

Friends of Kentucky Libraries,

Incorporated

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 1968

A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON TO YOU

Do you have time to read a Newsletter and really consider it, just now? Probably not. Therefore, the Directors of Friends of Kentucky Libraries, Incorporated, just send you greetings and request that you set aside an hour or two in January to study the contents of the next Newsletter - which will contain something of importance to everyone interested in the libraries of the state.

To end the year on a happy note, here is a little verse taken from a volume "Miracles: Poems by Children of the English-Speaking World" edited by R. Lewis and published recently by Simon and Schuster, N.Y.:

I love the World

I love you, Big World.

I wish I could call you

And tell you a secret:

That I love you, World.

Paul Wallner, Aged 7
United States

Note: Your friend, Mrs. George Gray sends a message: Take it easy - don't take the flu!"

*2 Pages
more copies will
be sent on request*

Notes on Some Highlights from the Speech made by MR. HUGH HUNTER at the Luncheon Meeting of Friends of Kentucky Libraries, Incorporated, and Library Trustees. November 7, 1968
(From Mr. Hunter's Notes - abridged by Marjorie Smith)

After giving us a fine summary of the history and purpose of the Governor's Planning Committee for Libraries, Mr. Hunter got right to "brass tacks" and listed some of his ideas about the possible future of our organization. He feels that we are a group essential to the success of the Governor's Planning Committee since the actions of that group need vigorous backing all through the state as it proceeds with its plans and work. To supply the backing, Friends of Kentucky Libraries, Incorporated, the one organization already on the scene, must grow rapidly. The great question is how best to accomplish this goal.

Below are Mr. Hunter's suggestions for work toward the goal - work to be undertaken, preferably, in the immediate future. He hopes we will adopt at least some of these goals and reach them as soon as possible. He listed some statistics such as the number of counties which have no public library service (10) and the number that have not one member of Friends of Kentucky Libraries, Incorporated (26). These two conditions must be changed. We all need to work on membership in our organization and in the formation of more local groups, of which there are all too few. To make the greatest haste, he gave us the following suggestions - to be used by the group as a whole or by individuals or small segments.

- a. We might give a number of charter memberships in the organizations - free to persons in various communities as we find willing workers.
- b. We might prepare a "sales" plan to be used in persuading citizens to form community groups.
- c. We might have materials prepared and ready to distribute as needed, giving suggestions for guidelines to be used on forming a group.*
- d. We might give recognition to workers who begin the formation of a community group even if the results are less than enormous. (He suggests, as incentive, a free trip to one member to the annual meeting.)
- e. We might afford to have printed some throwaways - auto stickers, etc., or have an emblem designed to advertise the organization.
- f. We might ask the governor to recognize pioneer workers - perhaps with a letter of commendation.
- g. We might decide to set up membership goals for each county with awards to crown each success - such as books (preferably donated.) These awards could be for the most members or the most dollars given.
- h. We could gather and supply, on request, interesting materials to any group to discuss, or giving our goals, etc. or we might supply an occasional speaker, when requested.
- i. We could try to encourage or suggest correspondence between new members or new groups and older ones - one to help the other.
- j. A richer library or community could be asked to help one less fortunate.
- k. We could plan visits between library-oriented persons in various towns to trade ideas.
- l. We could supply new members or groups with "spots" for radio and newspaper use or for reading to clubs - for advertizing.
- m. We might try to discover community strengths and help members or groups to relate the library to other segments of the community.
- n. Members could make up a basic library list of practical helpful books, using as a guide, the list of approved books from the state.

*Note: Such a piece of material now exists and is distributed, on request.

- o. We could attempt to get "stock" in poor communities sold to groups or libraries in other communities - dividends to be in local produce - handicrafts, etc.
- p. We might help organize people with special talents into a group in each major membership area. We could help get started a research in ways to help in each area.
- q. We could help a group organize a campaign; - "Every member get a new member," having awards for those bringing in the greatest number. (Mr. Hunter mentioned that he alone knows of a number of good prospects for membership - people who would join but have never been asked and have never heard the name.)
- r. We might try to get concrete recognition given to members or groups by the awarding of a plaque or the placing of names on a special honor roll, etc.
- s. We might suggest to a librarian to set aside a small area in her library for the exclusive use of members of this organization - a way to make known our existence.
- t. We might begin a tasteful campaign to obtain endowments, bequests, etc., with an offer of some sort of recognition to those who give in this way. (He added the possibility of asking for a special gift or donation at Christmas time.)
- u. We might form a committee to head membership growth or a rise in the number of community branches.

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The above notes cover, sketchily, the last part of Mr. Hunter's speech, written first, here, lest some readers might not read the whole report. To those who are still without - here is the first of the speech, the background against which the above suggestions were set.

Mr. Hunter introduced himself as a businessman who drives about 25,000 miles, yearly, in Kentucky and nearby states selling, primarily, foods.

Next, he gave us the history and purpose of the Governor's Planning Committee on Libraries of which he is chairman. The Committee, you will remember, was created by Governor Edward T. Breathitt in 1967. The executive order which created it is quoted, in part:

"Whereas -- We may include in our library resources in Kentucky not only a wide variety of institutions, public and private, general and specialized, but also and more importantly, hundreds of individuals and groups devoted to the enhancement of these institutions and actively working to this end..."

The Committee began with 55 members and seven ex-officio appointees. At the first meeting, Mr. Hunter was selected as chairman. To learn more about Kentucky's libraries, he sent out a "homespun" questionnaire and was amazed to receive a 74% response, including some excellent suggestions. The next step was selecting an executive committee composed of thirteen members. One of the early decisions of the young committee was to have a study made, surveying library facilities of the state, determining exact needs, etc. Since money was available in Federal Funds, \$20,000 was earmarked for the study. Several planning meetings followed, some with Governor Nunn who promised support. A company was selected to make the survey - the Little Company. Work is now in progress. Next, subcommittees were named to "react to various parts of the survey." Last summer, the full Committee (40) met with the Governor who again affirmed his interest. The last meeting took place at the University of Louisville, with Dr. Wayne Yenawine as host. At this meeting, the progress made was discussed. Members felt that a new era for our state's libraries is about to begin. Great hopes were raised that, with such abeginning, Kentucky will become a leading library state. Mr. Hunter, however, remarked that though we are on the move, he "envisions years of hard work - but rewarding work and great satisfaction," in the end. It was at this point that he expressed his reliance on our organization and offered the suggestions from a. to u., to be found on page 1 and finishing on page 2 of these notes.

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