***We All Need a Little Help from Our Friends***

**South Carolina Library Association Annual Conference**

**Friday, November 11, 2016**

**Sample Questions for Panelists**

1. Are Friends of the Library groups relevant in today’s library environment? Discuss.
2. What are the basic ingredients of a successful FOL organization?
3. Describe a “Major Success Story” you have witnessed in the past with your local Friends group. What was the catalyst for the successful event, or campaign?
4. What are some resources for establishing an energized, effective friends group in your library?
5. Why do Friends groups struggle with membership and fundraising? How can a Friends group successfully recruit new members, and thus become a healthy, active support group for the library?
6. How much money should Friends groups be allowed to manage, or raise? Are there any guidelines for FOL money management in the state?
7. Why are Friends needed? Are there other groups or organizations which could provide support and advocacy for local libraries?
8. Why are there not more Junior Friends groups whose members are teens, or children & their parents? What can be done to increase youth support for libraries locally?
9. Can Friends be led by a group or council, rather than electing officers each year? Most people do not want to be a President or Treasurer in my local Friends group.
10. Have there been any training events recently for Friends groups in South Carolina? What needs to be done to increase training for FOL?
11. Describe creative ways, or efforts, for raising funds by Friends groups?
12. Why don’t we hear more stories of Friends lobbying their legislators, or county council members for better funding, or more favorable policies in South Carolina?
13. How can libraries award, or recognize the outstanding efforts of their local library advocates, on a limited budget?
14. Where are the most successful Friends groups today in the region, or United States?
15. Can you describe the traits of “the typical friend of the library”? What draws certain individuals to become tireless library advocates?