



# Friends CONNECT

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Fall 2016

**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.

## All Friends Needed in Frankfort on February 16, 2017

### Come Join Us!

by Wayne Onkst

For many years, librarians, Trustees, and library supporters have been going to Frankfort during each session of the General Assembly to advocate for libraries. Almost every day supporters of multiple causes come to Frankfort to meet with legislators. It is very important for library supporters to be in Frankfort so that libraries and the interests of the many library users across the state will not be overlooked. A major change in recent years is the number of Friends that have joined in this effort.



February 16 has been chosen for Library Legislative Day this year. Visits by library supporters and Friends will be especially important this year. In November the Republican Party won a majority of seats in the House of Representatives for the first time in almost 100 years. Almost 1/4 of the Representatives are new and the House of Representatives has a completely new leadership team. It is very important that the new members of the Legislature and particularly the new leaders be informed about library issues and know that their constituents are library supporters.

Important library issues will be considered during this legislative session. A bill has already been pre-filed to change the way library boards are appointed. Legislators may not understand that the existing process for appointing library trustees has worked successfully for more than 50 years. Disrupting this process would seriously compromise the independence of the public library that has served our communities so well.

We don't know what other issues might arise, but there are often surprises. We will be prepared to discuss those issues with legislators on February 16.

For those who haven't participated before, Library Legislative Day is a fun way to join with others to see government in action and support libraries in a special way. Please contact your local Friends President or your library Director and plan to join this effort on February 16.

**Save the Date**  
**February 16, 2017**

**WEAR YELLOW  
SAY LIBRARY**

**LEGISLATIVE DAY**

**Come to Frankfort!**

**FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN HELP**

## FKL Annual Meeting Summary By Linda Hitchcock

The 6<sup>th</sup> annual membership meeting of the board and Friends of Kentucky Libraries, a networking opportunity, was held on Saturday, November 5, 2016 at the Capital Plaza Hotel in Frankfort. The meeting, awards luncheon and round table discussions were well planned to allow participants to attend the Frankfort Book Fair in the adjacent conference center. The delightful Ann B. Ross, best-selling author of the now 18 book “Miss Julia” series, was the luncheon speaker. FKL Board President Judith Burdine is shown surrounded by door prizes generously gifted by attending librarians, friends and the trustees.



Judith Burdine



Ann B. Ross

KPLA Legislative Agent Ron Geoghegan and WCPL Executive Director and past Chair of the KPLA Advocacy Committee Lisa Rice addressed the group about “What Kentucky Library Advocates Need to Know Now.”

Lisa Rice was the recipient of the Outstanding Library Advocate Award. WCPL Friends President and Book Sale Chair Lynn Kruger was recognized with the Outstanding individual Friends Award. Hardin County FOL received the Outstanding Friends Chapter Award.

Officers for the coming year were elected. They are:  
Judith Burdine, President  
Lois Schultz, President-elect  
Susan Phelps, Secretary  
Carol Baughman, Treasurer  
Mary Lynn Collins, ex officio, Past President

Board member Earlene Arnett was also elected to serve a second term as board member.

### **A Warm Welcome to Our New Friends and A Big Thank You to Our Devoted Friends!**

We had a table at the Kentucky Book Fair describing our mission of networking, advocating, and assisting Kentucky Libraries. Membership forms were available for interested book fair goers to join. We rejoice that forty-seven individuals from throughout the state decided to join our group. We have new members from Anderson, Bourbon, Casey, Clark, Estill, Fayette, Floyd, Franklin, Graves, Jefferson, Laurel, Madison, Oldham, Pendleton, Pulaski, Scott, Warren, and Woodford Counties. An individual from the state of Tennessee decided to join. Welcome to all, and we hope you will become active members.

A big thank you goes out to the members of Friends of the Paul Sawyer Public Library that staffed the FKL membership table.

## FKL Annual Meeting Awards

### Outstanding Friends Chapter Award

The 2016 Outstanding Friends Chapter Award went to the Friends of the Hardin County Public Library which was formed in 2013 with thirty-two charter members. In just three short years they have raised over \$17,000 for the library.

Fund raising has resulted in the Friends providing some basic needs, as the Hardin County Public Library is not a special taxing district. They have purchased computer chairs, public computers, meeting room tables, and security cameras. They provide an added \$100 to the library's monthly book budget and sponsor author visits.

Making a difference goes beyond fund raising. Individual friends of the Hardin County group are visible in their community and beyond. As Marlane Youngblood, Chair of the Hardin County Public Library Board of Trustees, stated, "They encourage citizens to get involved in Frankfort at legislative days where our leaders hear their candid voices and concerns. They provide a unified voice to advocate for Kentucky libraries and in particular, they revitalize support for the Hardin County Public Library." The Friends have given support to library director Rene Hutcheson as they visited fiscal court to advocate for a special taxing district. Failure has not discouraged them as they will try again in the future.

Library Director Hutcheson says it best. "All of them have fun whenever they come together to work for the library's benefit. They have never shied away from hard work, personal giving, or speaking out for public libraries everywhere."



Accepting the award for the Hardin County Public Library Friends Group left to right are: Judith Burdine (FKL President), Jim Weise, Deb Weise, Beckie Henry, George Dille, and Rene Hutcheson.

### Outstanding Library Advocacy Award

The Friends of Kentucky Libraries (FKL) has announced the winner of the 2016 Outstanding Library Advocacy Award: Lisa Rice, Library Director at the Warren County Public Library. Rice was recognized for her strong leadership and support to libraries across the state.



Lisa Rice has been the Director of the Warren County Public Library since 2008. She is very active in the Kentucky Library Association where she is currently serving as ALA Councilor. Last year she served as Chairman of the KPLA Advocacy Committee and was selected by her peers as the recipient of the James Nelson Award which is given to an individual who goes above and beyond in promoting and protecting libraries in regard to government relations. Rice has also been a representative to National Library Day in Washington DC for a number of years.

## FKL Annual Meeting Awards (cont.)

### Outstanding Friend of the Library Award

Winner of the 2016 Individual Outstanding Friend Award was presented to Lynn Kruger from the Warren County Friends of the Library, Bowling Green, Kentucky.

Lynn is a dedicated long-time board member, currently in her second term as President of their FOL. As well as serving as the Book Sale Chair, Lynn is politically astute and an able organizer and supporter of “meet-and-greets” held at the library. She goes well beyond her duties as FOL President and frequently attends KLA Conferences, the 2015 FKL Conference and a recent board meeting held at the Laurel County Public Library in London, KY. Lynn attends conferences and travels at her own expense.



Linda Hitchcock said it best in her nomination application. “Lynn is one of those dedicated ‘worker bees’ that every Friends group needs: capable, prompt, friendly, welcoming, ever present and eager to work when needed and a constant, selfless library advocate without pushing forth a personal agenda.”

### Notes from FKL Annual Meeting 2016

**Roundtable topic:** *Libraries and Friends Playing Well Together* presented by Georgia de Araujo, Director, and Friends of the Boyle County Library

Bylaws of Friends chapters are vital and should outline their support for the needs and wants of the library (The Winter 2015-2016 issue of the FKL Newsletter contains a helpful sample Memorandum of Understanding)

Offering a free Friends membership to library staff is effective for cooperation and communication.

A wish list prepared by the library is helpful. This list can include items that are big or small and encourages staff to be creative and to formalize ideas. The Friends can fund new and innovative services and everyone wins!

Communication to Friends membership should include a summary of activities, library happenings, and projects sponsored by the Friends. This can lead to an increase in donations and participation as members see they are making a difference.

**A special thank you to FKL board member Linda Hitchcock for annual meeting photographs.**

## Meet and Greets 2016

Friends of Kentucky Libraries (FKL) congratulates those libraries and Friends that have held Meet and Greets (M&G) in the past few months. Attendance figures and reports are still being compiled and it is gratifying to see the number of libraries that consider this an annual and important advocacy activity.

To highlight only a few:

Corbin Public Library Friends combined the candidate Meet and Greet with a Chautauqua performance by Kelly Brengelman as Madeline McDowell Breckenridge. As a side note, Corbin Public Library is celebrating 100 years of service to the community!

Paul Sawyer Public Library's M&G is always well attended. This year's event received excellent newspaper coverage during an especially hectic election season.

Meade County Public Library held its annual Open House and included activities and stories for kids and tours of the library and bookmobile plus a book signing by a local author. Of course, there were refreshments and door prizes!

Woodford County's Friends held a delightful "Autumn Tea in the Countryside." This event took place on a beautiful farm and featured delicious food as well as a Chautauqua performance by George McGee as Henry Clay. In addition, teen volunteers were on hand to assist guests. This event was a successful Friends fundraiser and was attended by local officials and candidates.

With many new faces in the State Legislature, this is a critical time to build positive relationships with Representatives and Senators. FKL urges all libraries to contact new legislators and local officials with your 'library story.' Communicate your role as a vital resource and how your library serves the changing needs of your community. If the calendar permits, plan a reception or event and invite legislators. However you do it, remember to communicate and educate as you advocate!



The Friends of Corbin Public Library hosted their Meet and Greet in October. In their event, they celebrated the founding of the Library 100 years ago and paired the event with a Ky Humanities Council Chautauqua character-Madeline McDowell Breckinridge.

## CONGRATULATIONS COMMISSIONER MANUEL!

### Governor Bevin Appoints Terry Manuel as State Librarian



Governor Matt Bevin has appointed Terry Manuel, a 24-year employee with the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives (KDLA), as the new State Librarian and Commissioner of KDLA. Manuel has served as the Acting State Librarian/Commissioner since February 2016.

Terry is well known to library directors in our state. Terry has been an outreach librarian, a library director, a regional librarian, and on the staff of the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives serving in many consultant capacities. His twenty plus years of devotion to his profession certainly shows his deep passion for Kentucky 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.

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news, including state  
legislative updates.



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