



Friends CONNECT

www.FriendsKyLibraries.org

**FRIENDS OF
KENTUCKY
LIBRARIES, INC**

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KENTUCKY**

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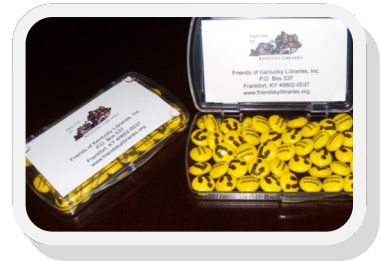
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Our Mission:

- to advocate for public libraries on the local, state, and national level;
- to provide support for the formation and success of local Friends chapters.

FKL Supports Library Legislative Day 2013

The Friends of Kentucky Libraries once again donned yellow clothing and came to Frankfort 49 strong on February 20th in support of the KPLA sponsored Library Legislative Day. FKL brought with them a special calling card for each member of the General Assembly. Actually it was a business card holder with yellow M&Ms candies imprinted with the library emblem and the message: "Support Libraries!"



After visiting with individual legislators, participants convened in the Capitol Rotunda for a Rally for Libraries at noon.

Friends came from far and wide—from Pikeville to Paducah; from Covington to Franklin—they convened at the state capitol wearing yellow and asking legislators to support certain proposed legislation and defeat other bills or amendments.



Library supporters gather in the Rotunda

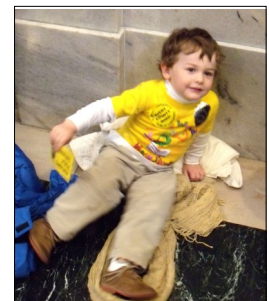
Friends who could not join us for the day are asked to send a message of support for public libraries by calling the Legislative Research Commission Message Line: 1-800-372-7181. It is easy and the message line is open even in evening hours. You can find your specific legislators, along with their email addresses, at <http://www.lrc.state.ky.us/legislators.htm>.



FKL Board members Stoops and Boyd confer

This is a legislative session that could have significant impact on special taxing districts public libraries, which include all but 10 of the state's libraries. Two bills of particular interest are HB-1 on Special Taxing Districts, which include 10# of our libraries, and SB-20, which would change how library trustees are appointed. [Read more details about these bills on page 2.]

During this legislative session, FKL will be monitoring proposed legislation closely and will post updates on the Friends listserv and our Facebook page. If you are not already on our listserv but would like to be, please contact: MaryLynn41@hotmail.com.



Library fans come in all ages

House Bill 1 and Public Libraries

HB-1 adopts the recommendations of State Auditor Adam Edelen following his survey of special taxing districts over the past year. The bill passed the House and is, at this writing, now under consideration by the Senate. Provisions affect all but ten of our public libraries and include:

- Create a new definition of “Special Purpose Government Entity” to include existing special districts and entities that have similar characteristics.
- Create a centralized, searchable registry of the revenue and expenditures of special taxing districts to be maintained by the Department of Local Government (DLG). A fee is to be assessed each district to pay for the costs of maintaining the database.
- Clarify audit standards.
- Compel compliance by involving the Auditor if reporting and auditing requirements are not met.
- Establish orientation requirements for board members and applies the local government Code of Ethics to board and staff.

Libraries have been adamantly praised by Edelen in numerous public forums for their accountability and should have no problems with compliance. FKL supports HB-1 as it was enacted by the House, but be aware that amendments to the bill may change that. Several Senators have indicated they want fiscal courts to have greater authority over special districts. Edelen has stated that special districts are established by the voters for good reasons and they should not be subordinated to the Fiscal Court in any way not currently addressed in statutes, especially in terms of their revenue. **FKL supports HB-1 but is opposed to any amendments that change the governance of public libraries.**

Senate Bill 20 and Public Libraries

Library supporters are asking our legislators to oppose SB-20, which calls for a change in the way library trustees are appointed. The current process requires two names for each open position to be submitted to the Kentucky Department of Libraries and Archives for vetting and approval by the State Library Commissioner. The approved names then go to the County Fiscal Court Judge-Executive, who chooses one name and the Fiscal Court approves the selection.

SB-20 proposes to give the Judge-Executive unchecked power in the appointment of trustees, ignoring the recommendations of the library. There is currently very permissive language in the text of this bill, allowing the Judge-Executive to remove a person from consideration if the Judge-Executive believes that the person is “unsuitable. In the case of an “unsuitable” nomination, the Judge-Executive would be able to nominate and appoint a person of his or her choosing to fill any vacancies.

The proposed change raises the following concerns:

- There is no definition as to what qualifies a candidate as being “unsuitable.”
- The appointment process could result in the appointment of trustees who have an agenda other than providing successful library service.
- Trustees could be appointed who would use the library as a political bartering tool with other county agencies.
- Trustees could be appointed who would limit the collections of the library to serve their own political biases.
- Trustees could be appointed as grooming for other political offices.
- In each of our counties, the library’s mission is to serve the entire community, without favor to particular constituencies or interests. Adding a strongly political element to the trustee appointment process would jeopardize the core apolitical nature of our libraries and the provision of library services.

The current appointment process produces trustees who take their responsibilities seriously and have both library and community interests at heart. Our trustees are well-educated and informed with regard to their duties, many having earned certification. We have been praised repeatedly as a model of good governance.

New Directors Elected to FKL Board

Friends of Kentucky Libraries Board of Directors recently filled vacancies created by term expirations and resignations. New members of our Board are:

Jarrett Boyd, Jefferson County, Indiana	[2014]	Barbara DeVault, Union County	[2013]
Judy Burdine, Pulaski County	[2014]	Jim Stoops, Monroe County	[2015]

How Much Advocating Can You Do And Still Be a Non-Profit?

The following information is based on IRS rules for non-profit 501(c)(3) organizations engaging in lobbying and advocacy and United for Libraries (ALA) interpretation of those rules in Fact Sheet #24.

Is it really ok for Friends groups as non-profit organizations to lobby or advocate on behalf of their library? Happily, the answer is "Yes!"

The IRS recognizes two different kinds of "advocacy." The first is called direct lobbying and it is when the Friends group itself or its members work to influence policy, legislation, bond issues, and referenda in favor of the library. Generally speaking, a Friends group can spend up to 20% of its yearly expenditures on these activities if their annual expenditures do not exceed \$500,000. The formula changes for groups spending more and you can find out more about these formulas in United for Libraries Friends and Foundations Zone or at the IRS Web site, www.irs.gov (see Chapter 3 of Publication 557).

The other type of "advocacy" the IRS calls grassroots lobbying, and this is when a Friends group (or other non-profit) works to get the general public to become lobbyists on its behalf regarding policy or legislation; for example, calling on the general public to "call their legislators." In this case, the group can spend 25% of the 20% allotted above.

For example, if your group spends \$10,000 a year in support of the library, \$2,000 can be spent for direct lobbying (20%) and \$500 can be spent on grassroots lobbying (25% of the 20%).

Remember, however, that it doesn't have to cost a lot of money to wage a successful advocacy campaign. So much of what Friends do in an advocacy campaign is educating the public about what is at stake...and there is no legal limit on spending money to inform or educate. Also, by using your newsletter, writing letters to the editor, lobbying on your website, you are not spending much money at all!

So...are there any political activities that are strictly forbidden? Again, the answer is yes. Friends groups (or any 501(c)(3) organization) may not advocate, lobby, or engage in grassroots lobbying on behalf of any candidate for office. Other than this restriction, however, the IRS does allow for some activity for non-profits to engage in advocacy.

The Friends and Foundations Zone on the United for Libraries website, <http://www.ala.org/united/>, has more information on Friends and advocacy along with samples about how Friends can advocate for their libraries on a small budget. Some information is restricted to members only.

**Some may call
advocating a dirty word.
It doesn't matter what
you call it -- what you are
doing is EDUCATING
the public and elected
officials about the
essential services that
libraries of all kinds
provide. Education has
never been a dirty
word! Please keep
talking .**

— Susan Schmidt
Friends of the Library,
Montgomery County MD

Oh, Sister, Where Art Thou?

The goal of the Kentucky Sister Library Project is to strengthen public libraries in the state by creating partnerships that prove mutually beneficial through the sharing of information, experience, and ideas. Libraries with more resources partner with libraries with fewer resources. Through this collaboration, libraries with unmet needs will have access to resources that will assist them in achieving their goals. The result? A win-win situation. By forming partnerships, Kentucky libraries can help one another!

FKL will award 2 grants per year of up to \$200 each in order to build sister library relationships.

At least one of the sister libraries in a partnership must have a Friends chapter that is a current member of the Friends of Kentucky Libraries *or* at least one of the sister libraries Board of Trustees must be a member of the Friends of Kentucky Libraries.

The money may be used for travel, speakers, program supplies, and other items that may be approved by the Friends of Kentucky Libraries.

Applications must be submitted by March 8, 2013. Go to www.FriendsKyLibraries.org to download the criteria, instructions, and application forms.



Useful Tools for Friends

Friends of Kentucky Libraries has a brand new look to its website, so check it out. The site is still being developed, but the essential, time-sensitive things like current legislation under consideration and grants with impending deadlines [see above for Sister Libraries Grant information] are here. More will be added later, so keep checking back to see what new has been added.

While FKL does not publish lists of individual members, it does list local Friends chapters, which can be helpful as contact for those forming new or revitalizing stagnant ones. FKL also recognizes Boards of Trustees who join our organization and Business/Corporate members.

Additionally, the FKL website will be a place to find valuable information on how to organize a local chapter, especially with issues like writing bylaws, filing with the IRS for 501(c)(3) tax status, and sample policies to consider—such as Conflict of Interest for board members.

FKL's website is an excellent place for local chapters to advertise their Book Sales as well. It's not only free, but vendors that deal with used books often look for such sales and here is a one-stop calendar of all upcoming sales in the state. Of course FKL can't list your sale if you don't let us know about it, so please remember to include this website when advertising your sale.

Don't forget the FKL Facebook, too. There's a link from the webpage, or you can search for Friends of Kentucky Libraries from Facebook.com. Please "Like" us there and make a comment.

FRIENDS OF KENTUCKY LIBRARIES

"A library is richer than Fort Knox and everybody has the key."
- Robert Morgan, Author

The Friends of Kentucky Libraries, Inc. is

- a network of library supporters from across the state sharing ideas and news
- a source of assistance for creating or revitalizing a local Friends of the Library Chapter
- a unified voice to advocate for your library and all Kentucky Libraries

Each year the Friends of Kentucky Libraries holds a meeting to which all FKL members are invited. We conduct the business of the Friends of Kentucky Libraries and present our awards for Outstanding Friend of the Library, and Outstanding Friends Chapter.

We thank you for your patience as we prepare our new website. Until the full site is operational, here are important pages:

[2013 Legislative Session - Urgent Issues and Actions](#)

[Sister Library Project Grant - Application deadline March 8th](#)

[Board of Directors](#)

[Contact Us](#)

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For membership information, visit www.FriendsKyLibraries.org.

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