Friends CONNECT

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Kentucky Libraries need your help immediately!

The budgets passed by the Kentucky House of Representatives and Kentucky Senate included no funds for direct aid to public libraries. This is a cut of $2.5 million that goes across the state to every public library. If this reduction stands, every public library will suffer and some libraries in smaller and poorer counties will close. As of this writing, we have one final opportunity to convince legislators that they are making a big mistake. The Representatives and Senators will be negotiating the final budget in the coming days. Please call 1-800-372-7181 and tell your legislators and the leaders of both houses of the legislature that you want this funding restored.

Looking ahead, as the legislative primaries are in the future and in November we will be electing all members of the legislature, make sure you are voting for legislators who value our libraries!

I have loved libraries and books since I first learned to read. I share this passion with so many others who support their libraries through their local Friends group and the Friends of Kentucky Libraries. Because of this passion we share, one of my favorite things in visiting with Library Friends is hearing all the stories about how Friends support their libraries. Our Friends across the state are so creative in ways they support their libraries! For those who attended the Friends of Kentucky Libraries annual meeting, one of the best sessions was the discussion of what different Friends groups are doing. There are so many wonderful ideas and exciting projects. By sharing, we can learn so much from each other.

On the pages of this newsletter, you will read articles about two of our outstanding Friends groups. The Friends of the Paris/Bourbon County Public Library and the Spencer County Public Library are actively involved in supporting their libraries and they have much to be proud of and much to share. I’m sure you will learn from their work. In future newsletters, we hope to read about the great work your Friends chapter is doing!

Communication is an issue for any organization, particularly an organization composed exclusively of volunteers like the Friends. By communicating better within our local Friends groups and among groups around the state, we have much to gain. I challenge you to find new ways to communicate about your Friends group with others in your community and also to share with other Friends groups through the Friends of Kentucky Libraries. We have a presence on Facebook and on Twitter, so please like and follow us!

Good luck on the many efforts you are making to support our libraries. Your work makes a huge difference!

— WAYNE ONKST, PRESIDENT OF THE FRIENDS OF KENTUCKY LIBRARIES
There have been two horses registered with the Jockey Club named Bookmobile!
The first thoroughbred named Bookmobile was born in 1952. He was owned by Brent Hart, a Madisonville coal operator who became a leading horseman and served on the Churchill Downs board. Bookmobile raced only a few times from 1954-1956 and 1958 with little success.
The second Bookmobile was born in 1996. He was owned by Todd Hinners and raced from 1998-2001, but again with limited results.
On many occasions over the past 70 years, Kentucky children of all ages have excitedly shouted “here comes the bookmobile” as the rolling library approached. Now we know that even at race tracks, announcers have called “and here comes Bookmobile.”
courtesy Keeneland Library
Paris is a small town nestled in the heart of horse country and surrounded by farm land and rolling pastures that depict a sleepy town 18 miles north of the big metropolitan city of Lexington.

But if you take time to visit this small community, you are in store for some big surprises, one of which is the Paris Bourbon County Public Library. Here you find a tribute to the new and old with an expansion of the old library into the new world and beyond.

But quietly working behind this metamorphosis are the Friends of the Bourbon County Library. Every year they work to provide the library with money that they raise by various means. From note cards to book sales and cook books to donations, the Friends continue looking for ways to raise monies for the general fund.

Every year money goes to buy books that are given to all the children who participate in the reading program throughout the year and the special Summer Reading Program. In addition to funding, we also provide volunteers to help with programs, especially the Summer Reading Program.

We also sponsor the Meet and Greet event in which members of the local community are invited to meet the candidates running for public office.

In the past, we have provided money to redecorate the children’s library, purchase computer tables and even buy a popcorn machine. When we have had enough money, we have also helped to send staff members to national conferences. Most of this was money we raised from book sales, donations and membership fees.

Our book sales of discarded library books and donations has been our traditional money raiser. We have reduced that sale from quarterly to three times a year. The cook book sales are going well and the book is in its second printing. It has includes recipes from Friends members, library employees and the library-loving community at large, and works well as a present.

Our latest fund raiser is the sale of locally made t-shirts in sizes small to extra large. They feature our logo and sell for $9.99 and up. We are offering short or long sleeve t-shirts, sweatshirts and hoodies for which we can get a bulk price. For Easter we are looking into raffling a ham.

Paris and Bourbon County friends are truly Friends of the Library.
Celebrating five years of service, the Friends of Spencer County Public Library is a small but mighty group of volunteers (about 16 active members) committed to enhancing the library’s mission and raising awareness of the library in the community. Since our formation in 2015, we have helped the library move twice – the second time into its new, state-of-the-art location in the heart of Taylorsville – and have raised enough from our fundraising to buy the library Wish List items like a toaster oven, a Disc-Go-Devil, a canopy and tent for outdoor events, a picnic table, several book trucks for shelving books, a craft cart, and a hanging system for donated quilts.

Our biggest purchase to date was the $3,500 we donated to the library last summer to help purchase internet WiFi Hot Spots for library patrons to check out. We were thrilled to help the library acquire this groundbreaking library asset!

Like most Friends groups, our main source of income is our Book/Bake Sales in April and October, which generally bring in between $500-700 each time. These are held in the library’s large community room, with books organized by genre. We also have on-going book sales with a dedicated space in the library’s foyer. In 2017, we organized our first Quilt Silent Auction at Christmas, and repeated that in 2019. The quilts featured book themes and we were able to raise several hundred dollars each time. Our first Author Faire was in 2017 as well, with our second Author Faire last year, and we have hosted about a dozen authors each time. A grant from Friends of KY Libraries helped with those events.

In addition to fundraising, we work to support library staff members in their efforts to provide a variety of programming for patrons. For example, the Friends sponsored local author Thomas Freese for a presentation last March and will sponsor a presentation on Pollinator Gardens this spring at the library. We are also focused on engaging the Friends with each other as friends, so each of our monthly meetings is themed: for example, Sweet Treats in February, a Book Swap in September, and a chili cook-off in November. At Christmas, we decorate the library with trees purchased or donated by the Friends and with ornaments that are donated, purchased, and/or handmade by the Friends.

The Friends of SCPL is a very busy group that has come a long way in five years! As we continue to look for new and better ways to support our library and attract more members, we are glad to count ourselves among the library’s best friends.

— sent in by the Friends of SCPL
The Friends of KY Libraries Board was pleased to receive the plaque pictured above, along with the following letter, from the 2019 Friends of Kentucky Libraries Library Grant recipient, Pendleton County Public Libraries:

“Hello. My name is Kelly Zumwalt and I am the Assistant Director, Adult Services Coordinator, and Marketing Coordinator for the Pendleton County Public Library. We are honored to have received your Friends of Kentucky Libraries grant to help us serve our community. The funds were used to purchase a Silhouette Cameo 3 White Bluetooth Starter Bundle, HP 15.6” Laptop, Weeding Tools, Cutting Mats, 2 storage containers, and vinyl for us to add to our Maker Space collection. Being located in a rural area, these items are not readily available to our patrons and not something they can afford to purchase for themselves.

Our goal is to offer, as a service to our community, the opportunity to have items cut out for their personal use, as well as, produce marketing items for our library. Our kickoff program was held on November 14 at 6:00 pm. We offered a Maker Space Craft Hour, open to all ages. At this program, all attendees got to see the Silhouette in action, as well as our 3D printer. At the end of the demonstration, we explained that these both were new services that we offered to the community so they could request their own printed and cut designs. We then helped them create a craft using items produced by both machines (I have included a picture and a sample of our craft). The truck and tires were printed on our 3D printer and the trees and pumpkins were cut on our Silhouette. We also offered pumpkin and tree options that were cut out of craft foam and vinyl to show the different materials available. We also offered pads of ink. If all goes well, we hope to offer training sessions to interested parties so they can then come in and use the machines themselves.

Thank you for the grant and the opportunity to provide this additional service to our community.”
In January of this year, one of the officers of the Hardin County Friends of the Library shared a news release with our membership. The release was dated January 15, 2020, with the title "Proposed book banning bill in Missouri could imprison librarians". The information was provided by PEN America and its director of communications is Stephen Fee, sfee@pen.org, +1 202 309 8892. It seems that the state of Missouri has faced a backlash from many across the country since announcing the Parental Oversight of Public Libraries Act or House Bill 2044 which would, according to some reports, permit state officials to ban books, terminate funds for libraries, and arrest librarians.

I encourage each one of you to Google information regarding this matter due to its very serious nature. I am a father, a grandfather, and a retired Army lawyer who is conservative and who honors our First Amendment rights of free speech highly. Library directors and workers are not parents. Public libraries are for everyone. The idea of book banning reminds me of the scenes in Nazi Europe where ideas opposed by some and written in certain books were deemed unpatriotic and burned. This is America and not Nazi Europe. Libraries are the repositories of great knowledge and a wide range of information. I submit that we do not need a library Gestapo in America. We need to trust our library directors to use common sense. If they do not, they can be fired from their jobs, but God forbid that they might go to jail for working in libraries and possibly offending some members of the public. As supporters of public libraries I encourage all of you to be on your guard regarding anything you see which might limit the rights of free speech which includes not only our books but much, much more. If anyone wants to ban your books, they are not your friend. Thank you for supporting your local libraries and Friends Groups.

Respectfully,
Jim Weise, Vice President
Friends of Kentucky Libraries
Notice — Friends of Kentucky Libraries Grants

FOR THE SECOND YEAR, THE FRIENDS OF KENTUCKY LIBRARIES WILL BE OFFERING GRANTS OF $500 FOR LOCAL FRIENDS CHAPTERS AND PUBLIC LIBRARIES. GRANTS WILL BE OFFERED TO FRIENDS CHAPTERS TO HELP ESTABLISH AND STRENGTHEN FRIENDS CHAPTERS. GRANTS TO PUBLIC LIBRARIES ARE OFFERED TO HELP STRENGTHEN PUBLIC LIBRARIES. PLEASE WATCH FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THESE GRANTS COMING SOON.

FRIENDS OF DAVIESS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY FUNDRAISING EFFORTS

Some of the board members for the Friends of the Daviess County Public Library were ready to welcome people to the Dairy Queen on Frederica Street in Owensboro on the evening of Feb. 24. The organization was given 10 percent of the profits from all sales between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. The restaurant is located just across the street and down a little ways from the library. Pictured, left to right: Tim Coleman, Glenda Price, Treasurer Amanda Patton and President Joy Jung. It was the first time the Friends have held a fundraiser here, and they plan to do it again. The group obtained its 501(c)3 status in the fall of 2018 and has been exploring fundraising options ever since.

Joy Jung, president of the Friends of the Daviess County Public Library, holds up a new T-shirt that the Friends are selling at the library to raise money for the Friends. The $10 shirts say, “Book Lovers Never Go to Bed Alone.” The Friends brought a T-shirt to show visitors during their Feb. 24 fundraising night at Dairy Queen.

—photos and news provided by Jennifer Kaminski, Friends of the Daviess Co. Public Library, Member of the Board of Directors of FOKL

HARDIN COUNTY FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY NEWS

HARDIN COUNTY FOL SPRING BOOK SALE IS COMING UP QUICKLY: 16-18 APRIL 2020 AT THE MAIN BRANCH OF THE LIBRARY, 100 JIM OWEN DRIVE, ELIZABETHTOWN.
WE SHALL BE OPEN DURING NORMAL LIBRARY HOURS ON 16 & 17 APRIL BUT ONLY UNTIL NOON ON 18 APRIL.
HARDIN CO. FRIENDS WEBSITE IS NOW LIVE!.

FRIENDSOFTHEHARDINCOUNTYKYPUBLICLIBRARY.ORG

There is also a link to our website on the library's website.
The only cost to us was purchasing the domain, and of course the monthly cost of maintaining it. There was a high school class that was learning to build websites, and they offered to build ours for free so they could learn in a real life context. It was a team of 5 girls. We are very pleased with the job they did, and we feel fortunate that we were approached and asked to participate in their project. It was one of those win/win situations.

We're looking forward to participating in the kygivesday and hoping that we'll get a lot of donations from that.

FROM NANCY SHORES, FRIENDS OF HARDIN CO. LIBRARIES
MEMBERSHIP

By Lois Schultz

Our mission is to advocate for libraries on the national, state, and local levels and to provide support for the formation and success of local Friends chapters. We would like for you to join in our effort to support the libraries of Kentucky. By receiving this newsletter you may already be a member; if so, ask a friend to join. It may be that it is time to renew your membership. The categories of membership are Individual, Local Library Friends Chapter, Library Board of Trustees, and Business.

Benefits of membership are:

- Subscription to email listserv for Kentucky Library Friends
- Subscription to quarterly emailed newsletter
- Volunteer opportunities: short-term projects and long-term activities
- An opportunity to speak up for libraries in a unified voice

A membership form can be downloaded from the Friends of Kentucky Libraries website located at: http://friendskylibraries.org/membership.html

OR—Dues can be mailed to:
Friends of Kentucky Libraries
P.O. Box 537
Frankfort, KY 40602

THANK YOU TO OUR FKL LIFETIME MEMBERS

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FOKL MISSION
The Friends of Kentucky Libraries Inc. works hard to make sure Kentucky has the best possible libraries and support groups available. We are a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization of volunteers supporting public libraries across Kentucky.

Our Mission is two-fold: to advocate for libraries on the national, state, and local levels; and to provide support for the formation and success of local Friends chapters.

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. Visit https://friendskylibraries.org/home/contact/, or write to us at contact@friendskylibraries.org, and send 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) and we will share it!

United for Libraries
Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations

FROM THE EDITOR
We want to hear from you!

The Friends CONNECT Newsletter wishes to 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 though this newsletter. You can email me directly at emerfi@gmail.com

Thank you,
Eunice Murphy

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

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