



# Friends CONNECT

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Page 1

Spring 2017

**FRIENDS  
OF KENTUCKY  
LIBRARIES, INC**

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

### Inside this issue

FKL Represented in Washington	1
Washington, cont.	2
Bluegrass Book Buddies Program	2
Friends and KPLA	3
Why Your Membership is Important	4
FKL Sister City Grant	5
New Board Member	5
From the Field	6

### 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 Represented in Washington

By Wayne Onkst

On May 2, a delegation of 10 librarians and library supporters went to Washington to meet with each of Kentucky's Representatives and Senators or, in some cases, their staff members. I was pleased to represent the Friends of Kentucky Libraries in these meetings.

Prior to our meetings, we joined more than 500 library supporters from across the country at a briefing session provided by the American Library Association on library issues being considered by Congress. The good news from the briefing was that the omnibus budget bill for 2017 passed to avoid a government shutdown actually included \$1 million additional for the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA)! Thanks so much for all your calls to your Congressmen and Senators that helped make this possible.

For our visits to the Congressional offices, we focused on the funding process for 2018 in which the President's budget proposal eliminated all funding for libraries. This process is just beginning so it was a good time to discuss the importance of this funding with our Congressmen and Senators. We also discussed maintaining high quality internet access for libraries, supporting the e-rate reimbursement for libraries that has become so important, privacy, copyright, government documents and other issues.

The schedule allowed our delegation to visit each of the eight offices. I was able to meet with Representative James Comer, the staff of Senator McConnell, Senator Paul and his staff, Representative Yarmuth and his staff, and Representative Guthrie and his staff. Others in the delegation visited with Representative Massie's staff, Representative Rogers and his staff, and Representative Barr's staff.



Kentucky Libraries represented in Washington

## (Washington, cont.)

All the visits were very positive. Each of the Congressmen and Senator Paul expressed their appreciation for the work of libraries in Kentucky. Senator Paul expressed his interest in the library's workforce services and asked his staff to set up a visit at a Kentucky library where he could see what the libraries are doing. He also mentioned his concerns about the federal deficit, but noted that support for libraries is certainly not what busts the budget. His opinion is that growth of defense spending is out of control and eats up everything that is available for other programs.

Representative Guthrie - who is a big reader - talked to us extensively about books and also expressed strong support for libraries. He said he feels that the 2017 omnibus budget is closer to what Congress will do rather than the President's 2018 budget – good news for us.

Representative Yarmuth was also supportive and spent time listening to our issues. Representative Comer mentioned that his mother was on the board of the Monroe County Library and laughed that she made him participate in the Summer Reading Club. But he is very knowledgeable about what the library does and was very happy that the library in Monroe County just received a state construction grant.

We heard a lot of support for libraries and the Congressmen and their staff members listened to our stories of how Kentucky uses federal funding for libraries. With so many interests approaching our Congressmen every day, it is very important for library supporters to meet with our Congressional representatives and be heard. It is also important for library supporters across Kentucky to continue to reach out to these representatives during the year. Thanks to the Friends of Kentucky Libraries for allowing me to represent you in Washington.

## Bluegrass Book Buddies Program By Dave Schroeder

Library staff, Friends, trustees and literacy advocates from across the Commonwealth gathered in the Capitol rotunda in Frankfort on May 8 to kick off Lt. Governor Jenean Hampton's Bluegrass Book Buddies program (KYB3). Developed to increase literacy skills and to encourage a love of reading at all levels, the program was designed to be simple to follow and fun. KYB3 follows three easy steps.

- Choose a buddy to work with.
- You and your buddy select a book to read and discuss.
- You write a blurb about the book and your experience and post it along with a photo to social media using the hashtag #BluegrassBookBuddies or #KYB3.

The press conference included encouragement and support from Governor Matt Bevin, Lt. Governor Jenean Hampton and our own State Library Commissioner Terry Manuel, just to name a few. The capacity audience included library staff and friends from every corner of Kentucky. The color yellow could be seen in full force as well as the ever-popular yellow stickers provided by our state Friends group. More information can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MTIRAPv3apE>

Thanks to all who attended. The event allowed libraries to demonstrate our support for the Lt. Governor's initiative and to show, in a very public way, the importance of Kentucky libraries in the Commonwealth.



Dave Schroeder, President of KLA and Director of Kenton County Public Library and Lieutenant Governor Jenean Hampton

## Friends and KPLA By Linda Stith

The 2017 Kentucky Public Library Association (KPLA) conference was a huge success. It was packed with interesting and timely programs and speakers. FKL was delighted to be a part of it!

Our panel discussion, "Friends Groups: Impacting Your Community," was informative and focused on the many ways Friends offer support and another "voice" for our libraries.

Panelist and FKL Board Member Lynn Kruger discussed how the Warren County Friends assist with programs and offered practical tips on fundraising and using these funds for library and staff needs.

Charlotte Keeney, Director of Pulaski County Public Library, told how the Friends helped the library avoid a crisis that could have forced its closing. In 2012, the library tax became an issue and a petition drive was begun to dissolve the library special taxing district. The community and the library's Friends came to the rescue with a "Save the Library" campaign including signs and bumper stickers and effective use of social media. This action demonstrated how important the library is to the community and how the involvement of Friends and advocates is vital.

Donna Gibson, Paul Sawyer Public Library Director, addressed the relationship between the Friends and the library and its staff. She noted that she attends Friends board meetings with a place on the agenda. She is there to answer questions or express an opinion. Here are further excerpts from her presentation:

"Another significant and respectful part of the Friends/Library relationship is the attitude of the Friends . . . 'We the Friends group,' they state, 'work for the Library, not the other way around.' this creates great harmony . . ."

In addition to supporting the staff, the director, and the library, the Friends talk to EVERYONE about "the importance and joy of books, literacy, and libraries."

Thanks to these panelists for their excellent presentations! FKL welcomes suggestions for future programs and topics.



Panel left to right is Lynn Kruger, Donna Gibson, Director of Paul Sawyer Public Library; Charlotte Keeney, Director of the Pulaski County Public Library; Judith Burdine at podium.

## Why Your Membership Is Important

### By Judy Burdine

The Friends of Kentucky Libraries is an all-volunteer advocacy organization created to provide a unified voice of support for public libraries on the local, state and national levels. The more members we have, the bigger impact we have on the legislative process. We all know that the most successful advocates are the ones from the legislators' home districts. Therefore we encourage local friends organizations and/or local directors to host events at their libraries and invite their legislators to participate. Meet and greets that are held throughout the state have been one way that libraries have allowed their communities to meet their legislators. Other events can be successful as well. Summer reading programs provide an excellent venue for libraries to invite their legislators into the library to: read to the children, host a mini workshop on how to participate in the legislative process, pour tea at a tea party, present awards for reading the most books, and other such activities. We also advocate on the national level by sending one board member to participate in National Library Day in Washington, DC.



The other purpose for State Friends organization is to provide support for local Friends Chapters and encourage the growth of Friends Chapters in our state. We accomplish this in multiple ways. We provide grants through our Sister Library Grants and our 501(c)(3) filing projects. We travel, when requested, to local Friends Chapters to provide organizational support and advice on many topics. We host an Annual Meeting in November, giving Friends Chapters the opportunity to come together and discuss ways they can improve support to their libraries on both the local and state levels.

The Friends of Kentucky Libraries depends solely on membership dues and donations for operation expenses. All of our board members are volunteers. They receive no compensation for their work or time. They are dedicated individuals who believe in libraries. Your membership is vital to the success of this organization. We are depending on you.

There are several types of memberships

#### **Individuals:**

Regular member—\$10.00  
Sustaining Member—\$100.00  
Lifetime Membership—\$250.00

#### **Chapter Dues:**

Fewer than 150 members—\$25.00  
150-200 members—\$35.00  
More than 200 members—\$50.00

**Board of Trustee Memberships—\$25.00** or board members may choose to join individually.

**Corporation or Business—\$25.00**

If you have not paid your membership dues this year, please consider doing so and encourage your chapter to also join.

Dues can be mailed to:  
Friends of Kentucky Libraries  
P.O. Box 537  
Frankfort, KY 40602

The membership form can be downloaded from the Friends of Kentucky Libraries website.

<http://friendskylibraries.org/membership.html>

## FKL Sister City Grant



The Friends of Kentucky Libraries awarded a \$400 grant to the Estill-Madison Sister Libraries Partnership at the recent Kentucky Public Library Association meeting. The two libraries will use the grant to hold a joint staff development day. The Friends of the Madison County Public Library will provide breakfast for the staffs of the two library systems.

Pictured are from left to right: Ruthie Maslin, Director, Madison County Public Library; Judy Burdine, President, Friends of Kentucky Libraries; and Whitney Johnson, Teen Services, Estill County Public Library.

## Welcome Susie Lawrence to the FKL Board



Susie's library career began as Librarian for the Department of Mental Health. After spending twelve years at home with her children she became the director of the Jessamine County Public Library in 1992. That happy opportunity led to fifteen years of activity as the county and the library grew exponentially. In 2007 Susie "retired" and went to work at the Lexington Public Library for ten years. That was a completely different kind of experience but was equally intriguing as LPL went through its own transition.

Susie received her AA from Virginia Intermont College, BA and MLIS from the University of Kentucky. She has been active in the Kentucky Public Library Association serving as chair of the legislative committee for ten years. She received the KPLA Outstanding Public Service Librarian in 2002.

Susie is married to Nick Lawrence, who had the radio show *Curtains@8!* on WUKY for twenty-four years. They have three daughters and six grandchildren. Lawrence replaces the unexpired term of Susan Phelps.

" Looking back, I am grateful for choosing this profession. It has meant years of working in a field I love with awe-inspiring peers and staff. I'm delighted to be joining the Friends of Kentucky Libraries Board and look forward to working for public libraries in a new way."

- Susie Lawrence

## FROM THE FIELD

### Richardson/Conway Volunteer Award

“The purpose of this award is to recognize the contributions of an individual who serves at a Kentucky public library as a volunteer. This award is named in honor of Evelyn Richardson, who serves as a volunteer at the Logan County Public Library and Jane Conway, who served as a volunteer at the Lexington Public Library. Their exemplary support of public library staff and customers and dedication to public library services set a standard for others.”

<http://www.klaonline.org/docs/2009kplavolunteerward.pdf>



Here is Pauline Oliver, Madison County Public Library's 93-year-old volunteer, who won the Richardson-Conway Volunteer of the Year Award. The award was given by KPLA at their recent conference.

### 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.



Find us on  
**Facebook**

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For a membership application, visit [www.FriendsKyLibraries.org](http://www.FriendsKyLibraries.org).  
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