



Friends CONNECT

www.FriendsKyLibraries.org

**FRIENDS
OF KENTUCKY
LIBRARIES, INC**

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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.

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Winter 2014-15

Library Legislative Day is Set for February 17 Come Join Us and Wear Yellow

By Mary Lynn Collins

The Friends of Kentucky Libraries Board is looking forward to Library Legislative Day. We have set out our yellow sweaters and scarves and have our special yellow M&Ms which say "Support Libraries" ready to present to each of our 138 state legislators!

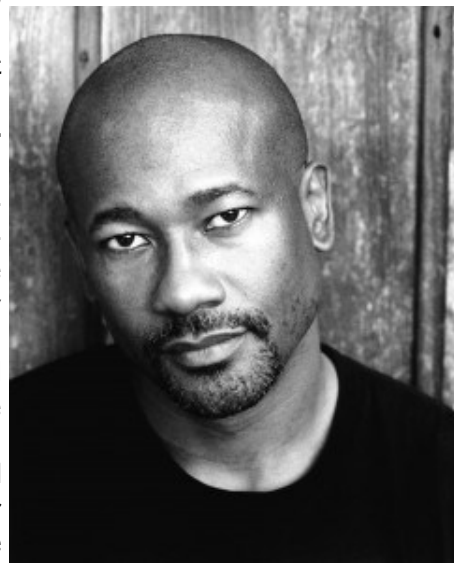
Library Legislative Day is one of the most important library advocacy days of the year and we hope you will be there. The date is **Tuesday, February 17**. Library staff, trustees, and friends will gather in Frankfort to visit with legislators and show their support for our public libraries. Everyone attending Library Legislative Day is asked to wear yellow so you can be easily identified as a library supporter.

We will gather in Room 125 of the Capitol Annex in the morning of February 17. At some point during the day, each library delegation will visit their legislators. At **11:30 am** we will all gather in the Rotunda in the Capitol Building for a **Library Rally**. Our keynote speaker at the rally will be current **Poet Laureate Frank X Walker**. Mr. Walker is a powerful and eloquent writer and speaker as well as a public library supporter and we look forward to hearing him there in the historic Capitol Rotunda.

There will be an **orientation session on Monday, February 16, at 4 pm** at the Best Western in Frankfort to highlight the session issues and to talk about strategies for discussions with legislators.

The **Declaration for the Right to Libraries**, which many of you have signed, will also be featured at Library Legislative Day. We will be announcing a final tally on the number of signatures that we have collected in this effort. Thanks to all of you who have signed the Declaration and helped to collect signatures. If you have not yet signed the declaration, there is still time to sign on the Friends web site – go to www.FriendsKyLibraries.org.

We hope to see the halls of the Capitol in Frankfort filled with yellow February 17 and we hope that each Friends of the Library Chapter will have delegates there at this very important Library Advocacy event. If you have any questions or need more information, please let us know: info@FriendsKyLibraries.org



Frank X. Walker to speak at
Library Legislative Day

Declaration for the Right to Libraries by Linda Stith

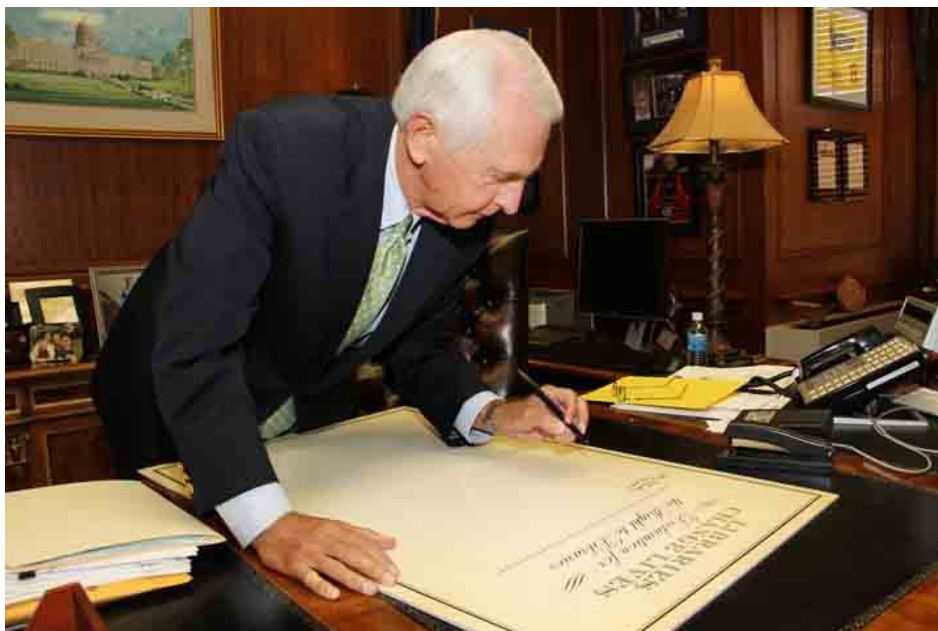
The Summer 2014 issue of Friends CONNECT introduced the Declaration for the Right to Libraries initiative. Libraries were encouraged to participate by displaying the Declaration and accompanying signature sheets and asking library users and supporters to actively affirm their right to quality libraries.

This important project was a joint effort of FKL and the Kentucky Public Library Association Advocacy Committee. The Kentucky Library Association was also supportive and at its Annual Conference in September, information about the Declaration was presented and shared at various sessions and at FKL's table in the exhibit area.

Since then there have been several significant events. Governor Beshear and all of Kentucky's Constitutional officers have signed a giant Declaration poster. Many libraries incorporated the Declaration into their 2014 Meet and Greets and officials and candidates in attendance added their signatures. Several schools have also participated with students, teachers, and media specialists excited by the opportunity.

One of the most unique approaches comes from the Lexington Public Library where ballot box entry slips called "chain links" are used for signatures. There are ballot boxes topped with the Declaration and an explanation of why people should sign. The "links" will be made into a huge chain – a perfect visual to show the support of library "believers."

In addition, online signatures are being collected at FKL's web site, www.friendskylibraries.org. This tally of thousands of signatures from Kentucky citizens, young and old, will be presented to legislators at Legislative Day on Tuesday, February 17. These numbers are important as we illustrate to policy makers what library supporters expect and deserve – quality libraries.



Governor Beshear signing Declaration for the Right to Libraries
Photo Courtesy of WPSD Station, Paducah KY, Oct. 2, 2014

Annual Meeting 2014



Annual Meeting Registration

The Friends of Kentucky Libraries annual meeting was held on Saturday, November 15 in conjunction with the Kentucky Book Fair. Approximately 55 friends attended representing 20 local friends' chapters. The highlight of the meeting was luncheon speaker Frank X. Walker, 2014 Kentucky Poet Laureate. Mr. Walker noted in his remarks how important the public library was to him as a young boy growing up in Boyle County. Awards for Outstanding Friend, Outstanding Library Advocate and Outstanding Friends Chapter were given.



Frank X. Walker at the 2014 Annual Friends Meeting

Annual Awards

2014 Outstanding Friend Award

The Friends of Kentucky Libraries (FKL) has announced the winner of the 2014 Outstanding Friend Award: Dr. Liza Levy, President of the Friends of Paris-Bourbon County Public Library. Nominator and library trustee Hazel Kenney states, "Liza has headed the Friends of the Paris-Bourbon County library for many years. She does all the heavy lifting (physical and otherwise) for the book sales two to three times a year and keeps the organization afloat."

The Friends of the Paris-Bourbon County Library raise funds through their book sales and dues to provide books for the Summer Reading Program as well as to fund tuition and conference expenses for staff. Levy has been a member of the friends for over 20 years and has been the president for 10 years. Paris-Bourbon County Library Director Mark Adler says, "Liza is one of those people that puts their head down and gets the job done."

Levy's contribution to the support of public libraries goes beyond her community of Bourbon County. She was instrumental in the reformation of the Friends of Kentucky Libraries in 2009 attending the first organizational meeting in Scott County.



Award Presentation (l-r): Jane Pfarner, Friends of Kentucky Libraries; Hazel Kenney, Dr. Liza Levy

Annual Awards (cont.)

FKL's President Mary Lynn Collins says she remembers "Liza was engaged in the discussion and supportive of a steering committee to jumpstart the Kentucky Friends". Levy served on a subcommittee of the steering committee. Levy is also a frequent attendee of an annual library advocacy event held in Frankfort each year when the legislature is in session.

2014 Outstanding Library Advocacy Award

The Friends of Kentucky Libraries (FKL) has announced the winners of the 2014 Outstanding Library Advocacy Award: Mark Overstreet of Franklin County and Virginia Hamilton Snell of Oldham County. These two individuals were recognized for volunteering to serve as legal counsel to the FKL and assisting in the filing of an amicus brief before the Kentucky Court of Appeals. The brief attempts to address challenges to the manner in which public libraries are funded. A negative ruling would seriously impact the ability of most of Kentucky's public libraries to operate.

Overstreet is a partner with the law firm of Stites and Harbison. He has a combined 21 years of service to the Paul Sawyer Public Library as a member of the Library Board of Trustees and the Library Advisory Board. He has served as an officer of the board both as president and treasurer, as well as volunteering at the library for nearly 23 years.

"Mark is an avid library user and supporter," said Paul Sawyer Public Library director Donna Gibson. "During his years as a volunteer and member of the board, he has conscientiously contributed time, effort and expertise as an astute citizen and as a lawyer. In the 12 years I have known Mark, he has always been willing to assist us and never acted impatient or inconvenienced by our requests or questions."

Snell is a partner with the law firm of Wyatt Tarrant and Combs. She has served as a member and president of the Oldham County Public Library Board of Trustees for two four-year terms ending in 2009. During her tenure the library completed a major construction project for a new library in LaGrange. She was appointed in 2013 to serve another term on the board. Additionally, Snell served on the State Advisory Council on Libraries from 2001-2006.

"I have been fortunate to have had association with Virginia both as my boss and as a friend," said Oldham County Public Library director Susan Eubank. "I wasn't at all surprised that she stepped up to assist with the amicus brief for the Kentucky Appellate Court. She has always supported libraries and their value to their communities."



Award Presentation (l-r): Virginia Hamilton Snell, Mary Lynn Collins, & Paul Overstreet

Annual Awards (cont.)

2014 Outstanding Friends Chapter Award

The Friends of Kentucky Libraries (FKL) has announced the winner of the 2014 Outstanding Friends Chapter: Boyle County Public Library Friends of the Library (FOTL). Mary Flachbart, Adult Programming Coordinator stated, "We, here at the Boyle County Public Library, are extremely grateful for the love, care, and support of our FOTL Chapter. The success of many of our library programs rest upon, in some way or another, the efforts of our FOTL."

The FOTL has financially supported the library with more than \$17,000 raised through sales and memberships. These funds go directly to purchasing items on the Library's Wish List. Within the last year the money earned from these sales have purchased: a complete audio system for the community room that includes speakers, sound mixing board, microphone, projector and screen, a microwave for the children's library, a Smart InterActive Board for teaching educational programs and a digital photo scanner to digitalize and preserve pictures and documents. These technology items have enhanced library programs and increased the services that have been offered to the community. During the past year FOTL has sponsored more than 40 programs that have brought in more than 2,000 patrons as well as countless others through their outreach program.

Partnerships with local businesses have also been formed. FOTL hosted the Danville High School National Champions Forensics Team speeches for the community; partnered with Centre College under the Created Equal Grant to theme the Fall Film Series on Civil Rights; and collaborated with Elmwood Inn and Teas to produce a special blend of tea dedicated to the library. Outreach activities include providing board books and materials to be turned into gift baskets for all newborn babies at the Ephraim McDowell Regional Medical Center and providing a book cart with children's books in the waiting room of the Family Court System.

Current FOTL officers are: Chris Malito, President; JP Brantley, President Elect; Alexis Angolia, Secretary; and Jim Moore, Treasurer.



Presentation of the award (l-r): Jane Pfarnar, Friends of Kentucky Libraries; Chris Malito, President of Boyle County Public Library Friends of the Library (FOTL), JP Brantley, President-Elect (FOTL), Gayle Waddell, Immediate Past President (FOTL), Jim Moore, Past President and current Treasurer (FOTL).

2014 Meet & Greets

By Linda Stith

In 2014, twenty two libraries reported holding Meet and Greets. Most were scheduled in October prior to the hectic November elections and attendance was 1750 (an impressive figure considering the busy schedules of candidates and officials plus inclement weather!)

Some libraries scheduled these events to coincide with local festivals and many planned open houses to encourage the community to become familiar with the services offered in addition to “meeting and greeting” candidates and current office holders. McCreary County held its Open House in December in conjunction with the local Chamber of Commerce and **newly** elected officials were in attendance. Laurel County’s Book Sale served as the backdrop for a very successful event with officials, library users and interested buyers.

There are many examples of creative approaches to Meet and Greets. Once again Union County’s Fiscal Court moved its regular meeting to the public library as part of the Meet and Greet. In addition to magistrates, department heads and Representative Suzanne Miles, candidates for office also spoke about the library. The excitement continued when the school system presented the library with 12 Kindle Fires and help with Wi-Fi expansion. It was reported that attendees “stayed and stayed and stayed and talked and talked and talked” as they enjoyed refreshments provided by the Friends.



A young man at the McLean County’s Meet and Greet gets Representative Jim Gooch, Jr.’s autograph on his READ poster.

Hardin County and Meade County both held Open Houses with large attendance figures. Guests visited several “stations” including computer/database demonstrations, genealogy and local history, the bookmobile, children’s area and programming displays. Entertainment and refreshments were provided and drawings were held for donated prizes. Local and state officials got an up close view of what a busy, crowded library is like!

FKL appreciates the hard work and creativity of library staff and friends and encourages more and more libraries to consider hosting Meet and Greets in 2015. It’s never too early to start planning!



Madison County Meet & Greet, Oct. 11, 2014

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

Laurel County Public Library Collecting Signatures for "Declaration for the Right to Libraries"

"I believe that as a Friends group, it is of the utmost importance we emphasize the fact that free access to libraries has been a part of American liberties--going back to the very foundations of our republic and that we continue to promote these ideals in the interest of informed and educated citizens," said Laurel County Friends President Jeff Sams.

IN PHOTO FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: (Front Row) Friends of the Laurel County Public Library President Jeff Sams, Senator Albert Robinson (R), (Back Row) Friends of the Laurel County Public Library Vice President Myra Raiche, Luba McDonald, and Board Member of the Friends of Kentucky Libraries and Friends of the Laurel County Public Library Treasurer Susan Phelps.



Left to Right: Wanda Washington, Joanne Waller, President; Mary Lynn Collins; Faye Howell, Debbie Parson, Adult Programmer, Joan McKinney, Secretary

Taylor County Grant

Friends of Kentucky Libraries encourage all Friends local chapters to incorporate as nonprofit organizations and obtain federal tax-exempt status. Filing fees associated with applying for this status can be a burden. Friends of Kentucky Libraries award non-competitive grants of \$400 to each chapter that has been awarded tax-exempt status.

Congratulations to Taylor County for obtaining this status!

Sister Library Grant

The Friends of Kentucky Libraries is proud to support the effort to strengthen Kentucky's public libraries by offering a grant of \$400 each year to a Sister Library partnership. The Sister Library Grants are open to any partnership in which one of the sister libraries has a Friends chapter that is a member of FKL or one library's board of trustees holds a current membership.

To apply for a grant, please complete the Sister Library Grant application and mail to FKL, PO Box 537, Frankfort, KY 40602-0537. The application can be found at <http://www.friendskylibraries.org/grants.html>

The deadline for receipt of grant applications is February 24.



In 2014 Sister Library Grant was awarded to the Boyd County - Elliott County Partnership.

We are now on Twitter (@KYLibFriends) as well as Facebook. Follow us for the latest library news, including updates on the 2015 regular session of the Kentucky General Assembly.



Find us on
Facebook

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.

THANKS TO FKL LIFETIME MEMBERS

Chuck Bianchi, Baxter
Linda & Jerry Bruckheimer, California
John DeWitt, Edgewood
James O. Dyer, Morganfield
Joe Graviss McDonald’s Restaurants, Versailles
John T. Mandt, Somerset
Margaret Q. Travis, Frankfort
Lowry R. Watkins, Louisville
Charlann H. Wombles, Midway

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