MRLS Board approves budget, elects new chair

By Shawn Jarrett
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

YOUNG HARRIS – The Libraries of Towns County are vibrant community partners serving residents of all ages.

Right now, challenges to the county are taking part in the summer reading programs at the Mountain Regional Library in Young Harris and the Towns Community Library in Hiawassee, with literacy activities aimed at bridging the summer school break.

MRLS Board Chair Karan Harper, both of Union, Towns and Fannin.

These programs and services were supported by a generous crowd at Mountain Regional Library on June 28.

“I think that’s what people come to expect from us,” said Harper.

Some citizens have access to a few local libraries in Towns County.

Regional Board Member Karan Harper of Fannin County became the new board chairperson after an election held by the board.

A single term on the MRLS Board of Directors is three years, and board members can only serve two consecutive terms.

However, the board elected a new chairperson in the June meeting because Chairperson Ron Bolin, also of Fannin, was up against the end of his second full term, which coincided with the end of the fiscal year on June 30.

The regional board is composed of local library board members from each of the libraries in the three-county system of Union, Towns and Fannin.

Regional Board Member Ernie Seckinger, representing the Union, Towns and Fannin.

MRLS Board Chair Karen Harper. Photo/Shawn Jarrett

Regional Board Member Ernie Seckinger, representing the Union, Towns and Fannin.

Callaway, both of Union County, was the other chairperson on that board.

Harper and Seckinger received nominations from a board committee after showing interest in the board chair seat.

Peggy Deighton and Peggy Callaway, both of Union County, were elected vice chair and secretary, respectively, in the August 2016 regular meeting, and the two will serve in those positions for another year.

MRLS Board Chair Karen Harper.

Along with bake sales, the FOTL is also giving awayaffle tickets for a basket donated by Cracker Creek Vineyard and sells books regularly at the Mountain Regional Library in Young Harris.

To round out the summer vacation, the Mountain Regional Puppet Company will be performing one final show for the season at the Union County Public Library on July 17, at 11 a.m.

Friends of the Libraries of Towns County Bake Sale. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

“arly in the meeting, Regional Board Member Karen Harper of Fannin County became the new board chairperson after an election held by her fellow board members.

Normally, the board holds its official elections in the August regional meeting, according to its bylaws.

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Regional Board Chair Karen Harper. Photo/Shawn Jarrett

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