

Friends of the Library

Contributed by Jimmie Epling
Last Updated Friday, 02 May 2014

DARLINGTON COUNTY HONORS FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY State Senator Gerald Malloy Receives FOSCL's Outstanding Public Official Award

Faye Griffin Receives FOSCL's Outstanding Individual Award

DARLINGTON COUNTY HONORS FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY The Darlington County Library System celebrates the sixth annual National Friends of Libraries Week during the week of October 21st through the 27th by honoring our Friends of the Library groups in Darlington, Hartsville, Lamar, and Society Hill. Across the county, the Library has over 300 dedicated Friends who contribute thousands of hours annually as volunteers helping with programs and fundraising efforts. Earlier this month, the Darlington County Council recognized each of the four Library's Friends groups with a proclamation designating the week of October 21st as National Friends of the Library Week, noting that our Friends "highlight the fact that our Library is the cornerstone of the community providing opportunities for all" and "their gift of their time and commitment to the library sets an example for all in how volunteerism leads to positive civic engagement and the betterment of our community." Each Friends group was presented a copy of the proclamation by Chairman Billy Baldwin. The County Council urges everyone to join their local Friends of the Library and thank them for all they do to make our library and community so much better. The work of our Friends is not only recognized here in Darlington County, but also across the state. The Friends of South Carolina Libraries (FOSCL) recognized Faye Griffin, one of our dedicated Friends from the Lamar branch, by awarding her the 2012 Outstanding Individual Award for her "support and advancement of the mission of the state's public libraries." She demonstrated her devotion to libraries by spearheading the formation of the Friends of the Lamar Library, successfully advocating and securing funding for a new library building in Lamar, and successfully leading later efforts to improve and expand the library's grounds and facilities. Another Darlington County resident, State Senator Gerald Malloy, was presented FOSCL's Outstanding Public Official Award which recognizes outstanding public officials who have promoted libraries through legislation, funding efforts, or who have shown support for libraries in some other purposeful manner. Senator Malloy has a considerable track record in actively assisting public libraries. He has led the cause to channel much needed state lottery funds to public libraries. Recently, he was responsible for securing \$250,000 in funds from the state budget as well as advocating for \$800,000 in local funding for the new Society Hill Branch Library which was completed in July 2011. Senator Malloy's longstanding commitment to the mission of public libraries in South Carolina has been a decisive factor in the efforts to provide successful service to the people of his district, the 29th, and the state over the past decade. "Our Friends are what make many things possible at our libraries," said library director Jimmie Epling. "Each Friends group is fantastic. Lamar's and Society Hill's Friends helped make the wonderful facilities we have in those communities a reality. The Hartsville and Darlington Friends have helped make their libraries special. The ideas, work, and fundraising our Friends provide make the level and quality of the services and programs we provide possible." Each group is made up of friendly, welcoming and dedicated people. All those with a love of libraries and their community are encouraged to join their local Friends group which is dedicated to fostering closer relations between the libraries and the communities they serve through volunteering, raising funds, promoting library programs, and making suggestions for library use and services. Each branch of the Darlington County Library System has its own Friends organization. Membership is open to the public. Anyone may join by paying a small yearly membership fee. Your local library will have membership forms. Contact the Friends group nearest you by calling the Darlington Branch at 398-4940, the Hartsville Branch at 332-5115, the Lamar Branch at 326-5524, or the Society Hill Branch at 378-0026. You can never have too many Friends. Join the Friends of the Library nearest you today and become a part of something special, creating a fantastic library in your community! The Darlington County Library System has location in Darlington, Hartsville, Lamar, and Society Hill. For more information, contact Director Jimmie Epling at 843.398.4940, Ext. 303 or by email at jepling@darlcosc.com. State Senator Gerald Malloy Receives FOSCL's Outstanding Public Official Award

FOSCL President John Bradley honored the accomplishments of South Carolina State Senator Gerald Malloy by presenting him with FOSCL's Outstanding Public Official Award at the annual meeting of the Friends of South Carolina Libraries on April 21 in Columbia. Senator Malloy, who represents Senate District 29 (Darlington, Lee, Chesterfield, and Marlboro counties), was nominated by Friends of the Darlington County Library President Lois Baldwin, Darlington County Library Director Nancy Ray, former Darlington County Library Board Chair Ken Hughes, and former Darlington County Library Director Sue Rainey. FOSCL's Public Official Award seeks to recognize outstanding public officials who have promoted libraries through legislation, funding efforts, or who have shown support for libraries in some other purposeful manner. Senator Malloy has a considerable track record in actively assisting public libraries. He has led the cause to channel much-needed state lottery funds to public libraries. Recently, he was responsible for securing \$250,000 in funds from the state budget as well as advocating for \$800,000 in local funding for the new Society Hill Library which was completed in July 2011 in Darlington County. As the nomination letter states, "Senator Malloy's longstanding commitment to the mission of public libraries in South Carolina has been a decisive factor in our efforts to provide successful service to the people of this district and this state over the past decade." Source: Friends of South Carolina Libraries. Summer-Fall 2012. http://www.foscl.org/Elements/2012_Summer_Fall.pdf

Faye Griffin Receives FOSCL's Outstanding Individual Award At its annual meeting on April 21, Friends of South Carolina Libraries (FOSCL) President John Bradley presented Darlington County resident Faye Griffin with its

Outstanding Individual Award. Griffin was nominated for her award by Fran Knotts, President of the Friends of the Lamar Library; Sherry Humphries, Lamar Branch Library Manager; Nancy Ray, Darlington County Library Director; Sue Rainey, former Darlington County Library Director; and Ken Hughes, former Darlington County Library Board Chairman. FOSCL's Outstanding Individual Award seeks to provide recognition to individuals who support and advance the mission of the state's public libraries — a person who exemplifies a lifelong devotion to libraries through their leadership in the cause of public libraries. Griffin's support for libraries in her community dates back to the '60's and has continued through the decades. The nomination letter cites her many accomplishments including active service on the Darlington County Library Board, spearheading the formation of the Friends of the Lamar Library, successfully advocating and securing funding for a new library building in Lamar, and then leading successful efforts to improve and expand the library's grounds and facilities in more recent years. Not resting on her laurels, Griffin is currently involved in securing funding for a second expansion of the library to include a new children's wing. As stated in the nomination letter, "It is hard to describe the passion Mrs. Griffin has for the Lamar Library. When she is not inside participating in meetings or checking out books, you may find her outside in the parking lot picking up branches after a storm, wading through the fountain pond to keep it free of debris or collecting coins that are tossed in by residents making wishes. She is dedicated to providing a quality organization for all ages and all walks of life and is totally committed to "Lifelong Learning @ Lamar Library." Not only does she deserve the Outstanding Individual Award, Mrs. Griffin deserves a Lifetime Achievement Award for all that she has done for the Lamar Library and the Darlington County Library System. Source: Friends of South Carolina Libraries. Summer/Fall 2012 http://www.foscl.org/Elements/2012_Summer_Fall.pdf