



# Friends CONNECT

[www.FriendsKyLibraries.org](http://www.FriendsKyLibraries.org)

Page 1

Winter 2015-2016

**FRIENDS  
OF KENTUCKY  
LIBRARIES, INC**

**P O BOX 537  
FRANKFORT  
KENTUCKY  
40602-0537**

### Inside this issue

Library Legislative Day 1

Library Legislative Day 2

From the President 3

Memorandum of Understanding 4

FKL Annual Meeting 5

FKL Annual Meeting (cont.) 6

News from the Field 7

### 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.

## Library Legislative Day

by Mary Lynn Collins

If you were in the Capitol Building on February 4, you saw lots of yellow. Library supporters, including library staff, trustees, and friends, gathered there in support of libraries. We came from as far away as Breathitt County in the east and Calloway County in the west. And we particularly loved having some young high school advocates from Menifee County join us that day!

The Friends of Kentucky Libraries handled the registration table and helped each library delegation get to their appointments with their particular legislators. We gave them a card created by the Kentucky Public Library Association Advocacy Committee that laid out what we hope will be accomplished this session for libraries: more library construction funds, more funding for library outreach vehicle grants, and sufficient funding (\$1.2 million each year) to ensure full, equal access to the internet. Each delegation talked to their legislators about these “asks” and also reminded legislators that our public libraries have been identified as models in the Commonwealth for compliance, ethics and transparency.



Signing in with FKL for legislative day.

And we sent each delegation off with a special gift for their legislators-- business card holders filled with yellow M&Ms that say “Support Libraries.” This is the fourth year we have brought these candies to Library Day and they have become part of our “brand” for the day. (We did save enough of the M&Ms to take to our congressional delegation for National Library Legislative Day.)



M&M candies for legislators

(Library Legislative Day, cont.)



Campbell County Director  
J. C. Morgan

At noon we gathered in the Rotunda for a Library Rally. Dave Schroeder, President of the KPLA Advocacy Committee, moderated the event. Both Representative Kim King who represents the counties of Mercer, Washington, and part of Jessamine, and Kristy Tucker, Director of the Marshall County Public Library, spoke about the importance of libraries. Representative King had with her a star that her daughter made in a library program many years ago!

After the rally, the Senate and House went into session and both chambers recognized librarians and library supporters there that day and passed resolutions (Senate Resolution 95 and House Resolution 103) declaring February 5 as Public Library Day.

We left the Capitol feeling we had successfully delivered our message that libraries, as one of our most important educational institutions, need the support of the Kentucky General Assembly. We are hopeful when the budget is finalized that there will be some funding for library construction, outreach vehicles, and to ensure full and equal access to the internet.

Senate Bill 71, which would change the process now in place that libraries and other special purpose governmental entities use to increase revenues, was pulled from

the orders of the day in the Senate shortly after Library Legislative Day. It was sent to the Senate Appropriations and Revenue Committee where we hope it will remain. We wish to congratulate the KPLA Advocacy Committee for putting together a successful day and a big thank you for all who attended. We want to encourage Friends chapters who did not send representatives this



Caleb Dearmon and Cody Wells representing Menifee County Public Library

year to consider doing so next year—maybe even build some travel funds into your budget for this purpose.

We love this event because of the high energy created when you bring so many people together who are passionate about libraries and because it is critical to keep reminding our elected officials of the importance of public libraries in our communities.



FKL Members in Rotunda

## From the President By Judy Burdine

Long before I became (and retired as) Director of the Pulaski County Public Library, I was a member of the Friends of the Pulaski County Public Library. Margaret Mead said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

Friends of public libraries often come wearing different hats. So was the case for Pulaski County. At the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, there were no public library services in Pulaski County, but the Somerset Chautauqua Reading Circle (organized in 1901 and still in existence) enlisted the aid of the Board of Education and the City Council to obtain a library for the city. Many citizens joined in those efforts. They were not formally organized into a Friends Chapter, but they were just as committed. Luck ran beside their determination. Dr. J. P. M. Brouse, a Somerset citizen, was a friend of Andrew Carnegie.



After much debate, Somerset erected the first Carnegie Library that was attached to a school building. Voting against the location, Mayor Griffin stated, very wisely, "I am afraid it will be used to educate the classes, rather than the masses." The Chautauqua Club agreed to provide the first floor furnishings, if they could have their meetings there. Thus was born our first community room. The building was completed in May of 1907 and continued operation until 1937, when the Board of Education discontinued its financial support in favor of a new school library.

The economic state of the county prevented further library service until President Roosevelt's WPA brought the Pack Horse Library to the community. This time our "friends" came from out-of-state in the form of donated books and magazines. Their generosity inspired local citizens to donate what they could to their fellow neighbors. The materials were delivered, via horseback, throughout the county. These women often traveled 50 to 80 miles per week, visiting homes in the community. Thus our first bookmobile was born.

In 1949, the Somerset Woman's Club spearheaded a drive to reestablish public library service to the community. It wasn't until 1951 that the library was reopened to the public. Many years of struggle ensued. Money to operate the library had to be begged from various organizations. Library friends came in the form of local banks, city council, state aid, civic clubs, as well as private donations.

But it wasn't until 1963 that the formal organization of a Friends Chapter was started. Unstable finances were seen as the number one problem with providing service to the community. So the Somerset Woman's Club agreed to help the Library Board by sponsoring the first "Friends of the Library" group. With their help, a new demonstration library funded mostly with state aid opened in the downtown area. This example of a "people's library" sparked the hunger for a real public library.

Three short years later, spearheaded by this Friends Chapter, a successful petition drive resulted in the establishment of a Library District. This chapter is still in existence today. It has played various roles over the years. Book seller, staff supporter, training ground for Library Board members, but its most important role of all, has been and still is, advocate. "Every library needs a few good friends." But whether your group is older than your library or not yet formed, you need to have an understanding of the role of the Friends in relationship to the library.

You have heard that "good fences make good neighbors." This applies to Friends groups as well. I would like to urge each of you to have a signed agreement with your library, outlining the role your chapter will play in this relationship. "Good rules make good partnerships." A sample of this agreement is included in this newsletter.

Good luck in the coming year. I look forward to working with all of you and I am also looking forward to seeing new chapters being formed throughout our Commonwealth. Your state friends are here to support your efforts. Let us know how we can help.

**Friends of the Library**  
(name of chapter)

Memorandum of Understanding

The following will constitute an operating agreement between the Friends of the Library, (name of the chapter) and the (name of the library). It will stand until and unless it is modified by mutual agreement of the Friends Executive Board and the Library Board of Trustees.

The Mission of the Friends is to (add your mission statement)...

As a non-profit, this Friends Chapter is a legally distinct entity and is not part of the Library.

The Library agrees....

To provide the Friends with space for meetings

To provide public space for Friends membership brochures and promotional materials

To provide the Friends with space in the Library for, as an example, storing used books for sale

To share goals of the Library with the Friends and to discuss how resources and support from the Friends can best be utilized

The Friends agree...

To publicly support the Library and its policies

To allow room on the agenda for a Library report

That any and all monies raised will be spent exclusively for Library programs and services, and other Library defined needs unless otherwise agreed upon by both parties

That the Library administration has the final say in accepting or declining any and all gifts made to the Library

To engage in advocacy efforts on behalf of the Library under the guidance of the Library and its Board of Trustees

That if they cease to actively fundraise and promote the Library, they will disband, allowing for a new Friends group to be established in the future.

## From the FKL Annual Meeting

Roundtable topics at the FKL annual meeting included how to recruit friends and fundraising ideas other than book sales. We hope you will find something of interest in these suggestions.

### Recruiting Friends

By Linda Stith

- Remember that Friends can come from anywhere! Reach out to local colleges or high schools. Students are often required to earn community service credits and involvement with Friends would be perfect.
- Ask to speak at meetings of civic organizations such as Rotary.
- Participate in local festivals. Make it easy to join the Friends.
- Host interesting programs and promote Friends membership to attendees. Remind them that Friends sponsor these programs.
- Acknowledge receipt of dues or renewals quickly! Cash those checks!

### Fundraising Other Than Book Sales

By Earlene Arnett

- There are many things to sell other than books! T-shirts, book bags and mugs were among the items sold by many Friends groups, but have you ever thought of puzzle and board games?
- Henderson County has had success with this project. Storage can be an issue until sale time, but isn't that the case even with large book sales! The Danville Friends sell specialty teas and note cards.
- If you have a Kroger store in your area, check to see if you can participate in their Kroger Rewards. Kroger shoppers can designate your library to receive awards.
- An evening of poetry sounds extra inviting when it's titled "Pie and Poet." This yummy event is held by the Franklin County Friends.
- If you have a local quilt guild you might want to investigate a "Book Shelf" quilt. The fabric books can contain names of donors.
- Another quilt idea comes from Madison County with their small quilt fundraising event. Local residents, patrons, and quilters combine their skills to create a small wall hanging. These quilts are displayed at the various library locations and then sold.
- Literacy baskets are put together and sold by silent auction. This would be great during the spring before Easter. Each basket includes a book and items based on the book theme.
- Another silent auction item suggested was painted children's chairs. Local art clubs might enjoy supporting your library and getting their talents visible in the community.

There were many more suggestions. I hope you will consider attending the annual meeting this year to learn more about what other groups are doing and how their ideas can become your success.

## Libraries Transform

By Linda Stith

An initiative of the American Library Association, Libraries Transform was introduced in October. This project was designed to help libraries tell their story and several key messages have been developed. Among them are:

- Today's libraries are not just about what we **have** for people but what we **do** for and with people.
- Libraries are at the heart of our communities - a resource for people of any age to find what they need to help improve their quality of life.

A free toolkit is available at: <http://www.ilovelibraries.org/librariestransform/toolkit>



### Welcome!

Wayne Onkst is a native of London, Ky. where his first job was shelving books at the Laurel Co. Public Library. He received a Bachelor's Degree in History and a Master's Degree in Library Science from the University of Kentucky. Upon receiving his Master's degree, he went to work for the Kenton County Public Library where he worked in a number of positions, becoming director in 1999. During this time, the library underwent unprecedented growth, building 2 branches, while focusing on technology, children's and outreach services. He became Kentucky's State Librarian and Commissioner of the Kentucky Dept for Libraries and Archives in 2006 and served until 2015. KDLA's achievements during this time included providing state funded library service to all 120 counties for the first time and constructing a new State Records Center.



Wayne serves on the boards of the Kentucky Historical Society and the Jesse Stuart Foundation. He loves history and genealogy and wrote the centennial history for the city of Erlanger, [Buffalo Trails to the 21st Century](#).

He lives in Erlanger with his wife Deborah. They have 2 sons, David and Noah, and a granddaughter, Josie.

## NEWS FROM THE FIELD

### Meet and Greets

by Linda Stith

FKL has consistently urged public libraries to hold Meet and Greets (M&G's) with elected officials. In the Orientation leading up to the 2016 Library Legislative Day, it was pointed out that M&G's are important and a part of the "new normal" for working with legislators.

FKL has also recognized that every library knows exactly what works best in its community, especially when scheduling a M&G. In an election year like we will see in 2016, is late summer or early fall appropriate for asking candidates to meet with library friends and supporters? Are there community festivals or events that offer the perfect tie in and time?

In Shelby County the library held a Town Hall meeting in early February and legislators were present to share information on the current legislative session, to hear concerns and to answer questions. Senator Paul Hornback commented that "town hall meetings offer a great opportunity for those who elected us to express their ideas, opinions and concerns." This event had an impressive turn out and the legislators asked to return for another one!

Once again FKL urges libraries to offer an opportunity for friends and supporters to talk face-to-face with important decision makers. If you haven't already begun, start planning today!

### From the Editor

We want to hear from you! "News from the Field" will highlight Friends' chapters across the state. Please submit articles about what your Friends group is doing to make a difference in your community. It's really ok to "Toot Your Own Horn" while sharing. You could be making a difference in another community by sharing your success through this newsletter.

We are now on Twitter (@KYLibFriends) as well as Facebook. Follow us for the latest library news, including updates on the 2015 regular session of the Kentucky General Assembly.



Find us on  
**Facebook**

**FriendsCONNECT** is published four times a year by the Friends of Kentucky Libraries, Inc.

For a membership application, visit [www.FriendsKyLibraries.org](http://www.FriendsKyLibraries.org).  
Send editorial contributions, articles, and news releases to Earlene H. Arnett, editor, at: [earlene.arnett@gmail.com](mailto:earlene.arnett@gmail.com)