



Ken Arrington

Friends of Union County Library's Vice President, Ken Arrington, has quite a story to tell about his thankfulness for libraries. It began when his mother, who was a teacher, took him to their local library where he attended story time and received a library card at a young age.

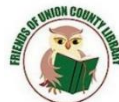
Before moving here, Ken was living on an island in the Philippines. He says the lack of libraries was one of the reasons he decided to leave. He didn't know exactly where he would end up, but his sister was living near Blairsville, a place he had never visited and didn't know much about. He decided to surprise her, so he packed up his belongings and began the long trip to Atlanta. After almost 24 hours, he landed and looked for a Greyhound bus station, thinking he could take a bus to Blairsville. When he realized there was no bus to his destination, he took the MARTA train to the end of the line in North Springs and from there began to hitchhike, finally reaching the square in Blairsville. He wandered into Hole in the Wall and called his sister. "I'm here," he said. "What! You mean in Blairsville?" she said. "Yes, in the restaurant on the square." "Stay there. I'm coming to pick you up," she replied.

His sister also loved libraries and could often be found reading in a comfortable chair there, so naturally one of the first places his sister drove him to was Union County Public Library. Unfortunately, Sue died from a heart attack soon after Ken arrived; but he has stayed and feels a bond with her when he's at the library. He says he was more excited about getting his library card than he was about getting his Georgia driver's license. His first impression of our library: "You gotta be kidding me! How do we have this in our small rural community?"

Ken is still discovering all the resources our library has to offer. He has used the computers and even checked out a Chrome Book to give it a try before purchasing one. He borrows DVDs, including the *Yellowstone* series which he recommends. He has become a Civil War reenactor and his book selections are often history related, including *The Fox Fire* books, *Confederates in the Attic: Dispatches from the Unfinished Civil War*, and *The Covenant of Blood Mountain: A Son's Revenge*. Being originally from Baltimore, he also enjoys Edgar Allen Poe and H. L. Mencken; but Mark Twain is also a favorite. Other hobbies include fishing, guns (including his .69 caliber musket for reenactments), foraging for mushrooms, and playing horseshoes and Scrabble.

Whatever else Ken is doing, he is sure to be at the library every few weeks, if not more often. Friends of Union County Library encourage you to see what our library has to offer, too. With your PINES card (available at our library just by showing an official piece of mail with your name and local address on it), you can check out books from our library and most of the other libraries in Georgia! In addition, there are digital access options available to use from home including Libby's Kanopy which offers books, magazines, and movies.

Be sure to get your second important card by asking for a Friends of Union County Library membership form. For just \$10 a year, you can help financially support our library and allow them to provide resources above and beyond what their regular budget would allow them to do. Owl-iver, our mascot, says "It's a *wise* investment in our community. Give a hoot – join us!"



**Advocating for Libraries,  
Literacy, and Lifelong Learning**