



Friends CONNECT

www.FriendsKyLibraries.org

**FRIENDS OF
KENTUCKY
LIBRARIES INC.**

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Our Mission:

- to advocate for public libraries on the local, state, and national level;
- to provide support for the formation and success of local Friends chapters.

FKL Grants Awarded

Friends of Kentucky Libraries is pleased to announce three very special grants awarded to libraries so far this year.

In keeping with its role to provide support for the formation of new Friends chapters, FKL awards a non-competitive grant of \$400 to each chapter that has successfully obtained its 501(c)(3) classification with the IRS. The newly formed Friends of the Oldham County Public Libraries recently qualified and was presented with their grant at their July meeting. Suzie Lloyd, President, accepted on behalf of the Chapter; presenting the check was FKL President-Elect, MaryLynn Collins.



Suzie Lloyd, Oldham County Friends President and MaryLynn Collins, FKL President-Elect

Oldham County is the second chapter to receive this grant. Friends of the Muhlenberg County Libraries received the first one in 2011. Muhlenberg's chapter had functioned for several years before applying for the 501(c)(3) status. All FKL Chapter Members that have not acquired it are encouraged to do so. Grant applications must be filed no later than six months after receiving official notification of the classification from the IRS.



Cathy Snell, FKL Past President; Larry Pritchard, Carter County Public Library Board of Trustees President; Lance Ferris, FKL President

Earlier in the year, FKL presented two competitive grants of \$200 each to support the Sister Library Project. This year's winners were the Carter/Kenton County libraries partnership and the Estill/Madison County libraries partnership. FKL President Lance Ferris and Past President Cathy Snell presented the checks at the Annual Meeting during the KPLA Conference in April.



Abbie Harris, Berea Branch Librarian; Heather Angel, Richmond Circulation Clerk; Cathy Snell, FKL; Lance Ferris, FKL; Ruthie Maslin, Madison County Library Director; Ari Barron, Richmond Youth Services Librarian

Each partnership will use the grant funds to aid the smaller library (Estill and Carter) in covering expenses associated with exchange visits between staff.

The Sister Library Grants are open to any partnership in which one of the sister libraries has a Friends chapter that is a member of FKL or one library's board of trustees holds a current membership. Membership applications may be submitted with the grant application and both may be found at www.FriendsKyLibraries.org. Up to two Sister Library Grants may be awarded each year at the Annual Membership Meeting.

FKL Board Elects New Officers and Directors



FKL President
Lance Ferris,
Muhlenberg County

New board members and officers were elected at the Annual Meeting of the Friends of Kentucky Libraries Inc. in April. The officers for 2012-13 are:

President: Lance Ferris, Muhlenberg County
President-Elect: MaryLynn Collins, Franklin County
Secretary: Carol Baughman, Franklin County
Treasurer: John Clark, Jefferson County

New members of the Board of Directors are:

Carol Baughman, Franklin County [2015]
Robert Dyche III, Laurel County [2015]
James McDuffee, Breathitt County [2014] - *filling unexpired term*
Nelda Moore, Nelson County [2014] - *filling unexpired term*
Jim Peterson, Simpson County [2015]
Jane Pfarner, Kenton County [2015]

State Librarian and Commissioner Wayne Onkst serves as an *ex officio* member of the board.

Outstanding Friends Chapter Award to Kenton County

The Friends of the Kenton County Public Library received the *2012 Outstanding Friends Chapter Award*, in part, for supporting many library projects, such as Collection Services, Special Equipment Projects, the Racing to Read Early Childhood Literacy Development program, the Homebound Delivery Department, and the Racing to Read 5k Run and Walk. They also support literacy in the form of Summer Reading Programs for all ages and donate thousands of books for Outreach programs and services.

The Friends support the ongoing professional education of library employees through scholarships and provide funds for equipment, computers, and software for community-wide access to the library collections.

The Friends are local citizens who work together to help the KCPL better serve the community by providing materials, services, and equipment that can't be supplied with regular budget resources. The Friends also hold programs on literacy topics and current issues.



Cathy Snell, FKL Past
President, and Cliff Eubank,
Kenton County

Outstanding Friend Award to Joy Stryzek



Cathy Snell, FKL Past
President, and Joy Stryzek,
Barren County

Joy Stryzek, President of the Friends of the Mary Wood Weldon Memorial Public Library (Barren County), was awarded the *2012 Outstanding Friend of the Library Award* at the Annual Meeting in April. Joy's objective as leader of the Friends chapter was to understand its role in support of the director's goals for the library. Their successful stream of projects attests to her success. Under Joy's leadership and hands-on work, Friends have doubled their book sale profits; sponsored well attended events like their Victorian Christmas Tea, Chocolate Around the World, and Honey of a Day; instituted monthly themed book discussions at the library; and created exciting promotional materials for the library's adult summer reading program. She was also involved in promoting the History Mobile's exhibit on Abraham Lincoln, visited by over 200 students, through six exhibits set up, staffed, and even cleaned up afterwards by Joy and Friends.

In addition to her role with Friends, Joy also volunteers at the library, often doing the tedious task of reading shelves—making sure all the books are in the right order—and well as the more creative tasks of displays and promotional items. Time is a precious commodity, and Joy has been more than generous with hers. Her leadership has proven to be a positive experience for all.

Meet & Greet

While temperatures remind us it is the height of summer, October is not all that far away and it's not too soon to start thinking about the 2012 Legislative Meet & Greet events. This is an annual event, sponsored by as many local chapters of Friends as wish to participate. The idea is simple and harks back to the famous quote by Congressman Tip O'Neill, "All politics is local." While healthcare and gun control may dominate the front pages of national newspapers, all politicians still want to hear the daily concerns of their constituents, and here is our chance to tell them that our local libraries are important to our communities.

The past two years we asked these be held during the third week of October (National Friends of the Library Week), but sometimes that scheduling proved difficult, so this year we've enlarged the window to the entire month of October. Where there are local chapters, we ask that those Friends sponsor the event; where there are no formal chapters, we ask the libraries themselves do it.

And what is "it?" It is whatever works for your District: morning, afternoon, evening; a simple mingling with the crowd or a forum with time allotted for each legislator and candidate to speak. Refreshments can be as simple as store-bought cookies and coffee or as elaborate as you wish or not at all. Most important of all, it's an opportunity for your library supporters (aka patrons or users) to tell their legislators—current and future—that their library is something they value. There are no scripted talking points; everybody says what they want to say or even nothing at all. Just the presence of people in the room makes a statement, so don't think the shy folks who say nothing are not contributing in an important way—they are.

Friends of Kentucky Libraries supplies all the help it can. We let each library and Friends chapter know who else is in their Senate District, setting up an email group so they can communicate amongst themselves as they plan their M&G event. We provide mailing labels for all legislators and candidates and sample invitation letters to be printed on the Friends or library's letterhead. We offer templates for small posters and bookmarks that may be printed and distributed however each library wishes, and we provide a sample press release for those who wish to use that method of promotion. We understand that local political climates are different; some of you may feel uncomfortable making the event public while others do not have that concern. We offer these promotional templates for your use, but you decide what will work best for your situation. We offer guidance throughout the process, right down to the Thank You letters to send to the legislators, candidates (you never know when they'll be back again and maybe successful next time), and local officials.

We ask only three things: (1) a headcount for our records; (2) that you be non-partisan in inviting legislators and candidates; and (3) that you make a big effort to get your supporters there. This is not just for librarians, trustees, and formal Friends members: it's for everyone who values his or her public library.

First Lifetime Member

Whether you're a fan or not, you've heard of the many CSI television series and such blockbuster movies as *Pirates of the Caribbean*, *Top Gun*, and *Beverly Hills Cop*, right? Now you're in the same elite club as Hollywood movie and TV producer Jerry Bruckheimer and his novelist wife, Linda—the Friends of Kentucky Libraries Inc. The Bruckheimers are our first lifetime members.

Linda Bruckheimer spoke at the KLA Conference in Louisville last fall, where she learned about FKL and left with a membership form. It took a while but she came through.

Linda Bruckheimer grew up in Louisville but moved to California as a teen. She is author of novels *Dreaming Southern* and *The Southern Belles of Honeysuckle Way* and was an editor of *Mirabella*. She and her husband Jerry have property in Bloomfield (Nelson County), but they also live in California. She is a preservation activist and has been active in restoring several building in Bloomfield.

“While healthcare and gun control may dominate the front pages of national newspapers, all politicians still want to hear the daily concerns of their constituents and here is our chance to tell them that our local library is important to our community.”

Mentoring of Friends Chapters Offered

Jane Pfarner, Chapter Liaison and Mentoring Committee Chair

Whether your Friends group is an established Friends Chapter or you are part of a group of people trying to organize a Friends group for your library, the Friends of Kentucky Libraries Chapter Liaison and Mentoring Committee is available to help.

The purpose of the Chapter Liaison and Mentoring Committee is to mentor new and existing Friends groups and to foster the development of networking among Friends organizations. Our committee members are a great resource, having many years of experience working with Friends and libraries within Kentucky and across the country.

Currently the Committee is working with several library systems as Friends groups are being organized. We have an electronic "packet" of information that we can send to libraries or individuals who are interested in starting new Friends chapters. Committee members can also offer unique guidance for each Friends chapter, such as establishing the relationship between the Friends and the library administration or working through the steps to form an organization within the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

As a bonus to Friends groups that join the Friends of Kentucky Libraries, Inc., our organization will award \$400 grants to Chapters within six months of their receiving 501 (c)(3) tax exempt status. This is to offset the cost of applying.

The Mentoring Committee is also available to existing chapters for information or help with chapter business. For further information contact the Liaison and Mentoring Committee through the Friends of Kentucky Libraries website at www.FriendsKyLibraries.org.



Useful Tools for Friends

Did you know there are two electronic discussion groups for Friends? First of all, you are likely already subscribing to the one for Kentucky Friends if you are receiving this newsletter, but if not you can subscribe by sending an email with the subject "Kentucky Library Friends" to Nikole.Wolfe@ky.gov. In the body of the message, list your name and the name of your library. Using this discussion group, you can ask questions of other Friends, exchange information, learn how other Friends chapters operate, find out what's going on at the state level with Friends of Kentucky Libraries, keep in touch with legislative issues relating to public libraries, and more. It's such an easy way to share and learn from each other, get new ideas, or just confirm what you are planning to do is on a tried and true path. After you have subscribed, it's simple to start a new email message by addressing it to: kylibfriends@listserv.ky.gov. The email will go to everyone who subscribes. Be sure to recognize that any and all replies will also go to the entire list of subscribers. You don't want to make the mistake of thinking you are answering only the person who sent the message, so do keep this in mind at all times. Not to imply anyone would say anything not intended for all, but sometimes posts really lend themselves to personal comments that you might not want to announce publicly.

The second discussion group, and one that gets more traffic, is the national one from ALTAFF (Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends, and Foundations), where Friends from around the country can share advice and experiences. Discussion topics can be whatever interests you — book sale strategies, fundraising ideas, membership drives, leadership recruitment, innovative programs, where to find gift shop items, selling used books online, how to develop library support in your community, volunteer guidelines, etc. Messages are automatically archived for future searching. And, you do not have to be a member of ALA or ALTAFF to subscribe. You can find full details at: <http://www.ala.org/altaff/friends/listserv>. Recent posts have been on liability insurance for Friends, special perks that members get (like advance access to book sales or discounts), inexpensive sources for book bags, and revising bylaws.

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For membership information, visit www.FriendsKyLibraries.org.

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