



# Friends CONNECT

[www.FriendsKyLibraries.org](http://www.FriendsKyLibraries.org)

**FRIENDS OF  
KENTUCKY  
LIBRARIES, INC**

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

## Inside this issue:

2013 Friends of Kentucky Libraries Awards	2
Spotlight on Danville-Boyle County Friends	3
New Board Members and Officers	4
Meet & Greet Update	4
Useful Tools for Friends: Search Engines	4

## 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.

Page 1

Autumn 2013

## FKL Annual Membership Meeting

Friends of Kentucky Libraries held its Annual Membership Meeting on November 16th at the Capital Plaza Hotel in Frankfort. Sixty-four attendees from 29 counties participated.

The event started with a late morning workshop, *Lawsuits, Legalities, and Legislation*. State Librarian and Commissioner Wayne Onkst and Kentucky Public Library Association Advocacy Committee Chair Lisa Rice gave a brief overview of the current challenges to the funding of the state's taxing district libraries.

The luncheon speaker was Kentucky writer and poet George Ella Lyon, who read from her newest book of poems, *Many-Storied House*, and talked about the importance of books, reading, and libraries in her life.

Following Lyon was the presentation of three awards: Outstanding Friends Chapter, Outstanding Friend, and a new FKL award, Outstanding Library Advocate [see Page 2]. Next was the election of board members and officers for the coming year [see page 3].

The afternoon workshop, *Casting the Net*, invited attendees to share successful programs and projects, along with what they learned from those that weren't quite as well received as anticipated. Chapters also shared problems they had resolved and challenges they were facing. Examples included poor attendance at Friends board meetings and how that chapter's bylaws were amended. Samples were provided on the Swap 'N Shop table at the back of the room. So many unique programs and projects were shared that it was quickly evident that Kentucky's library Friends are innovative and dedicated groups that accomplish a lot to promote their libraries—from hosting author talks to new programs for adults, teens, and children to providing equipment (even vehicles).

From the two workshops, Friends also learned more about their role as advocates for their libraries and libraries all across the state. A great way to continue the discussion is via the Friends Discussion List and Friends of Kentucky Libraries' webpage and Facebook page. Check out [www.FriendsKyLibraries.org](http://www.FriendsKyLibraries.org) to learn more about how you can help your community understand the value of its library.



Friends from across the Commonwealth networked and learned new ideas



George Ella Lyon reads from her latest collection of poems, *Many-Storied House*

## 2013 Friends of Kentucky Libraries Awards

The **Outstanding Friends of the Library Chapter Award** was won by the Friends of the Madison County Public Library. Among the many things they do for their library are to volunteer with everyday tasks at the library such as covering the circulation desk, shelving materials, and leading classes/workshops. They raise funds to support the summer reading program and have purchased book drops and other library equipment. They also participate, along with the library itself, in the Sister Library Project with the Estill County Public Library.

As strong advocates for their library throughout the community, they have sponsored the October Legislative Meet & Greets every year since they started.

And, realizing that the employees are the backbone of library services, they are "cheerleaders for the staff" by providing food, presents, and support to the personnel.



Madison County FOL president Marty Hensley and Library Director Ruthie Maslin

The **Outstanding Friend of the Library Award** was presented to Judy Stratton from the Friends of the Paul Sawyer Public Library (Franklin County). Judy, as the co-manager of the Friends bookstore, has introduced innovative procedures for running the business and displaying items—many ideas waking her in the middle of the night. She contributes 20 hours or more per week at the library and when there are special weeklong sales, she is there almost the entire time.

Judy's efforts have "meant a huge financial bonus for the library in terms of equipment and programming that the Friends can provide."



Judy Stratton, Outstanding Friend for 2013 and FKL Awards Committee Chair Jane Pfarner

The first **Outstanding Library Advocate Award** was awarded to Senator Robin Webb (SD-18), who represents northeastern Kentucky, for her efforts in helping establish the Carter County Public Library and for her support of public libraries at the state level.

Senator Webb is a co-chair of the Kentucky Library Caucus and has been a strong advocate for public libraries, supporting positive legislation and fighting detrimental—SB-49 being an example in 2012. As recalled by FKL President Collins, "Senator Webb was quick to speak against the bill, recounting how people told her 'We don't need a library' and 'A library is a waste of funds.' She then proceeded to give a most eloquent speech about why libraries are important—especially in rural areas."

Commissioner for the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives, Wayne Onkst, was quoted as saying: "On occasion, Senator Webb has been the lone voice for libraries in the face of powerful opposition. She has spoken on behalf of public libraries when no one else would do so."



Sen Robin Webb, Outstanding Library Advocate

## Spotlight on Danville-Boyle County Friends of the Library

Boyle County Friends of the Library reorganized in 2010 after a period of declining membership and inactivity, then quickly grew to approximately 200 members.

Yearly membership dues, donations, semi-annual used book sales, ongoing used book sales through a small display area in the library, and sale of library and Friends logo products (mugs, book bags, library note cards) generate revenue. Library staff shares their "wish list" of equipment, materials, and special programs beyond the library's budget with the Friends' board

Last year's major project was funding "**Images of Boyle County**", a photographic history of the county produced on ceramic tiles. The mural grew out of a project that collected over 3,000 images of people, places, and buildings in Boyle County during the late 1800's into the current decade. The mural was installed on wall space near the circulation desk and is paired with a printed guide providing brief information and date of each image in the mural.



Other projects of FOL were: the scripting of and then public performances of a **Readers Theatre** based on accounts of the impact of the Battle of Perryville on the town and its citizens; '**Star Spangled Literacy Project**' assisted in printing costs of local author Patsi Trollinger's book *Thrill in the Ville*, and provided over 2,000 copies to area libraries and schools for use in the classroom. The book with the author's study guide and suggested projects helped students in K-6 learn about democracy and the election process. This project also tied into the Oct. 11, 2012 vice-presidential debate hosted by Centre College.

The FOL chapter publishes THE BOOKMARK newsletter 3 times a year; sponsors Fall and Spring program series each year; assists library staff with publicizing Friends' programs and film series, including colorful bookmarks that list information about each series and distributes theme at the library and other gathering places in the community. Friends continually promote all library offerings throughout the community.

Once a year FOL collaborates with Humana/Centre College Library Speaker Series to bring a major published southern author to the community. Previously hosted authors include Silas House, Maurice Manning, Frank X Walker (Danville native and Kentucky's Poet Laureate), Wanda Fries, and others. Each January FOL's Annual Meeting & Tea offers a Chautauqua program through the Kentucky Humanities Council. Past programs included Shaker Mary Settles and Rosemary Clooney. In January Lilly Cornett will be featured.

Friends recently purchased a new sound system for the library's community room that includes in-ceiling speakers, a sound mixing board, and microphones that can be used by program speakers and others from the community who regularly use the room for training, meetings and public forums. The FOL Film Series is held here as well.

Friends have funded four **AWE Student Learning Stations** placed in the children's library, contributed to a community **Prime Time** reading program, awarded a grant to fund **Summer Fun** program to strengthen elementary students' math skills and retention of skills over the summer. FOL is looking forward to providing **Great American Brass Band Festival** educational program for children at the library next June; in helping with costs and packaging of **Newborn Library Gift Packs** for parents of babies born at the local hospital; and in the purchase of a **Mobile ActivBoard/SmartBoard** to improve staff training resources and also be available for use by other community organizations and companies who conduct training at the library.



## FKL Elects New Directors and Officers

New board members and officers were elected at the Annual Meeting of the Friends of Kentucky Libraries Inc. at the Annual Membership Meeting . The officers for 2014 are:

President: MaryLynn Collins, Franklin County (Paul Sawyer Public Library)

President-Elect: Judy Burdine, Pulaski County

Secretary: Barbara DeVault, Union County

Treasurer: Carol Baughman, Franklin County

New members of the Board of Directors, with terms expiring 12/31/2016, are:

Earlene Arnett, Scott County

MaryLynn Collins, Franklin County

Barbara DeVault, Union County

Linda Stith, Woodford County [*filling unexpired term: 12/31/2014*]

## 2013 Meet & Greets Still Underway



Ann Agee, Nelson County, and Sen Jimmie Higdon,

This year, not being an election year, prompted some libraries to schedule their Legislative Meet & Greet events in conjunction with fall festivals and holiday open houses rather than during the traditional October. Therefore, there is no final attendance tally yet, but with 33 M&Gs reporting, attendance is 1,658—not an unimpressive number.

Among the many clever approaches to the events, Union County Fiscal Court moved their regular meeting from the Court House to the public library so they could be part of the M&G.

Several legislators read stories to the children, some proving to be accomplished storytellers. From Casey County: “As he [Rep] left today, he said all legislators should look into the eyes of the children and see the real reason they are in office.” And from Daviess County: “One of our faithful homeschool moms gave her kids a writing assignment about why they love the library so that they could bring their homework to the event and show to their officials.”



## Useful Tools for Friends

Sometimes the obvious is overlooked. Whether you like Google or Bing or some other search engine, simply “googling” Friends of the Library and looking at other chapters’ webpages can provide a wealth of information and ideas. We all borrow from each other and we find Friends more generous than most groups when it comes to sharing ideas and welcoming other chapters to adopt them. Large libraries with large FOL chapters can still provide concepts that can be scaled down to fit smaller budgets. Yes, even Friends in San Francisco and Seattle can inspire programs for small, rural Kentucky libraries.

Don’t forget to look at Images at your favorite search engine, too. Many of these will give you ideas to spruce up your publications and many are copy-right free.

**FriendsCONNECT** is published four times a year by the Friends of Kentucky Libraries, Inc.

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

Send editorial contributions, articles, and news releases to Nelda Moore, editor, at [nmoore@bardstowncable.net](mailto:nmoore@bardstowncable.net).