



Friends CONNECT

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Page 1

Winter 2016-2017

**FRIENDS
OF KENTUCKY
LIBRARIES, INC**

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Inside this issue

KPLA & National Library Week	1
Library Legislative Day	2
Senate Bill 48 Update	3
Telling the Story	3
SOKY Bookfest	4
Casey County Pub. Lib. Grows	5
Casey County (cont.)	6
McCreary County Public Library	6
New Board Member -Lynn Kruger	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.

Look for Us at KPLA!

By Linda Stith

The Kentucky Public Library Association conference will be held April 19-21 at Griffin Gate Marriott Resort and Spa in Lexington. Again, this year the conference is "action-packed, fact-filled and information-rich!"

FKL is excited to sponsor a program at this event. "Friends Groups: Impacting the Community" will be presented at 11:00 AM on Thursday, April 20. A panel will discuss how Friends play a key role in educating our communities about why libraries and librarians are essential in this information society. The focus will be on the many ways Friends offer support and another "voice" for our libraries.

Program and registration information is available at kpla.org. Deadline for the early-bird discount is March 31.



We hope to see you there!

Friends and National Library Week

By Linda Stith

National Library Week (NLW) will be celebrated April 9-15. First sponsored in 1958, this special week is a time to recognize the many ways libraries are transforming their communities and the services and expertise they provide. It is also an opportunity to promote library use and support. It is fitting that this year's theme is "Libraries Transform."

During NLW, April 11 will focus on library staff. National Library Workers Day is a perfect opportunity for Friends chapters to recognize the hard work and dedication of their library's staff. "A public library is more than a building - it is staff ready to help customers of all ages search for knowledge, information, and entertainment."

What can Friends do? Friends can provide treats or lunch or small gifts. A heartfelt thank you note is calorie free and ready in minutes! Or why not nominate the staff as a Library Star. Visit ala-apa.nlwd.org and add your staff to the Gallery of Stars!



Library Legislative Day by Mary Lynn Collins

The Friends of Kentucky Libraries were an integral part of this year's Library Legislative Day, an annual event sponsored by the Kentucky Public Library Association's Advocacy Committee. Library supporters gathered at the State Capitol in the early morning of February 16. And we all agreed that there was a real buzz in the room—folks were excited and filled with purpose as they prepared to visit their legislators to talk about the importance of public libraries. And the Friends of Kentucky Libraries board members loved the opportunity to network with Friends who attended.

We were thrilled with the turnout. We had 142 participants there that day: 100 library staff people, 16 library trustees and 26 Friends. Delegations from libraries visited 28 senators and 61 representatives. Each legislator visited received a packet of our special M&Ms that say "Support Libraries" as well as a handout with background information about Kentucky libraries. The state friends board members delivered M&M packets to any legislators who did not get a visit from library supporters in their legislative district.

A number of participants attended the Orientation Session held the afternoon prior to Library Legislative Day and again our Friends were active in this effort. Ruthie Maslin, director of the Madison County Public Library, moderated the session and the Friends of Kentucky Libraries board member Mary Lynn Collins offered advice on how to navigate the Capitol campus and our President Judy Burdine provided tips on ways to effectively communicate with legislators. A special thank you to the Friends of Paul Sawyer Public Library who provided refreshments for the orientation session!



Directors Charlotte Keeney (Pulaski County) and Kay Morrow (McCreary County), Representative Ken Upchurch, Mrs. Daniel Cheshire and daughter Maddie, Friends of Pulaski County Library

If your Friends chapter did not send participants this year to Library Legislative Day, please consider doing so next year. We have been told that having friends as part of a library's delegation in this event is an effective way to demonstrate the strong community support our libraries have.



Henderson County Public Library Director, Caleb May (far right), attends Library Legislative Day along with other Region 2 librarians.



Judy Burdine (FKL President), Earlene Arnett and Linda Stith represent the Friends of Kentucky Libraries on Library Legislative Day.

We Asked and You Made the Calls

By Mary Lynn Collins

A big thank you to all of you who made the calls asking legislators to oppose Senate Bill 48, sponsored by Senator John Schickel and Senator Stan Humphries. This bill would have changed the statutory process for appointment of most public library trustees. Under current statutes, library boards, after review of their needs in terms of skills and diversity, submit two names for each vacancy on the board. After review by the State Librarian, the County Judge Executive, with approval of the fiscal court, chooses one of the two individuals to fill the vacancy. SB 48 would permit a County Judge Executive to ignore the nominations submitted by the library board if in the opinion of the County Judge Executive the two nominees are “unsuitable”—and to make an appointment without further input.

SB 48 was included on the February 8 agenda of the Senate State and Local Government Committee and we believe it was ready to move out of the committee and on to the Senate Floor. The Kentucky Public Library Association and the Friends of Kentucky Libraries quickly went into action and asked folks to call in opposition of the bill. On February 8, library supporters showed up and filled the front rows of the meeting room. We were there and made sure everyone had one of our “Libraries Have Friends” stickers to make sure legislators could quickly identify the library supporters in the room. The calls and contacts worked—the bill was not called up!

The good news is SB 48 appears to be dead this legislative session—a direct result of contacts our library staff and friends had with legislators, a huge grassroots effort. But Senator Thayer, Senate Majority Floor leader and supporter of SB 48, has indicated that he is interested in bringing forth a proposal next session to require library trustees to be elected. We will monitor discussions on this issue and will keep you updated. In the interim, we suggest you create opportunities like legislative meet and greets to bring our elected officials to our public libraries—to remind them of how integral our public libraries are to community life.

Again, thank you for your support of public libraries.

Telling the Library Story

By Linda Stith

We **know** we have an important story to tell. Our story brings the library's message to life. Stories are often about people who use our services and how they benefit. Libraries truly do change lives and it is vital that this is relayed to community leaders and decision makers at all levels.

Another effective way to tell the library story is by using carefully chosen statistics. At this year's Legislative Day, Lexington Public Library supporters brought a handout that clearly demonstrated the library's investment value. This handout showed the “story” of how each \$1 spent on the library generates a \$5.12 return to the public. Using FY2016 statistics such as materials circulated, public computer use and computer classes, meeting room use, library programs, reference questions, magazine and newspaper use and online research database sessions, the library showed how much money would be spent by library users if these services were obtained elsewhere. The numbers were impressive! Everyone appreciates a bargain and there is no greater bang for the buck than our public libraries!

What is your library story?! I bet it's a great one! So tell it.

Warren County Public Libraries & Friends of Libraries Support Southern Kentucky Book Fest 2017

By Linda Hitchcock

The SOKY Book Fest is in its 19th year of “Celebrating Literacy & the Love of Books”. Festival partners are Barnes and Noble Booksellers, Warren County Public Libraries and Western Kentucky University Libraries with a myriad of sponsors and volunteer supporters including the vital and active WCPL-FOL members. This two-day event is held annually on the fourth weekend of April— April 21-22 in 2017. Over 170 authors will congregate at WKU’s Knically Conference Center on Saturday, April 22 to meet their readers and sign books sold onsite. Friday’s events include Children’s Day, Teen Writers Conference and a Kentucky Writer’s Conference. It is an exciting, bustling time for librarians, authors and fans to gather and a costly event to present since admission is free to the greater Bowling Green, south-central Kentucky community. In addition to corporate and individual sponsors, the single biggest fundraiser is the Used Book Sale, held this year on March 3-4, 2017 at the WCPL-Bob Kirby Branch. Preview night, March 2, was packed with FOL members eager to purchase books, CDs, LPs, and DVDs for bargain prices of \$.50 for paperbacks and \$1.00 for hardbacks and media purchases. Sunday bargain hunters eagerly stuffed provided bags for \$1.00 each. All proceeds help underwrite costs of SOKY Book Fest.

Unsung volunteers, largely WCPL-FOL members, library staff and WKU librarians accept donations beginning in January, then spend long hours behind the scenes sorting and boxing books. Setup begins on Sunday when dividers open, chairs are removed from the multi-purpose conference and meeting rooms at the Bob Kirby Branch Library, long tables are set and spaced to allow for heavy traffic. Boxes are hauled in on dollies and carts. By Monday morning, eager volunteers begin the work of opening the heavy boxes and arranging the contents. It’s a herculean task made lighter by cheerful banter. The WCPL-FOL provides a small, well-organized “army” of book sale veterans who complete the set-up in one long day and are on-hand to assist patrons, restock tables and cashier during the sale. Friends of Kentucky Library Board members Linda Hitchcock and Lynn Kruger, who is also President of WCPL-FOL, assisted in the process. The cooperative efforts of Friends of the Library volunteers and librarians help make this annual fundraiser a smashing success.



Photos by John Hitchcock

Casey County Public Library Grows By Judy Burdine



Since it first opened its doors in 1976 in the house behind the present library (the house now known as The Annex), the Casey County Public Library has grown into the premier source of information, education, technology, and entertainment in Casey County. When the demands of its customers outgrew the building, an addition was added in 1991 and services were expanded to add computers, adult resource center, special collections, and much more. In 2016, with this second addition and renovation, we continued to try to keep up with the needs of our community by offering more space, technology, checkout items, accessibility, beauty, and comfortability. After spending 12 years applying for funding, we hope that our patrons will enjoy the results that this state-funded \$1.5 million grant has brought to this community.

Some of the highlights from the new addition and renovation include:

- an expanded children's area with children's play theater, manipulatives, computer station and iPad early learning kiosk
- activity/meeting/multipurpose room
- teen/YA room
- lounge/coffee/tea/food/relaxing area

Casey County Public Library Grows (cont.)

- new large print area
- study and reading quiet room
- ADA compliant bathrooms along with baby changing stations
- new Kentucky collection room
- additional computers & wireless stations with upgraded Internet capacity
- garden area
- larger help/circulation desk area with ADA compliant checkout areas
- expanded shelving in rich toned wood that allows for more “face out” displays
- larger display areas and boards for library and community events
- enlarged video and audio collection areas
- new staff and janitorial areas

We also unveiled a *Library Wall of Support* dedication wall where people can purchase "book plates" and have names engraved on them. This serves as a fund raiser for the library but also as a visual reminder of the many people that support the library.

The vision and mission of the Casey County Public Library is to continue to be a gateway to our community for quality services, information, and enjoyment through the 22nd Century – to enhance and contribute to information and enlightenment, stimulate imagination and curiosity, and provide a vibrant library where people want to be. The overwhelming positive response to our latest addition from the community point to those goals being met.

McCreary County Public Library—Making a Difference

By Judy Burdine

The staff of the McCreary County Public Library was recognized recently for their commitment to bring literacy skills to their local federal prison.

Inmates, who are normally not allowed physical contact with their families on visitation day, were rewarded for their participation in a class designed for helping them build better communicating skills with their children.



After successfully completing this class, inmates were allowed to hold their children during a story hour program delivered by the library staff.

This is just one of the varied ways this library is making a difference in their community.

From a left to right: The prison warden, Mr. Ormandy, Kay Morrow, Library Director, Holly Daughtery, Library Children's Services, and United States Prison Education Department Supervisor Mr. Bolar

Welcome to the FKL Board!

New Board Member, Lynn Kruger



Lynn moved to Kentucky in 2004 after retiring from Nationwide Insurance in Columbus, Ohio as a Computer Software/Disaster Recovery Specialist. She is currently president of the Board for the Warren County Friends of the Library (FOL) and is the administrator of the Friends social media platforms for Facebook and Twitter. She chairs the annual used book sale, schedules volunteers and works at the Polar Express event co-produced by the Warren County Public Library and the Historic Railpark. She also volunteers at the summer reading kick off event and for many of the author talks sponsored by the Warren County Public Library. She attends the annual Library Legislative Day in Frankfort to help advocate to our legislators for library interests. Her other interests are reading and animals. Lynn was awarded the 2016 Individual Outstanding Friend Award during the FKL Annual Meeting.

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 state
 legislative updates.



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