



The KY Library Friends Connection

www.friendskylibraries.org

Welcome

Welcome to the inaugural issue of *The KY Library Friends Connection*, the Friends of Kentucky Libraries Inc.'s quarterly newsletter. We plan to communicate digitally with our members and all Friends on how to support our Kentucky public libraries and to provide support to our local Friends of the Library chapters. If we do not have your email address, please send it to contact@friendskylibraries.org to continue to receive these newsletters.

This issue of *The KY Library Friends Connection* introduces you to our Board and its officers, highlights our newest library - the McLean County Public Library - and its Friends Chapter and toots our own horn. FKL won the 2011 Advocacy Award from the Kentucky Public Library Association. A very thoughtful article by Bob Johnson, retired award-winning reporter for *The Courier-Journal* and WHAS TV and member of the St. Matthews Friends of the Public Library, points out why we need a statewide Friends Chapter.

We are planning our next issue now and we need your input. We want to include news from local Friends groups to highlight your successes – large and small. We can learn from one another if we share. Contact us at contact@friendskylibraries.org.

FKL Wins 2011 KPLA Advocacy Award

by Nelda Moore, Immediate Past President FKL

It's not every year that the Kentucky Public Library Association bestows an Advocacy Award, but at the 2011 KPLA Annual Conference, Friends of Kentucky Libraries was so recognized. The award, initiated in 2001, "is presented to the public official or citizen-at-large who most successfully advances the cause of public libraries in the Commonwealth." FKL is only the third honoree since its inception. The plaque will hang in the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives.

FKL's contribution to promoting the Commonwealth's public libraries during the past year was primarily centered in organizing and sponsoring 16 Legislative Meet & Greet events across the state during the third week of October—National Friends of the Library Week. The reasoning was simple: local events were to be determined by the local Friends of the Library chapter or Library Board. Some were morning coffee and cookies, while others were afternoon hors d'oeuvres or evening desserts. The state was divided by senatorial districts and the sites asked to host were determined by proximity to legislators' homes.

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Friends of Kentucky Libraries, Inc.
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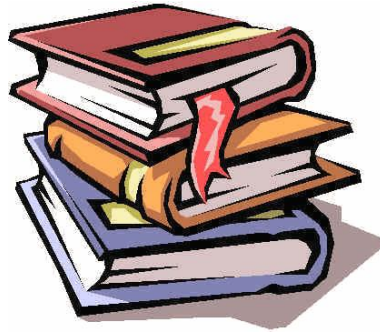
FKL Wins (Cont. from page 1)

The idea was to make it so convenient that it would be difficult not to attend—especially when the legislators were home rather than in Frankfort. The time of year worked to our advantage as well: the weather was still nice and Daylight Savings Time helped those with evening events.

There were no scripts or talking points; each library patron was asked to simply talk about why the local library was important to him or her. There was no “ask” for money, buildings, bookmobiles, or other worthy needs. Citizens were provided convenient access to senators, representative, and candidates with only the instruction to be positive.

FKL provided templates for signs, posters, and/or bookmarks that local sites could personalize with their event information, along with our own applications for membership, bookmarks, and signs about Friends of Kentucky Libraries. Local chapters of Friends were encouraged to provide information about their own groups as well.

Almost 800 people stood up for libraries by attending one of the Legislative Meet & Greets, which confirmed that it should be an annual event. FKL will again organize Meet & Greets across the Commonwealth during National Friends of the Library Week, October 16 - 22, 2011. Look for one near you.



Why You Should Support a Statewide Friends of the Libraries

by Bob Johnson, St. Matthews Friend of the Library

There's a story to be told and work to be done by Kentucky's Friends of the Library.

The story is about the wonderful progress Kentucky's public libraries have made over the last two decades, a story that is best told by the Friends in each community speaking as citizen advocates of the library's broad and growing mission. Libraries today are more than the bricks and mortar that shelter the shelves full of books.

They have become centers of learning where toddlers are introduced to the earliest elements of reading to prepare them for kindergarten, where a person looking for a job can find assistance navigating the complexities of the

employment process and where seniors are introduced to the internet technology that helps them stay in touch with their distant children and see those precious digital pictures of their grandchildren.

The citizen advocate making the case for public libraries in each community has a more special influence in town or in the neighborhood than someone who earns a living in the library. This in no way diminishes the role of the public voices of the Kentucky Department of Libraries and Archives, the trustees of the library districts at the county level and the professional staff at work in the libraries themselves.

"We all have to work together," says Cathy Snell, president of Friends of Kentucky Libraries, the statewide organization that is encouraging the formation of local Friends groups and offering to mentor them as they pull themselves together. Advocating for public libraries and providing support for new Friends organizations is the mission of the statewide Friends.

Advocacy is at the heart of any successful private-public partnership. Strong local organizations offer local citizens a way to speak up for their cause, in this case for sustained support for libraries on the community or county level. Their voices are

amplified when combined to speak for their cause on the state or even national level, in this case to the General Assembly and the Governor in Frankfort.

As advocates they must win over the skeptics who fail to see the importance of libraries or who feel tax dollars might be better spent on other needs.

"Public libraries are part of the fabric of our communities," says State Librarian Wayne Onkst. "The Friends tell our story."

Here is what is certainly an untold part of that story: Kentuckians made 20 million visits to the state's public libraries last year. They checked out 30 million items of all descriptions. Not all of that traffic went through the doors of that library building. Some of the library services come directly to patrons in some of the remote parts of the Commonwealth, transported in the largest Bookmobile fleet in the nation.

New libraries are springing up around the state. Major centers such as Lexington, Frankfort, Owensboro, Bowling Green and Boone County have new libraries. But there are also new libraries in smaller communities, such as Harrodsburg, in Mercer County; Morehead, in Rowan County; Hazard, in Perry

County; LaGrange, in Oldham County; and Flemingsburg, in Fleming County. Carter and McLean Counties have public library services for the first time.

The Friends of Kentucky Libraries will be on hand to offer support and once new local organizations have qualified as 501(c)(3) organizations, the statewide group will provide a \$400 reimbursement. They will also show how to establish a store at the library to sell gently used books, with the proceeds helping to fund needed services.

"United We Stand" is the message on the Seal of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Together, we can work together for a stronger library system.

Join Now!

Join Friends of Kentucky Libraries Now

Your membership in the Friends of Kentucky Libraries Inc. is separate from your membership in your local Friends group. Go to page 4 of this newsletter or to our website <http://www.friendskylibraries.org> and print a membership form. Mail it to Friends of Kentucky Libraries Inc., P. O. Box 537, Frankfort, KY 40602-0537 with your check. Thank you in advance

for supporting us with your membership.

McLean County, Our Newest Public Library, Establishes a Friends Group

by Wayne Onkst, State Librarian

Kentucky's public library system reached a major milestone on May 1 when the first paid staff members of the McLean County Public Library went to work. For the first time, state funded public library service was available in every Kentucky county. The new library will operate with funding from a federal grant for the next 18 months after which local funding will be necessary for continued operations. The new library director, Aimee Newberry, will be working with the McLean Fiscal Court to establish countywide library service.

To assist in this important work, a new Friends group has been created. Officers include: President – Sheila Heflan V. President – Eldon Eaton Treasurer – Margaret Scott Secretary – Dianah Hopper

The McLean County Friends of the Library are planning a membership drive in conjunction with a Meet and Greet with the new library staff this spring. They are selling note cards with local artwork as a fundraiser and are planning a used book sale to be held later this year. They meet every other month, first Monday at 7pm. Contact information for the library and the Friends is: McLean County Public Library, 116 E. 2nd St., Livermore, Ky. 42352.



MEMBERSHIP in the Friends of Kentucky Libraries, Inc.

brings you:



- a network of library supporters across the Commonwealth sharing ideas and news
- assistance in creating or revitalizing a local Friends of the Library chapter
- a unified voice advocating support for your library and all Kentucky libraries

Who Should Join?

- ✓ any friend of the library
- ✓ groups and businesses
- ✓ libraries
- ✓ trustees
- ✓ library staff members
- ✓ in other words...YOU!

Annual Individual Membership Levels:

___ regular member	\$10.00
___ sustaining member	\$100.00
___ lifetime member <i>(payable one time only)</i>	\$250.00

Annual Friends Chapters Levels:

___ less than 150 members	\$25.00
___ 150-200 members	\$35.00
___ over 200 members	\$50.00

Would You Volunteer to?

- ___ work on a committee
- ___ work on a short term project
- ___ serve on the board

Annual Board of Trustees	\$25.00
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Name: _____ [if a chapter/board membership, **please supply contact name**]

Chapter / Board _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Contact E-mail: _____ Phone (_____) _____

Occasionally, FKL may choose to thank and acknowledge our members by publishing their names in library related literature. If you do NOT want your name published, please check here: _____

We will want to make our money count. We will communicate digitally as much as possible through our newsletter and moderated ListServ in order to save money. Please share your email so that we can communicate as a Kentucky Library Community. Your contact information is confidential. We will not sell or share your information. Period. We will list Local Friends Chapters and Board of Trustee names on our website.

Donations support Friends of Kentucky Libraries' mission and are greatly appreciated. Friends of Kentucky Libraries Inc. is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Donations are deductible to the extent provided by the law.

Send this form with your payment to:

Friends of Kentucky Libraries Inc.
P O Box 537
Frankfort KY 40602-0537

Thanks and Introductions

by *Cathy Cravens Snell, President*

Carol Baughman is the kind of Board member about whom you dream. She was our Secretary for two years. She worked hard on the Meet and Greets. She is simply the best at selling memberships at the Kentucky Book Fair. The biggest plus is that she does it all with a smile. Thank you for your hard work and thank you for agreeing to continue to work on Committees.

In our inaugural year FKL was challenged to get members from all regions in Kentucky to truly make this a representative Board. We now have members from all regions, but Region 1. We are trying to cover Kentucky and give everyone a seat at the table.

If you are interested in working with the FKL, contact a Board member. You can work on a Committee. You can do something as simple as go to a Meet and Greet and tell an elected official what libraries mean to you and your family. Start or join your local Friends chapter. The phrase, “you can make a difference,” is true.

We welcome two new Board members, Catherine Childers, Virgie, and Sally Ann Strickler, Bowling Green. Mary Lynn Collins, Frankfort, moves from an ex officio position with the Board to a term on the Board.

Friends of Kentucky Libraries 2011-2012 Board of Directors



**Cathy Snell,
President** *[term
expires 2013]*
(Louisville)

Cathy is a retired attorney, having worked for the Kentucky Revenue Cabinet, the Kentucky Secretary of State, Kentucky Justice Cabinet, and Kentucky Department of Labor. She is a member of the Kentucky Bar Association and has been admitted to practice before the Kentucky Supreme Court and the Supreme Court of the United States. Her degrees are from Transylvania University and the University of Kentucky. She has volunteered with the Speed Museum, Girl Scouts (Cookie Chairman), and as a tutor with Every1Reads. She is a member of the Louisville Friends of the Library and Co-President of the St Matthews-Eline Branch Friends of the Library. Her hobbies are reading, cooking, needlepoint, and taking care of Ed the Dog.



**Lance Ferris,
President-Elect** *[term
expires 2013]*
(Lewisburg)

Lance, a graduate of the University of Iowa, is a retired Vice President and Director of Risk Management for an international insurance company. He has been Past President of the Chicago Chapter of Risk and Insurance Management Society, served on the Board of Directors of the Insurance Society of Chicago and was a member of the Chartered Property and Casualty Underwriters. He is a Vietnam veteran, having served his country as a Captain in the United States Air Force. He is a member of the Friends of the Muhlenberg County Public Libraries. His hobbies involve military history and college football.



**Renee Knight,
Secretary** *[term expires
2012]*
(London)

Renee is a semi-retired social worker with a BS in Psychology from Cumberland College and a MSW from the University of Kentucky. She is a state and national trainer/consultant, a member of AMGRO Master Gardeners—secretary/treasurer, the Community Collaborative for Children Advisory Council—chair, and Union College Social Work Advisory Board. She also serves on the Friends of the Laurel County Public Library Board of Directors. Renee enjoys reading,

gardening, cross-stitching and watching UK sports.



Jane Pfarner [term expires 2012]
(Edgewood)

Jane is currently in charge of the Collection for Kenton County Public Library. She has served as the President of Library Boards of Trustees in IL and NH, and as the President of Friends groups in IL, NH (including State Pres.) and KY. Jane's undergraduate degree is in Speech Education (Emerson College, Boston) and she has a Master's in Library Science from the State U. of NY at Albany. Jane is active in several volunteer organizations, including the KY Federation of Women's Clubs and serves as a reading mentor in the One To One program in Northern Kentucky. Jane's other interests are reading and the needle arts.



**John Clark,
Treasurer**
[term expires 2014]
(Louisville)

John, a former trustee at Lexington Public Library, is a banker in Frankfort with a business degree from the University of Kentucky. His

interests include golf, UK sports, travel, and music.



Jim Stoops
[term expires
2012]
(Tompkinsville)

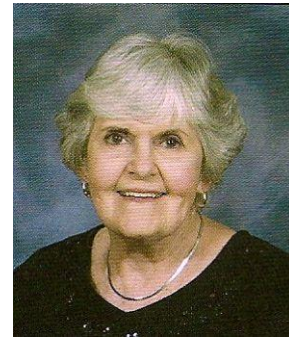
Jim is a retired traffic manager with an explosives company. He serves on the board of the Monroe County Public Library and is the newly elected Vice-Chair of the Kentucky Library Trustees Roundtable. He is also a member of KLA and KPLA as well as his local Historical Society and Friends of Old Mulkey. His leisure activities include reading, woodworking and painting.



**Theo
Levernez**
[term expires
2013]
(Georgetown)

Theo is the owner of an organizational development and planning consulting business. He holds a BA from Butler University and both an MA and PhD from the University of Kentucky. He is a published author in refereed educational periodicals and journals, and is a member of the Chamber of Commerce, American Planning Association, Scott County Arts Consortium Inc, Georgetown-Scott County

Community Connection, Inc, Society for College and University Planning, and Institutional Research Association. He is past president and still a member of the Friends of the Scott County Public Library. His interests include golf and banjo/guitar playing.



**Sally Ann
Strickler**
[term expires
2014]
(Bowling
Green)

Sally Ann holds degrees from Mississippi State College for Women, Western Kentucky University, and Vanderbilt University. She has been a librarian in Jackson (MS) Public Library, the Mississippi State University Library, and Western Kentucky University Libraries, and is currently semi-retired and working part-time in the Kentucky Library at WKU. She is active in local arts organizations: Fountain Square Players, Philanthropic Educational Organization, and DeGraffenried Chorale in Russellville. She is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the United Daughters of the Confederacy, and the Warren County Friends of the Library.



Mary Lynn Collins

[term expires 2014]
(Frankfort)

Mary Lynn, a retired Legislative Analyst/Committee Administrator for the Kentucky Legislative Research Commission, holds degrees in Sociology and Public Affairs from Kentucky State University. She is the President of the Paul Sawyier Public Library Board of Trustees, Co-Manager of the Friends of the Library Book Store (at Paul Sawyier P L), a member of the Frankfort/Franklin County Community Education Board, and a Capital Area Master Gardner. She was instrumental in forming the Friends of Kentucky Libraries and “believes that Friends can make a big difference in the life of a public library!”

Outstanding Media Specialist of the Year Committee of the Kentucky School Media Association. She also serves on the Leadership Committee at her local school. Catherine has a Master’s Degree in Early Elementary Education and Rank I Education, with K-12 Endorsement in Library Science. She is a trustee of the Pike County Public Library and a member of the Friends of the Pike County Public Library. Catherine believes “libraries can be [a] catalyst for bringing about change” and wishes to increase awareness of what they can do for our communities.

Non-Voting Members:

of the Bardstown-Nelson County Human Rights Commission. Her interests include reading, cooking, political activism, and Airedale Terriers.

Wayne Onkst, State Librarian



& Commissioner (ex officio)
(Erlanger)

Wayne Onkst, the former director of the Kenton County Public Library, was appointed Kentucky’s State Librarian and Commissioner in 2006. He earned both his Bachelor’s in History and his MLS from the University of Kentucky. He is a member of the Frankfort Rotary Club and spends his leisure time running, reading, and exploring genealogy. One of his first jobs as a new librarian was working with the newly created Friends of the Kenton County Public Library to coordinate their first book sale in 1979.

Nelda Moore

[Immediate Past President]
(Bardstown)



Nelda is a retired librarian. She holds degrees in Library Science from Eastern Kentucky University and the University of Kentucky, and is a Certified Public Manager (Kentucky State University). She is the owner of Nelda Moore Consulting and provides training/consulting for board development and public library staff development. She has been Vice President of the American Civil Liberties Union of Kentucky and currently serves as Secretary



Catherine Childers

[term expires 2014]
(Virgie)

Catherine, an elementary school librarian in Pike County for the past 19 years, is chair of the

Don't Forget!

Please send us local Friends news!!! Send it to: contact@friendskylibraries.org

Acknowledgements

Thank you to Katie Beach and Eric Ainsworth of the Louisville Free Public Library for technical support.