Libraries Rock was a highly successful and fun all-out fundraiser held July 24 to help celebrate the end of the Summer Reading Program. Included was a mid-size book sale, a Christmas in July cart, homemade crafts plus craft supplies for sale, and a popular Sweet Shoppe. Rock n' roll décor gave a 60's vibe and themed music playing, sold CDs right out of the CD player. Patrons loved the guitar tote bags we handed out with purchases. Ending the evening, FOL sponsored a jewelry-making class with supplies and instructions provided by The Beaded Peacock from the Village of Winona.

All 2019 FOL book sale dates are set. The first one is a come-back of the Love-a-Book Cafe theme to be held on Valentine's Day, 10-4. Please note changes for member and library staff preview days and times effective beginning March 2019. They will now be on WEDNESDAYS 12N -2pm prior to our big sales. Those dates are MARCH 13, JUNE 19 and OCTOBER 23. Book sales will be open to the public Thursday and Friday 9-5 and Saturday 10-1. Currently, our Final 2018 big book sale is coming up October 25-27. Cider, hot or cold, coffee, and donuts will be served 9-11am Thursday and Friday for $2.00. There will be a bag sale all day Saturday, bags provided. The popular 2019 Book Sale bookmarks will be available so you never miss one of our sales.

Mini sales have proven to be decidedly profitable shattering all records from previous sales. Several factors contribute to this success. Advertising by WCPL on-line, Facebook, posted signs and T-U newspaper ads. Nonfiction is popular, all material is sorted and volunteers know where to find patron-requested material quickly. Families tend to shop on Saturdays as well. Occasionally, special allowances to the 'Sorting Room' have been afforded. This 'privilege' has been shown to raise the profit margin too. Our last mini sale for 2018 is December 8, Santa Day. At one time, this was our biggest sale day!

Membership unanimously agreed to fund three activities for Santa Day for a total cost of $555. FOL volunteers will fill treat bags for 250 children Tuesday, November 27, 2-4pm in preparation for Santa Day, a WCPL well-recognized popular social event developed by Children's Services.

Newly approved Wish List items to be funded by FOL are one 72” white bench which will be placed by the flagpole with one purchased as a memorial gift, a multi device charging station and a Kwikboost free-standing mobile device charging station basic.

November 2017 several changes were considered and approved to the Bylaws, Standing Rules, and the Internal Control Policy was adopted. This November 5 meeting will not be an exception. Several mailings with a letter will be going out early advising of proposed changes to consider. Voting will take place on these proposals November 5. Standing Committee Sign-ups will be available too. The membership brochure is currently being updated for relevancy and to include our new corporate sponsor, Dahms & Yarian, INC.

Although this summer-like weather continues for a few more days, trees are displaying their majestic autumn robes of brilliant reds, oranges, and yellows. Happy Fall y'all!

Merri Bottorff