Friends CONNECT

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

BY WAYNE ONKST

Recently a Kentucky librarian described his day in one of our public libraries: “I assisted a lady who was developing her resume and a senior who was preparing his tax return. I found the next book in a series for a reader and helped a college student locate a resource for a term paper. A new resident in town was connected with a book club and I provided books on a health issue for a resident.” And this was all before noon! It is the purpose of The Friends of Kentucky Libraries to support this type of library service across Kentucky. We do this by encouraging the formation of local Friends groups, by supporting existing groups, and by advocating for libraries on the local, state, and federal levels.

The Board of the Friends of Kentucky Libraries has exciting plans for supporting our libraries in 2019. We are welcoming three new board members: Paula Franklin from Paducah, Jennifer Kaminski from Owensboro, and Christie Robinson from Georgetown. We will begin the year by advocating for public libraries at Library Legislative Day on February 14. The Friends provide a treat of M&Ms for legislators as we ask them to love their library on Valentine’s Day.

For the first time, the Friends of Kentucky Libraries will be offering grants to Friends groups and local libraries for special projects that help build library service. We will be participating in the annual KPLA conference in March, the Southern Kentucky Bookfest in April, National Library Legislative Day in May, and the Kentucky Book Festival in November. Look for exciting details about our annual meeting coming later this year. In the meantime, we will be assisting existing Friends chapters and working with communities that want to establish new Friends groups.

We encourage you to join us in supporting quality library service for Kentuckians. If you have an interest in any of these activities, please contact me at wayneonkst@fuse.net or a member of the Friends board. Our public libraries play an essential role in our communities. It is critical that we support this service to insure that future Kentuckians continue to have access. We look forward to working with you in support of our libraries during 2019!

— Wayne Onkst
2018 YEAR IN REVIEW

By Lois Schultz

After a rough start, the Friends of Kentucky Libraries experienced a great year. The year started with no newsletter editor and no web master. Those are not easy jobs to fill. Even on a more drastic level, it appeared that state aid for public libraries and construction grants were being eliminated from the state budget. Thanks to your calls, emails, letters, and personal contacts, I can say both state aid and funding for public library construction grants were restored. Thanks for all of your efforts!!!

Thanks to Eunice Murphy, for agreeing to serve as newsletter editor in addition to being secretary. We had three very informative and attractive newsletters this year. I understand another one is to be published soon. She has also started digitizing the old newsletters and they are being added to the web site.

We found a web master to do the web site – Michael Wells, who is now director of the library at Thomas More University. Our web site is being used. Since January 2, 2019 to today (January 6, 2019) the site has had 40 visits. That is an average of ten per day. We had several local friends’ chapters this year to ask for their books sales to be posted. Just this week we posted information about an upcoming Valentine’s program at the Mary Wood Weldon Memorial Library. If you haven’t visited our web site recently, take a few minutes to browse it. The old newsletters that are being digitized provide an interesting history of our organization.

The annual meeting on November 17 at Spindletop was an informative filled meeting. Dave Schroeder and Ron Geoghegan shared advocacy tips, Martha Nest presented a financial literacy primer, Crystal Wilkinson inspired and charmed us with readings from some of her writings, and Betsy Tipton-Gries and Dr. Susan Willis delighted us with music and singing during lunch. Terry Manuel, State Librarian & Commissioner shared accolades about Kentucky Libraries that we can be delighted about. Some are:
The largest fleet of bookmobiles and outreach vehicles in the nation
203 certified trustees
1,486 certified library personnel
Kentucky is one of a few states to offer a course for trustee fiscal responsibility

Your evaluations gave us one goal to work on for next year’s meeting. You like the meeting being held in conjunction with the Book Fair. However, you want our meeting short enough to allow you plenty of time for Book Fair. We will strive to reach that goal next year.

Memberships for 2019 are arriving daily. I want to encourage you to send in your dues if you haven’t. Also, encourage your friends, your library’s friends chapter and your library board to join. We want you and the people of Kentucky need you.

If you need help in starting a friends group, we have members who have the expertise to help you. They are willing to travel to your library to speak with a group that is interested in forming a friends’ chapter. There are informative documents on the web site that you may want to read or review. One is Establishing a Friends Library Chapter in the Assistance section on the Events Tab. There are other resources in the Resources Tab.

I thoroughly enjoyed being your president in 2018. I look forward to a great year under Wayne Onkst’s leadership.

— Lois Schultz

UPCOMING FRIENDS OF KY LIBRARIES EVENTS

FEBRUARY 14—LEGISLATIVE DAY AT THE CAPITOL
MARCH 27-29—KPLA
APRIL 7-013—NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK
APRIL 27 SOUTHERN KY BOOK FEST IN BOWLING GREEN
Crystal Wilkinson was our special guest speaker for the annual meeting. Crystal is the award winning author of "The Birds of Opulence." She spoke about her childhood with her beloved grandparents, growing up in rural Kentucky as one of the only black families in the area, and how a love of books influenced her to find her voice with her own writing.

More information can be found on her website: CrystalWilkinson.net
MARTHA NEST

A Financial Literacy Primer for the Friends of Kentucky Libraries
An interactive workshop exploring the internal controls appropriate for a very small nonprofit presented by Martha A. Nest, EA

Martha is an Enrolled Agent practicing in Bardstown, KY. She offers tax planning and preparation for individuals and small businesses all over the US. She has been a member of NATP since 1998 and currently serves as Vice President and Education Chair of the Kentucky Chapter. Her primer was distributed amongst all attendees and will be made available online at a later date.

PHOTOS FROM THE FKL ANNUAL MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 17, 2018 AT SPINDLETOP

54 Members attended the Annual Friends of KY Libraries meeting—photos by Lois Schultz & Nelda Moore

Surprise cake for Elaine Wilson who was celebrating her birthday—photo by Lois Schultz

KDLA Commissioner Terry Manuel presenting the State of Public Libraries in KY—photo by Lois Schultz

Music by Betsy Tipton-Gries and Dr. Susan Willis—photo by Lois Schultz

Boyle County Friends attended with their bookmobile—photo by Eunice Murphy
This year’s Outstanding Small Friends chapter was presented to the Friends of the Scott County Public Library. The Friends of the Scott County Public Library was established in 1975 but has been revitalized in the last 3 years with 94 active members. The SCPL Friends have been active in many areas.

For advocacy, each year the Friends wear their yellow scarves and join with librarians from across Kentucky to meet with legislators and advocate for libraries. They advocate on the local level by attending events such as the International Kite Festival and the Georgetown/Scott County Airfest to promote the Friends and the library.

To promote literacy, the Friends believe every child should have books to call their own. Their Celebrate with Books program puts as many books into the hands of children as possible sometimes giving children the first books of their very own. During the past year, the Friends provided books to three summer reading camps, to students in special reading clubs in Scott County’s middle and high schools, to all participants in the Battle of the Books competition, to Family Resource Centers, and for hospital and health department waiting rooms.

The Friends provide a scholarship each year to someone pursuing a career in a library or related field.

For the library staff, the Friends purchased a picnic table with an umbrella and a literacy bell for the library’s new children’s patio. For the past two years, the Friends have sponsored an annual staff recognition event and paid for goodies for the staff during national library week.

In December, the Friends assist with the Polar Express, a series of programs held inside a train car in Sadieville. They also assist with the gingerbread house making and play out loud programs.

The Friends funded performers for the Summer outreach programs, makerspace materials, and an adult writing program.

With the opening of their new library, the friends operate their own bookstore in the library.

The 2018 Outstanding large Friends group was awarded to the Friends of the Lexington Public Library. The Friends of the Lexington Public Library is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

The Friends support the six library locations by operating a bookstore in the lower level of the Central Library fondly known as the Friends Book Cellar. They employ three part time staff and use 50 regular volunteers to staff with mini locations at each library. From proceeds of the sale of books, they return $75,000 to the library each year.

As for some of the projects of the LPL Friends, they partnered with the library on the Tiny Libraries project to provide books for sharing everywhere in the city. The project has 25 locations with 20 more planned at parks, community centers, homeless shelters, neighborhoods.

The Friends helped fund a voucher for a free book to anyone who finished Summer Reading program. They also sponsored Camp Digital - a collection of classes and workshops for aspiring techies ages 12 to 17. They purchased a new vehicle for the library’s outreach services to assist in getting story-time programs to daycares and childcare facilities. The Friends sent a delegation to Frankfort to participate in Library Legislative Day and advocate with Fayette County’s state legislators. The Friends also worked hard on social media for advocacy and added 200 names to Friends membership.
It is that time of year again – Legislative Day!

Here is the rundown:

Orientation (for first time attendees, anyone who wants a refresher or wants a detailed look at our ask for the year): February 13, 2019, 4:30 p.m. at the Paul Sawyier Library in Frankfort.

Legislative Day is February 14, 2019. Check-in will be in the Capitol Annex cafeteria like last year. Please remember to check in that day before you head out to visit your legislators and remember you must have a photo id to get into the Annex. Our state Friends groups has M&Ms to pass out to all our legislators. There will be a concluding rally this year in the rotunda (more details to follow). Please begin making your appointments with your legislators soon. You can find contact info here: http://www.lrc.ky.gov/

We will be sending out a handout for you to use as we get closer to the day.

Thanks to the wonderful members of the Advocacy Committee for pulling things together again this year!

Thanks,
Dave Schroeder

Each year we encourage our members and friends to participate in Library Legislative Day in Frankfort. The Kentucky Public Library Association provides information about proposed legislation having an impact on libraries, and library supporters visit their legislators to discuss the issues.

Library Legislative Day is designated each year to concentrate the awareness of the legislators on libraries of all types across Kentucky. Librarians from all over the Commonwealth visit with their legislators in Frankfort on this day. In 2013, Kentucky’s public libraries received a special honor as Library Legislative Day (February 20) was declared Public Library Day by the Kentucky Senate and House.

On Legislative Day, library supporters are asked to wear yellow. A unified color lends strength to the overall voice that we share on that day.

Find info about your legislators: http://www.votesmart.org

SHOW UP! WEAR YELLOW! SAY LIBRARY!

2019 FKL MEMBERSHIP
If you have not yet paid your 2019 membership dues, please consider renewing or joining! Information about membership can be found on
MEET OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBERS

PAULA FRANKLIN

Paula Franklin received her BS and MS degrees from Murray State University. She taught high school chemistry and physics for 33.5 years in the same school system in Southern Illinois. After retiring, Paula worked for three years at the Challenger Learning Center on the campus of WKCTC in Paducah. With more free time, she was able to become more active in the local Friends of McCracken County Public Library. Paula served on the Friends Board of Directors before serving as Vice-President/President Elect. She is currently finishing her term as the Friends BOD President.

JENNIFER KAMINSKI

Jennifer is a native of Bardstown, Ky. She tells the tale that she was born in the library! (When Flaget Memorial built a new hospital, the Nelson County Public Library moved into the former hospital). Jennifer earned a bachelor’s degree in Advertising and a minor in Business Administration from Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, Ky. She has worked for four newspapers, including the Messenger-Inquirer in Owensboro, Ky. After several years at the M-I, she switched to health care marketing for River Valley Behavioral Health and Owensboro Medical Practice. She has been a Communications Specialist/Graphic Designer for the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph in Maple Mount, Ky., since 2005.

Jennifer has been secretary of the Friends of the Daviess County Public Library for 10 years. In 2018, she was awarded the national Friend of the Library grant from United for Libraries which paid for her attendance at the American Library Association conference in New Orleans. She has also been on the board of the international Communicators for Women Religious (2014-16). She is vice chair of the Daviess County Democratic Woman’s Club and a member of the Daviess County Democratic Party communications committee. She volunteers for other organizations such as Hospice and Nonviolent Owensboro.

Jennifer and her husband, Chris, have two grown children. Their daughter is a CPA in Lexington, Ky., and their son is a software developer in Seattle.

CHRISTIE ROBINSON

Early in Christie Robinson’s work life/career, she taught elementary school, migrating to Montessori teaching when she obtained a Directress Degree from the Michigan Montessori Center. Raising 3 children subsequently became her focus, and, as her children grew, she began working at UK libraries, pursuing a Masters Degree in Library and Information Science, and then worked several years in library conversion projects for the community colleges. She has served in a variety of library positions with Kentucky’s independent colleges, the University of Kentucky, and Sullivan University. The final part of her career she had the privilege of serving Kentucky’s libraries as Director of Administrative Services/Deputy Commissioner for 15 years, retiring in 2009. With energy remaining that needed to be channeled, she went back to school, received a Real Estate license, and practiced Real Estate in Georgetown for 4 1/2 years. Since 2014 she has served her community through organization and board work.
STATISTICS FOR KENTUCKY LIBRARIES IN 2018

DID YOU KNOW? FACTS ABOUT LIBRARIES FROM THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

• Reference librarians in the nation’s public and academic libraries answer nearly 6.6 million questions weekly. Standing single file, the line of questioners would span from Miami, Florida, to Juneau, Alaska.

• Americans go to school, public and academic libraries more than three times as frequently as they go to the movies.

• There were 96.5 million attendees at public library programs in 2013, more than all Major League Baseball and NBA games combined.

• College libraries receive fewer than three cents of every dollar spent on higher education.

• Students make almost 1.3 billion visits to school libraries during the school year, the same as attendance made to movie theaters in 2014, or four times as many visitors to national parks.

• 73% of public libraries assist patrons with job applications and interviewing skills.

• 77% of public libraries offer online health resources.

• 95% provide online homework assistance

• 68% help patrons use databases to find career openings

• 36% offer work space for mobile workers

Learn more at www.librariestransform.org

Sources:
ALA Office for Library Advocacy; ALA Office for Research and Statistics; All facts compiled in 2017.
MEMBERSHIP in the Friends of Kentucky Libraries, Inc
brings you:

- a network of library supporters across the Commonwealth sharing ideas and news
- assistance in creating or revitalizing a local Friends of the Library chapter
- a unified voice advocating support for your library and all Kentucky libraries

Who Should Join?
- any friend of the library
- groups and businesses
- libraries
- trustees
- library staff members
- in other words...YOU!

Annual Individual Membership
- regular member $10.00
- sustaining member $100.00
- lifetime member $250.00
(payable one time only)

Annual Friends Chapter Membership
- fewer than 150 members $25.00
- 150-200 members $35.00
- more than 200 members $50.00

Would You Volunteer to?
- work on a committee
- work on a short term project
- serve on the board

Annual Library Board of Trustees
- $25.00

Annual Business or Corporation
- $25.00

Name: ____________________________ County: ____________________________

Address: __________________________

City: ____________________________ State: ____________________________ Zip: ____________________________

Contact E-mail: ____________________________ Phone ____________________________

Would you like to be added to our electronic discussion list for Friends? _____ Yes _____ No

Occasionally, FKL may choose to thank and acknowledge our members by publishing their names in library related literature. If you do NOT want your name published, please check here: __________

Your contact information is confidential and will not be shared with any other organization or agency. Contributions above the basic membership level further support Friends of Kentucky Libraries' mission and are greatly appreciated. All membership donations and gifts to Friends of Kentucky Libraries, Inc., a 501(c)3 public charitable organization, are tax deductible to the extent of the law.

Follow us on Facebook - Friends of Kentucky Libraries

Send this form with your payment to:

Friends of Kentucky Libraries Inc. P O Box 537 Frankfort, KY 40602-0537
The Daviess County Public Library in Owensboro, Ky., undertook a 2nd floor renovation of its Children’s and Teen areas, and to celebrate, it hosted an Open House on Saturday, October 29, 2018. There was a steady stream of visitors from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. The estimated total attendance was 300, with lots of families and children of all ages.

This also happened to be National Friends of the Library Week! The Friends of the Daviess County Public Library were able to provide support by working at the welcome table in the front lobby. Their duties included: Greeting attendees, directional advice, handing out free gifts to the first 100 participants (these were gone in about 30 minutes!), keeping track of attendance, and promoting their group by soliciting for membership. They were able to obtain a few new Friends who filled out membership forms during the Open House, plus a potential new Friends board member.

In addition to the support of working at the event, the Friends provided financial support for the marketing efforts of the Open House. They paid for mailers, 3D invitation boxes that were hand-delivered to community leaders, and door prizes that were given out at the Open House. The door prizes included a Lite Brite for younger children and a gift card for teenagers. The Friends also paid to provide finger foods from a local caterer, including fresh fruit, cookies, quiche tarts and various drinks.

In addition, the Friends helped pay for decorations, so there were lots of colorful balloon arches and sculptures. There was even a big balloon photo frame for picture taking. Balloon twisters were there to make animal balloons for the children.

The children loved their new spacious play areas in the library! The remodeling began in the spring, when the Friends helped with a pop-up Book Sale to clear out some books. The goal was to enclose the children’s area with glass to make it more secure and to provide more play areas. The library also created a new place specifically for teens and added a family bathroom.

The Open House received coverage from multiple media outlets, such as WFIE TV, the Messenger-Inquirer (Owensboro’s daily newspaper), and the Owensboro Times.

— Submitted by Jennifer Kaminski
501(c)3 REIMBURSEMENT

To encourage new Friends groups, the State Friends of Kentucky Libraries offers grants of $400 to reimburse local Friends groups for expenses incurred in obtaining the 501c3 status. These grants are given within 6 months of the local friends groups obtaining 501c3 status. For more information, please contact a member of the board of the Friends of Kentucky Libraries. Please contact Wayne Onkst at wayneonkst@fuse.net with any questions about this Reimbursement Grant!

CHOCOLATE AROUND THE WORLD — MARY WOOD WELDON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Chocolate around the World
Saturday, February 9, 2019, 9:00 am-3:00 pm
Celebrate Valentine’s Day with treats, gifts, and a chocolate tasting at the library. The Friends of the Library are hosting their annual sweet winter event, Chocolate Around the World, on Saturday, February 9 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at the library at 1530 S. Green St. in Glasgow. Sample chocolate from 3 countries for $2 or from 6 countries for $3 and vote for your favorite. Chocolate from Belgium, Ghana, Poland and Switzerland are among the countries represented in the chocolate tasting this year. Books, CDs, movies and delicious baked goods for you and your Valentine will be available for purchase. As an added treat, meet children’s author Ethan Goodrum, who will be selling and autographing his picture book “Night Derby”. Goodrum grew up in Versailles, Kentucky, and was always fascinated with the horse statues throughout the city of Lexington. His beautifully illustrated book imagines the horses as they come to life and race through the city at night. Readers of all ages will also learn fascinating facts about our beautiful state of Kentucky.

For more information, please contact Wayne Onkst at wayneonkst@fuse.net with any questions about this Reimbursement Grant.

FREE ADVERTISING FOR YOUR LOCAL BOOK SALE!

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 lois.e.schultz@gmail.com 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).

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FRIENDS OF KENTUCKY LIBRARIES

FROM THE EDITOR

We want to hear from you!

The Friends CONNECT Newsletter wishes to highlight Friends' chapters across the state. Please continue to 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.

FriendsCONNECT is published quarterly by the Friends of Kentucky Libraries, Inc.

For a membership application, visit https://friendskylibraries.org/

Send editorial contributions, articles, and news releases to Eunice Murphy, editor, at: emerfi@gmail.com