A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2018. I am your new president, and with your help I am looking forward to a great year. First, I want to thank the board members who completed their terms at the end of 2017:

- Judy Burdine, the President for the past two years
- Carol Baughman, former treasurer and web liaison
- Earlene Arnett, former newsletter editor
- Linda Hitchcock, Facebook overseer

The three new board members are Betty Ellison, from Fayette County, Janet Meyer from Franklin County, and Jim Weise from Hardin County. The Friends membership is growing and there are now 162 members.

Great things have already been happening in 2018. Legislative Day was a success on February 15. Over twenty Friends joined with the Library Board of Trustees and library staff to share with the Senators and Representatives the great services that libraries are providing to the citizens of Kentucky.

The Kentucky Public Library Association will be holding their spring meeting in Bowling Green on April 11—13. The theme is “Growing Communities through Helping Hands”. Friends are invited to attend. For information about the conference, visit the Kentucky Public Library website at kpla.org

National Library week is April 8—14. The theme is “Libraries Lead” and Tuesday, April 10, is National Library Workers Day. On Tuesday, let the library workers in your county know the valuable service they are providing. This year will mark the 60th anniversary of National Library Week. Library Week was first observed in 1958 with the theme “Wake Up and Read!”.

I hope to see many of you at KPLA spring meeting in Bowling Green.

—Lois Schultz

Lois Schultz, President of the Friends of Kentucky Libraries
Librarians, trustees, friends and library supporters gathered in Frankfort on February 15th, 2018, to advocate for libraries at our annual Library Legislative Day. The enthusiastic group visited senators and representatives and informed them about the great work libraries do in the Commonwealth and raised concerns about several bills that could have negative impacts on our services. Feedback from the event indicates we made some progress on these bills. A special thank you to all the members of our local friends groups and the state friends for their work on this event. We could not do it without you! The yellow M&M’s given to every member of the General Assembly by the Friends have become a tradition recognized by the legislators and provide a sweet reminder of libraries! We again demonstrated the importance of libraries to the Commonwealth and each year this importance grows.

By: Dave Schroeder & Wayne Onkst
NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK
is APRIL 8-14, 2018

“Discover your passions and achieve your goals at the library.” — MISTY COPELAND

MISTY COPELAND
National Library Week Honorary Chair
As the first African American principal dancer at the American Ballet Theatre, Misty Copeland’s leadership inspires young people to pursue their dreams regardless of the challenges they encounter. She is the author of several bestselling books, including Ballerina Body, published in March 2017.

LIBRARIES LEAD

ALA American Library Association
Library Champions
Libraries Transform®
MEMBERSHIP

By Lois Schultz

Our mission is 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 would like for you to join in our effort to support the libraries of Kentucky. By receiving this newsletter you may already be a member; if so, ask a friend to join. It may be that it is time to renew your membership. The categories of membership are Individual, Local Library Friends Chapter, Library Board of Trustees, and Business.

Benefits of membership are:

- Subscription to email listserv for Kentucky Library Friends
- Subscription to quarterly emailed newsletter
- Volunteer opportunities: short-term projects and long-term activities
- An opportunity to speak up for libraries in a unified voice

A membership form can be downloaded from the Friends of Kentucky Libraries website located at: http://friendskylibraries.org/membership.html

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

THANKS TO FKL LIFETIME MEMBERS

Carol Baughman, Franklin Co
Chuck Bianchi, Harlan Co
Linda and Jerry Bruckheimer, Nelson Co
John DeWitt, Kenton Co
James O. Dyer, Union Co
Joe Graviss, Woodford Co
John T. Mandt, Pulaski Co
Wayne Onkst, Kenton Co
Lois Schultz, Kenton Co
Ronald Sheets, Franklin Co
Donna F. Slaton, Hopkins Co
Margaret Q. Travis, Franklin Co
Lowry R. Watkins, Jefferson Co
Dr. Zella Wells, Johnson Co
Elaine A. Wilson, Pulaski Co
Charlann H. Wombles, Fayette Co
Famous American author Ray Bradbury once asked, “Without libraries, what have we?” and his answer was “We have no past and we have no future.” Most folks realize that libraries have been around since civilization began, with one of the first documented in Sumer (Mesopotamia) around 2,500 B.C. Perhaps the most famous library of all time was built in the third century B.C. in Egypt, The Library of Alexandria. For civilization and people to prosper, there must be libraries. No one in their right mind wants to live in a community without a library. However, some folks say that school libraries are enough for a community. Those same folks probably never darkened the door of any library, unless forced to do so by a teacher. The key to success is education and the key to education can be found in your local community centers, better known as your Public Libraries. Libraries provide a wealth of information for young and old, rich and poor, in books and on media, computers, and in classes of all kinds which are available to help you learn a new language, fill out a job application, brush up on your computer skills, learn healthy cooking, and how to get fit.

Today Kentucky faces a great deal of governmental belt tightening. Libraries just don’t flourish on their own. It takes money. With less revenue available in the near future for most, if not all Kentucky public libraries, it is even more important for the good people of our great Commonwealth to step up and support our public libraries, and the best way to do that, in my opinion, is to join your local Friends of the Library (FOL) group, or start a Friends group in your community. Where do you start? Ask your County Library Director for information and Google “Friends of Kentucky Libraries”. Help is available to get started and share ideas and information. You won’t be sorry. The problem may be that if you do not, you may lose your local library entirely or have its services diminished substantially to the detriment of your entire community. If your local FOL group gets organized and becomes a 501 (c) (3) philanthropic tax free organization, donations to the group can be taken off one’s taxes and the money can supplement your local library budgets. Please don’t delay. I close with a quote from Albert Einstein — “The only thing you absolutely must know is the location of the library.”

Respectfully,

Jim Weise
President, Hardin County Friends of the Library
Board Member, Friends of Kentucky Libraries
COMING UP! KPLA SPRING CONFERENCE

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11, 2018 – FRIDAY, APRIL 13, 2018
HOLIDAY INN AND SLOAN CONVENTION CENTER
BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY

CONFERENCE THEME: GROWING COMMUNITIES THROUGH HELPING HANDS

Conference highlights include:
Lois Lowry, beloved children’s author, will be the keynote speaker on Thursday, April 12, 2018 at 9 a.m.

James Higdon III, author of The Cornbread Mafia, will be the KPLA Awards Luncheon speaker on Thursday, April 12, 2018.

There will be a private and free showing to conference attendees of The Thing (1982), directed by Bowling Green native John Carpenter, at The Capital Arts Theater in downtown Bowling Green the evening of Thursday, April 12, 2018 – remember, the next day is Friday the 13th; general concessions will be available.

Terry Manuel, Kentucky State Librarian and Commissioner, will provide a state of Kentucky libraries address on Friday, April 13, 2018 at 8 a.m.

Lecia Brooks of the Southern Poverty Law Center will speak at 10 a.m. on Friday, April 13, 2018.

There will be four pre-conferences held on Wednesday, April 11, 2018

Over the course of Thursday, April 12 and Friday, April 13, fifty-six regular conference sessions will be held regarding best practices in librarianship, programming ideas, and many other aspects of library work; a tentative schedule, which will include the titles and descriptions of the conference sessions, will be made available in the near future on KPLA’s website: www.kpla.org.

MEET OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBERS

BETTY BOLES ELLISON

A journalist turned historian, Betty Boles Ellison is the author of six, soon to be seven, books, documentary scripts and has done research for CBS Television, David Grubin’s PBS production about Mary and Abraham Lincoln, the Texas Historic Commission and Kentucky’s former historian laureate Thomas C. Clark.

Her seventh book, a biography of Rachel Jackson, the wife of Andrew Jackson, will be published next year by McFarland.

During graduate school at the University of Kentucky, Mrs. Ellison worked on The Kentucky Encyclopedia as both a fact-checker and the author of a numerous entries in both the printed and electronic editions.

Mrs. Ellison’s books have been featured in events at the Filson Historical Society in Louisville, The Kentucky Book Fair in Frankfort, and the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum in West Branch, Iowa, where she gave a televised lecture on Mary Todd Lincoln.

Her biography, The True Mary Todd Lin-

JANET MYER

Janet Myer is a member of Friends of Paul Sawyier Public Library, Franklin County.

JIM WEISE

Jim is a graduate of Randolph-Macon College (B.A.), University of Virginia School of Law (J.D.), Georgetown Law Center (LL.M.), The Judge Advocate General’s School, Army, Graduate Course (LL.M. equivalent), and The Army’s Command & General Staff College. He is a retired Army lawyer, President of the Board for Feeding America, Kentucky’s Heartland, President of the Friends of the Hardin County Public Library, Board Member of the Hardin County History Museum, GOP Commissioner on the Hardin County Board of Elections, Past President of the Elizabethtown Lions Club, Past President of the Fort Knox Leadership Association, Past Chairman of the Hardin County Republican Party, Past 2d District GOP Chairman, Past President of the Hardin County Historical Society, Past Moderator of Living Faith Baptist Fellowship, Past President of the Elizabethtown High School Academic Boosters, Registration Coordinator for 2017-2018 Room In the Inn, Elizabethtown, a member of the Garden Club of Elizabethtown, a Kentucky Colonel, and an Honorary Kentucky Admiral. Jim is married to the former Deborah Downs Blythe. They have two children and seven grandchildren.
GUEST SPEAKERS

The 7th annual Friends of KY Libraries meeting was held on November 18, 2017 at Spindeltop Hall. Sponsors for the meeting were Hilliard Lyons (7 years in a row) and Only Libraries.

Guest Speaker, Jeff Busick, Legislative Agent, Kentucky Public Library Association spoke to the members in attendance about Grassroots Lobbying—How Friends Make a Difference.

“It is very important that the Friends reach out to their local reps and voice their support for the libraries—as voters, we make a huge difference—call in or send in writing information you are concerned about to your elected officials; Encourage your legislators by attending their local events, inviting them to Library events, and utilize your Library Board members for advocacy”.

Lunch Speaker, Silas House, a Kentucky novelist, US Bestseller, journalist, playwright, environmental activist, and Berea College professor read a wonderful essay about his childhood in Laurel County, KY, and how he was affected by his 7th grade English teacher, who led him to the public library, and, ultimately, a writing career.

At the end of his session, Mr. House provided signed copies of Eli the Good to 5 members in a random drawing.

AWARDS

A grant of $400 to George Coon Public Library for 501(c) status with the IRS—the grant is to be applied toward fees and costs for an Attorney to set up their 501(c)

Chapter Award for Outstanding Friends Chapter went to Paul Sawyier Public Library. Their group now has 500 members, 80 volunteers working in the Bookstore, 2 outreach vans, and has counted attendance at the Summer Reading program at 12,000. They are the host of a monthly cable series titled “At Your Library”.

Outstanding Friend was awarded to Christie Robinson of the Scott County Public Library—she has been a member of the Friends for many years, President for 2 years, and handles many responsibilities for her Friends group.

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS

Breakout sessions at the end of the meeting for roundtable discussions included:

1) Libraries and Friends Playing Well Together—Rene Hutcheson, Director, Hardin County Public Library
2) Best Fundraisers—Jan Banks, Director, Casey County Public Library
3) Effective Expenditure of Friends Funds—Pat Thomas, President, Friends of Paul Sawyier Public Library, Franklin County

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

Judy Burdine, Past President of FKL for the past 2 years
PHOTOS FROM THE FKL 2017 ANNUAL MEETING

Lynn Kruger, Friends Board Member; Lisa Rice, KPLA Advocacy Committee, and Silas House, Author and speaker at the Friends luncheon

Terry Manuel, Commissioner for the Dept. for Libraries and Archives

Lisa Rice with Friends Board members Linda Hitchcock & Lynn

Mary Lynn Collins, Past President of the FKL and Board Member Lynn Kruger from Bowling Green

REQUEST FROM THE FRIENDS OF HARDIN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Friends of the Hardin County Public Library (FOL) need your help. Members of FOL are community volunteers who raise money to help our Hardin County Public Library in any way we can. Membership is open to all who wish to help our county public libraries. Recently FOL has obtained its 501c3 tax exempt status which means any and all contributions to FOL are tax deductible. Our primary fundraising thus far has been from our twice-a-year book sales at the main branch of the library, 100 Jim Owen Drive, Elizabethtown. The upcoming book sale will be at the main branch on 19-21 April. Set up will be on 18 April and FOL would appreciate volunteers to help set up beginning at 2 PM on 18 April. It takes a long time to set up the tables and bring out all the books which have been donated by community members to FOL for our book sale. Pizza for dinner will be available to those who work on 18 April to help set up for the book sale. FOL officers are: President Jim Weise, Vice President Nancy Schramm, Secretary Becky Henry, and Treasurer, Gayle Rightmyer. The director of the Hardin County Library is Rene Hutcheson and she does a great job managing our county library system, but Rene is not a miracle worker and library funds will probably be reduced by the Commonwealth in the near future which will likely have an adverse impact on libraries within Hardin County. This is where the good folks of Hardin County come in. FOL needs your generosity to help our libraries continue to be the excellent centers of the community that they are, which includes the main branch in Elizabethtown, the North Branch in Radcliff, and the Bookmobile. Funding for our Hardin County Library comes primarily from our Fiscal Court and a smaller amount from Frankfort. Hardin County is not part of a library taxing district. Your donations to FOL will definitely have a very positive impact within our community. Our libraries have much to offer to those of all ages in Hardin County whether adults, students, or small children. Libraries are the key to success for all. R. David Lankes stated “Bad libraries build collections; good libraries build services; great libraries build communities”. Please join us in supporting our county libraries as we help build our community around our great Hardin County Public Library. Email us at friendsofhardincopubliclibrary@gmail.com or call (270) 766-1073 for more information. Visit www.hcpl.info to learn more about our Hardin County libraries including the "Adopt An Author" program. You won’t regret it.

NEWS FROM THE FIELD—KPLA ADVOCACY

On the icy morning of February 12 Carly Gil, Mary Landrum, Tonya Head, and Lois Schultz hung the Read Posters in the Capitol Annex Hallway and the tunnel between the Capitol and the Capitol Annex. The Read Posters Project was started by the KPLA Advocacy Committee in 2008. The Governor, First Lady, and all of the state’s constitutional officers and the entire General Assembly have their pictures taken with their favorite books. This program is in support of reading, literacy and Kentucky’s public libraries. These posters generate discussion by individuals as they walk through the hallways. It interesting to see the books that individual have been selected.

Book Fair, with Past Governor Steve Beshear

Lois Schultz, President of the FKL, at our booth at the Kentucky Book Fair
As of November, 2017, Kentucky Public Libraries include 87 branch libraries, 119 Main libraries, 74 bookmobiles, and 66 outreach vehicles. KY Public Libraries circulated 17.8 million books in Fiscal Year Ending 2015, and 17.3 million in Fiscal Year Ending 2016—a decrease of 2.9%. However, electronic materials are certainly on the rise, with new electronic materials acquisitions increasing 19%, increasing the overall collection to nearly 2.4 million audio-books, 300,000 videos, and over 11.7 million e-books. Electronic material circulation has increased by 8.1% last year and is now at 2.9 million. Libraries reported a 12.7% increase in wireless sessions, now at 4.2 million. Kentucky is the 7th leading state in public use of internet computers, per outlet.

Registered library users are on the rise, with an increase to 2.6 million—nearly 60% of all Kentuckians. Attendance at library programs rose by 10.5%, to 2.4 million.

Over 88,000 meetings took place in KY libraries last year—that averages out to 1 meeting every 6 minutes, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days per year.

Friends of Kentucky Libraries, Inc.
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Frankfort, KY 40602-0537
WWW.FriendsKYLibraries.org

We are now on Twitter!
@KYLibFriends
Follow us for the latest library news, including state legislative updates.

We will promote ANY Kentucky public library book sale (periodic or ongoing) on our website and through our Facebook page. To get free advertising for your next book sale or your continuous book sale from the Friends of Kentucky Libraries, Email info@FriendsKyLibraries.org and tell us:
the name of the group holding the sale, name of the library, location of the sale (including street address for mapping), dates and times the sale will be open, name, email address, and phone number of a contact person (please indicate whether we may publish the contact information on our website).

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 though this newsletter.

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