



Friends CONNECT

www.FriendsKyLibraries.org

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Summer 2015

**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.

Come Join us for Our Annual Meeting! November 14 at the Kentucky Book Fair

By Mary Lynn Collins, President

It is not too soon to be thinking about the Friends of Kentucky Libraries Annual Meeting. We will again meet in conjunction with the Kentucky Book Fair in Frankfort and it will be Saturday, November 14. We want to thank Hilliard Lyons for once again sponsoring our annual meeting. If you are part of a local Friends group, please start talking this one up. **We want to see each of our chapters represented at this meeting.**

We have been pleased that attendance at our annual meetings has grown since we started meeting with the Kentucky Book Fair. We believe by coming together to share our experiences, we all leave with new ideas. I know that as a result of our meeting last year, the Friends of Paul Sawyer Public Library started supplying a book and magazine cart at the local hospital that has turned out to be quite successful. This year we plan to have two network sessions—so please plan to come, share, and learn.

The timing is right—as this will give us a chance to talk about the 2016 upcoming legislative session and our plans to have grass roots advocacy for libraries organized and in place before the session begins. We will get an update at the meeting on what bills relating to libraries are expected to be introduced and more about efforts underway to obtain additional funding for library construction.

At our annual meeting, we will be honoring some of you who do so much for our libraries. We will be giving our annual award for Outstanding Friends of the Library Chapter and Outstanding Friend. Please consider nominating your Friends. You may find our nomination forms on our web site: www.FriendsKyLibraries.org/awards.html

We hope to have our registration form for our annual meeting on our web site soon so keep checking but **DO SAVE THE DATE-** November 14. We need you there. Registration will be at 10:00 am and the meeting will start at 11:00 am. You will want to visit the 34th Kentucky Book Fair while you are here—we will wrap up by 2:30 pm to assure you have time!

Kentucky Book Fair

We are excited about our luncheon speaker on November 14: Sallie Bingham. We met Sallie at the Southern Kentucky Book Fest and as a result, she became a sustaining member of the Friends. Sallie is an author and playwright who will be at the Kentucky Book Fair this year with her newest work: *The Blue Box: Three Loves in Letters*.

When we first reactivated the state friends, over six years ago, I started reviewing the files of FKL in its early days and I kept seeing references to Mary Bingham, Sallie's mother. Mary Bingham was very active in the first project spearheaded in part by the Friends of Kentucky Libraries—the establishment of a library bookmobile program. Mary Bingham's support of libraries, both financially and through leadership, was critical in building this state's library system. We are delighted that her daughter, Sallie, a successful playwright, author, and founder of the Kentucky Foundation for Women will be joining us.



See You There!

A Tale of Summer and Fall

By Linda Stith

O.K., I'll admit it! I was bitten by the "lazy days of summer" bug! While my local library kept up its hectic pace with summer reading programs, I've been enjoying time in the garden (when it isn't raining!), long walks with the dogs, baseball, and of course, lots of leisure reading. But something has hit me like a bolt of lightning from a summer storm! It's time to get serious about a very important opportunity — planning for 2015 Meet and Greets.



This fall promises to be busy as candidates for Governor and other constitutional offices occupy the spotlight. But members of the State Senate and House are not up for election and this allows them even more time to learn about issues of importance at home and to hear the daily concerns of constituents. The same is true of local officials.

Friends of Kentucky Libraries (FKL) once again asks every library and Friends chapter to host a Meet and Greet (M&G). Dates may vary but holding a M&G prior to the 2016 legislative session is recommended. These gatherings take many forms depending on local situations. Some libraries arrange receptions with simple refreshments and lots of mingling. Some M&Gs revolve around a specific program (for example, officials reading to children at story time). Libraries have successfully hosted Fiscal Court meetings. Another option is billing the M&G as an Open House with guests visiting demonstrations, learning about new or existing library programs and services, and enjoying entertainment and chances to win donated prizes. Coordinating a M&G to go along with popular events like book sales is a great way to attract a crowd.

The long-term value of having M&Gs cannot be overstated. Making and keeping permanent contacts with local decision makers is vital for continued support of the library. This year a particular issue of concern is seeking additional library construction funds for the many projects so urgently needed. **If your library is anticipating a construction project, holding a M&G is a must.** M&Gs allow for personal interaction that is the foundation for effective advocacy. Library users and supporters can provide the "push" that decision makers need for favorable "yes" votes.



Madison County Meet & Greet, Oct. 11, 2014

FKL recognizes the hard work and dedication involved in planning M&Gs. A recent document produced for United for Libraries is entitled **Citizens Save Libraries Power Guide**. How appropriate as we consider M&Gs. Let's bring our community and officials together once again this year! Citizens do have POWER!

So check your calendars NOW. Set the date and get started! I know I'm shaking my "lazy days" bug and looking forward to hearing about your creative and inspiring plans. Please contact Linda Stith at bluelas@aol.com with any questions or concerns and to share your dates, attendance numbers and experiences.



Advocacy = State Funds = Library Construction By Wayne Onkst, State Librarian

The Kentucky General Assembly created the Public Library Facilities Construction Fund in 2000 to assist local public libraries with debt payments for new library facilities and library improvements. Since that time, 28 public libraries have been built or improved using state funding. In the Commonwealth's 2014-2016 budget, the General Assembly approved an additional \$1,000,000 for the Fund to assist libraries with debt payments over the next 20 years. As a result of this funding, 9 new libraries will be built or renovated this year and one county will receive assistance in paying debt on its recently completed library. The following libraries will be built or renovated with state assistance during the next 2 years:

- **Carter County Public Library.** The second floor of the library in Grayson will be renovated to provide two large community rooms, office space and classrooms for the Adult Education program, and a testing facility for GED examinations.
- **Casey County Public Library.** An addition to the library along with renovations to the existing building will provide a new children's area, a teen/young adult area, increased space for the library's collection, a Kentucky Room for researchers, specialized spaces for reading, a quiet study area, additional computers and wireless stations, and an outdoor reading garden.
- **Hart County Public Library.** An addition will more than double the size of the library to allow the library's first dedicated children's space, the first dedicated space for teens, 18 additional public computer workstations, a new Civil War and Kentucky history area, the county's only free meeting space, and a literacy bell housed in a new cupola.
- **Louisville Free Public Library.** A new South Central Regional Library will be constructed to serve 166,000 residents. Features of the 40,000 sq. ft. facility will include a large children's area and activity learning center, a dedicated space for teens, a large public computer area, expanded services for immigrants, and parking for 120 vehicles with bicycle racks. The library will also be eco-friendly with geothermal wells, daylight harvesting, recycled rubber flooring, and a green roof.

(Construction cont.)

- **Lee County Public Library.** A new library will double the space from the current library that has many limitations. Features of the new library will include a larger children's area, a large community meeting room, additional computer space, quiet study spaces, a Kentucky Room for research, additional collection space, and dedicated parking for library users.
- **Nicholas County Public Library.** Additional space will be added and the current space will be renovated. Additions to the library will include a beautiful new genealogy room, an elevator, updated restrooms, new children's library, new public meeting room, new carpeting for the entire main floor, and a new façade for the library's entrance.
- **Spencer County Public Library.** Additional space and complete renovation will provide space for children of all ages to play, learn and create; family history researchers to locate and compile information; teens to study, create and gather; adults to meet, share information and learn skills; and people of any age to engage in community or quiet contemplation.
- **Washington County Public Library.** The new library will triple the existing library space. It will provide a children's activity room for programming, a teen/young adult area, dedicated genealogy and local history room, three study rooms, a large multi-purpose room for community gatherings, and a large parking lot with ample parking.
- **Wayne County Public Library.** The completely new library will have twice the space of the existing library. Features will include two large multi-purpose rooms for library programming and public meetings, dedicated space for young adults to read and gather, a large local history and genealogy room, outdoor area for programming and activities, and a parking lot with triple the space of the current lot.



In addition, the Grayson County Public Library was awarded funding from the Public Library Facilities Construction Fund previously received by the General Assembly.

- **Grayson County Public Library.** The new library in Grayson County will feature a drive through book drop for reserved materials pick-up, a large community meeting room, small group study rooms, a small conference room, a genealogy local history area, increased space for collections, children's activity room, a unique space for teens and young adults, additional computer work stations, and a parking lot with 67 spaces.

Groundbreakings are being scheduled for these projects in the coming months and construction will begin soon.

Funding from the 2014-2016 allocation was also granted for debt payments on the new Lewis County Public Library which was completed in 2012. The new Lewis County Public Library replaced an old two story facility that was not ADA compliant and had been declared a fire hazard. The new library includes a large community room, 16 additional computers, space for 10,000 additional items in the library's collection, space for local history and genealogy, and quiet reading and study space. Usage of the new library has dramatically increased.

This investment of state funds will make a huge difference in library service in these 11 counties. Dividends will arrive in the form of higher quality of life, additional educational benefits for residents of all ages, and economic development. Thanks to Governor Beshear and members of the General Assembly for their support of the Public Library Facilities Construction Fund. As many other libraries need updated facilities, we will be seeking additional funding in the future.

Look for Us at KLA

By Mary Lynn Collins, President

The Kentucky Library Association/Kentucky School Media Association will hold its annual conference in Louisville, September 17-19. This year's theme is "Standing Up and Standing Out: Advocating and Innovating for Kentucky's Libraries."

What an appropriate theme for Friends chapters! A major part of our mission as Friends is standing up for our local libraries. A session sponsored by FKL will be presented on Thursday, September 17 at



11:00 AM. Entitled "Friends: On the Advocacy Front Lines," a panel discussion will focus on successful advocacy efforts and the many ways in which Friends can make a difference. Thanks to Georgia de Araujo (Boyle County), Rene Hutcheson (Hardin County) and Lisa Rice (Warren County) for their participation as panelists.

FKL will also have a table in the Exhibit Area and we look forward to meeting many of you there. Conference registration information is available at www.klaonline.org. We hope to see you in Louisville!

Need for New Board Members

Do you believe in libraries and how important they are to their community? Do you believe in advocacy on a local, state and national level? Are you willing and able to give your time to this cause? If so, we may have the perfect opportunity for you.

The Friends of Kentucky Libraries Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization of volunteers supporting public libraries across Kentucky. Our mission is two-fold: to advocate for libraries on the national, state, and local levels; and to provide support for the formation and success of local Friends chapters.

We are always looking for new members willing to serve on our FKL board. Four to five board meetings are held each year in Frankfort. Technology allows board members to participate through audio conferencing. If you are interested in serving and would like more information please contact us at info@FriendsKyLibraries.org

Come join in the leadership of Friends of Kentucky Libraries!



Litigation Update

I know many of you are following closely the library lawsuits brought against the public libraries of Campbell and Kenton—which could potentially negatively impact most of our public libraries. At this time, the Kentucky Supreme Court has made no decision on whether they will review the Court of Appeals decision that was in favor of libraries. We will let you know whenever we hear anything new on this front.



NEWS FROM THE FIELD

501(c)(3) update

Congratulations to the Friends of Spencer County Public Library and the Friends of McLean County Public Library. Both Friends groups recently received 501(c)(3) federal tax exempt status. We believe this is an important step for Friends groups and we will be presenting each group with a \$400 grant to help with the costs associated with obtaining the status. We are hearing great reports on what these two groups are doing for their libraries!

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.



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For a membership application, visit www.FriendsKyLibraries.org.
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