebration

Committee Chairs

Mary Antrim (Programming)
Annie Mullin (Summer Outreach)
Diane Drake (Reach Out to Read)
Shelly & Doug Alvine (Book Sale)