Hope you are safe and healthy as you read this! We have certainly experienced an interesting year. I’ve used the extra time resulting from our social distancing by reading more books than ever before. I’m grateful that my library was open - even with reduced services - so I could still enjoy and learn this summer from home. Our libraries across Kentucky have provided even more service this year through drive up service, on-line programming, assisting families with at home instruction, and many other services for dealing with the pandemic.

Unfortunately many of our friends activities have been suspended as we comply with the necessity of social distancing. As we come out of the pandemic, the needs for friends support will be greater than ever. Our libraries will be facing increased demand for services and added expenses related to the pandemic while experiencing reduced funding from state sources. Many libraries in smaller, rural communities will be especially impacted. Friends can make a huge difference in the library’s ability to meet these increased demands.

While we wait for some form of normalcy, please make sure your local and state elected officials are aware of your concern about adequate support for libraries so they can do the job needed in your community. When the opportunity arises, be sure to visit your library to use the services and see how you might assist your library staff deal with the issues brought on by the pandemic. We will get through this together and hopefully learn new ways to make our libraries even more important in our communities in the future.

— WAYNE ONKST, PRESIDENT OF THE FRIENDS OF KENTUCKY LIBRARIES
Friend of Kentucky Libraries:

What a difficult year this has been! Every area of our lives has been impacted. Our libraries and friends groups have certainly not been spared. As a result of the pandemic, the board of the Friends of Kentucky Libraries decided to forego our annual meeting this year. We will look forward to having an even bigger and better annual meeting in 2021.

In the meantime, our by-laws require that we elect officers who will be responsible for helping our friends and libraries come out of the pandemic stronger than ever. The Board has decided to hold this election by email and it will entail two steps. First, the Nominating Committee has presented the following slate of officers for 2021 for your consideration:

President: Wayne Onkst
Vice-President: Jim Weise
Secretary: Jennifer Kaminski
Treasurer: Pat Thomas

For the board, nominees for 3 year terms are:

Jim Weise
Pat Thomas
Rose Booth

We will email the final ballot to you in October so you can cast your vote by email. With the votes returned by November 1, the Friends of Kentucky Libraries will be ready to launch into 2021. If you do not receive your ballot by October 20th, 2020, please contact us at: contact@friendskylibraries.org

Thank you for your support of library friends and libraries across Kentucky. On the next page you will find a membership form if you have not already joined the FOKL, or need to renew your membership. As always, we encourage you to visit our website, https://friendskylibraries.org/ for more information about the activities of Friends groups across Kentucky, as well as multiple resources for all Friends groups to enjoy.
MEMBERSHIP in the Friends of Kentucky Libraries, Inc
brings you:

• a network of library supporters across the Commonwealth sharing ideas and news
• assistance in creating or revitalizing a local Friends of the Library chapter
• a unified voice advocating support for your library
and all Kentucky libraries

Who Should Join?
✓ any friend of the library
✓ groups and businesses
✓ libraries
✓ trustees
✓ library staff members
✓ in other words...YOU!

Would You Volunteer to?
___ work on a committee
___ work on a short term project
___ serve on the board

Annual Individual Membership
___ regular member $10.00
___ sustaining member $100.00
___ lifetime member $250.00
   (payable one time only)

Annual Friends Chapter Membership
___ fewer than 150 members $25.00
___ 150-200 members $35.00
___ more than 200 members $50.00

Annual Library Board of Trustees
___ $25.00

Annual Business or Corporation
___ $25.00

Name: ___________________________________________________________ County: _______________________
[if a chapter/board membership, please supply contact name] ___________________________________________
Address: ______________________________________________________
City: __________________________ State: __________ Zip: ____________
Contact E-mail: __________________________ Phone __________________________
Would you like to be added to our electronic discussion list for Friends? ______ Yes _____ No

Occasionally, FKL may choose to thank and acknowledge our members by publishing their names in library related literature. If you do NOT want your name published, please check here: ________

Your contact information is confidential and will not be shared with any other organization or agency. Contributions above the basic membership level further support Friends of Kentucky Libraries' mission and are greatly appreciated. All membership donations and gifts to Friends of Kentucky Libraries, Inc, a 501(c)3 public charitable organization, are tax deductible to the extent of the law.

Follow us on Facebook - Friends of Kentucky Libraries

Send this form with your payment to:

Friends of Kentucky Libraries Inc.   P O Box 537   Frankfort, KY 40602-0537
Libraries around Kentucky have long been involved in the voting process by serving as poll locations in many Kentucky counties. With the changes necessary to keep poll workers and voters safe during the pandemic while dealing with an expected heavy turnout, the role of libraries is changing this year. Among the libraries that will be participating:

The **Daviess County Public Library** is serving as a secure drop box location for absentee ballots in the November election. Voters can return their absentee ballots to a drop box rather than mailing them back, if they prefer.

The **Scott County Public Library** is the site for early voting in the county, which begins October 13th and continues through November 2nd. The library director has been working closely with staff at the County Clerk’s office to assist them in this important task.

Three branches of the **Lexington Public Library** (Tates Creek, Beaumont, Northside) will serve as early voting locations from October 13 - November 2. Dropboxes for absentee ballots are located at each of these branches and each branch will host in person voting on election day.

Both branches of the **Madison Public Library** served as a place for folks to register to vote, but that process is now over. The libraries do have information on the candidates and on how to vote available.
SOCIAL DISTANCING
BOOK SALE IDEA—Drive Thru Booksale

Most all of the typical friends fundraising efforts have been suspended during the pandemic. As libraries resume service and life slowly returns to normal, creativity is crucial in finding new ways to cope.

The Friends of the Madison County Public Library recently held a drive through, touch free book sale and sold out within the first hour. They are planning a second, bigger sale. The Friends of the Laurel County Public Library borrowed the idea and held their own sale. Susan Fawbush from the Laurel County Friends emailed about their experience:

“We found it to be very successful and a lot of fun. We got the idea of a drive thru sale from Madison County. Our sale started at 10am and we had patrons in line before 9. We had pre-filled approximately 350 bags of 7 different genres. We mixed the bags with donated books, discards, paperbacks, and hardbacks. We charged $5 for a reusable library bag of books. We created a half sheet list of available genres with a place to mark down the number of bags requested. When a car arrives, we would write down the color of the vehicle, and fill out an order form. Someone would then fill the order and load it in the vehicle. We had one Friends member taking the money. It ran smoothly. We alternated order takers and fillers. We sold out in an hour and 45 minutes. I think the only thing we would change is to have more bags ready next time.”

I'm sure the Friends in Madison and Laurel would be happy to share more about this if you are interested. Of course there are many variations you can use on this idea. I imagine everyone has lots of books that they would like to move at this time! If you have any other fundraising ideas, please pass them along to contact@friendskylibraries.org, and we will share them.
Most all of the typical friends fundraising efforts have been suspended during the pandemic. As libraries resume service and life slowly returns to normal, creativity is crucial in finding new ways to cope.

The Friends of the Madison County Public Library held a drive through, touch free book sale and sold out within the first hour. They are planning a second, bigger sale on October 31st from 12 till 4pm in the parking lot of Berea Baptist Church, 210 Chestnut St., Berea (across from the library). They will have lots of Friends’ tote bags filled with books by genre, for just $5! Genre choices range from non-fiction, fiction, romance, mystery, Christian fiction, young adults, children’s books, cds, and more. With it being Halloween, they will also be handing out pre-bagged candy to children.

The Madison County Friends will also be holding an in person RARE book sale on November 7th from 10am till 2pm at the Richmond branch, 507 W. Main St., Richmond. This event will require advance registration, as they will allow 10 people per each 30 minute cycle. They will practice safe distancing, and will require everyone to wear masks and gloves. Folks can email Friends-mcplky@gmail.com to register for a time slot (10:00-10:30, 10:30-11:00, 11:00-11:30, 11:30-12:00, 12:00-12:30, 12:30-1:00, 1:00-1:30, or 1:30-2:00.) They have amazing titles that will be of special interest to collectors and will be selling the rare books for about 50% of what you could find online!!

The Friends of the Laurel County Public Library borrowed the idea and held their own sale. Susan Fawbush from the Laurel County Friends emailed about their experience, as detailed on the prior page.

The Friends of the Grayson County Public Library will be holding a drive up sale on October 10, 2020 from 10 am to 1 pm. This will be a kick-off for the Friends. They will be social distancing and mask wearing. The books will be organized by genre so that people can go to the tables and select the books they want. They are also planning a membership drive later in the fall.

The Friends of the Louisville Free Public Library will be holding a membership event via Zoom on October 22 from 11:30-1:00 called "Preparing for a Healthy Happy Holiday... even in 2020." There will be a presentation from the Friends, Foundation, and Library then at 12:30 a doctor will share how to be safe this holiday season. Followed by a Q&A.
The Friends of the Daviess County Public Library decided to “stretch” their annual weekend Book Sale to a full week (Sept. 28-Oct. 5). This allowed them to use fewer book sale carts that could be spaced further apart inside the library. Books were restocked daily. This also created much less of a crowd at any one time. Shoppers could fill a plastic grocery bag (provided by the Friends) for $5. Three gift baskets were on display. Shoppers who joined the Friends were entered into a drawing to win the gift baskets.

The Friends of the Daviess County Public Library are also participating in a “Pot of Dough” fundraiser. Azzip Pizza (which has locations in Owensboro, Bowling Green and in Indiana) provided 100 key tags for Friends and their supporters to use when ordering/buying food. The tag is like a personal shopper’s card that is linked to the Friends account and can be used multiple times. The Friends receive 5% of the purchase price from September through November. From Oct. 19-21, the group will receive 20% during special Giveback Days. The Friends will also be entered into a drawing for a grand prize of $10,000 and five $1,000 prizes.

The Friends of the Scott County Public Library are “back at work!” While wearing masks and practicing social distancing, they have held two Board meetings and made the decisions to reopen the Friends Book Store and to conduct their annual Holiday Silent Auction. The book store is in a new location: just to their right as library patrons leave the lobby and enter the building.

Their Annual Holiday Silent Auction, though probably smaller this year, will feature donated gift baskets and holiday décor for which patrons will place bids from November 1st through November 18th.

The Book Cellar at the Lexington Public Library is closed, but members of the Friends of the Lexington Public Library may now take advantage of curbside service to purchase books, DVDs, CDs, and magazines from the Friends Book Cellar. Friends may call or email the Book Cellar to place their orders. Credit/debit card information will be collected, and customers may pick up their orders at curbside. They will also ship merchandise and collect for the service by phone. Members can call 859-231-5505 on Tuesdays or Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. to speak with a bookseller. Call or email to friends@friendsbookcellar.org at other times to leave a voicemail message and/or an email address that we will return on weekdays from 10-1. Include a description of the merchandise you desire. They will call or email when the order is ready, typically within a few days. At that time, major credit or debit card information will be taken and a time arranged for pickup, available on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10-1. Sorry, no cash or checks. Pickups may be made at three reserved parallel parking spaces on Main Street in front of the library, or at the book drop area just inside the breezeway off Main Street. Call 859-231-5505 when you have arrived.
The Friends of Kentucky Libraries (FOKL) offered its first grants to local friends groups and public libraries for the purpose of strengthening public library service and friends chapters. FOKL called for applications and made four grants of $500 to local friends groups and four additional grants of $500 to public libraries. The eight projects have been completed or are underway. Following is a summary of the projects.

**Friends of the George Coon Public Library** in Princeton purchased a computer to provide better library services to children and teen patrons. The Friends raised funding locally to purchase 1 computer, and the grant was used to purchase a second computer. The computers support children’s services and home school students. In addition, teachers and students meet at the library for the Homebound program to use the computers. These computers will bring additional families to the library.

**Friends of Mary Wood Weldon Memorial Library** in Glasgow used the grant to purchase books for their local bookmobile TOTE program. The bookmobile delivers books in specially designed “TOTE” bags to eight public elementary schools, three private schools, and twenty-six preschool classrooms in Barren County each month for programming in the classroom and for reading by students. Since this program was inaugurated in 2015, usage has grown exponentially and the Friends purchase of more books will allow even more children to be served.

**Friends of the Spencer County Public Library** in Taylorsville held an Author Faire & (Silent) Quilt Auction. Eleven Kentucky authors from various genres participated in the author faire, talking about their books and meeting with readers. Books were sold and autographed. Quilters and crafters offered items for the silent auction. High school students participated and the Friends signed up new members during the events. The grant funds were used to purchase a display system for the quilts. This system will continue to be used by the library for various exhibitions and other library and friends events.

We would like to share our latest grant reports with you below.
Friends of the Corbin Public Library purchased a system to display exhibits in the library’s newly constructed annex. This annex had been long planned and the library received a construction grant from the state to make it possible. The Friends used the new system to highlight their contributions to the library and the new system will be used in the future by the library to hang various exhibits and promote events.

The Cumberland County Public Library received funding for a series of programs and corresponding literature geared toward teens and young adults on S.T.R.E.A.M.S. topics. These programs were planned for in-library delivery, but with the advent of COVID-19, the programs were offered via Facebook Live which turned out to be advantageous. The library was able to reach a much broader audience. Supplies and books to complement the programs were provided via curbside pick-up and through distribution at the school feeding program.

The Fulton County Public Library was granted funds to repurpose old newspaper boxes as Free Little Libraries to be placed at optimal locations throughout the county. Six newspaper boxes were purchased, the Plexiglas fronts were replaced, the boxes were painted, vinyl letters were added, and shelving was installed. Three of the Free Little Libraries have been installed and have been very popular. The remaining three will be placed in the community later this year.

The Powell County Public Library received funds to help move and re-purpose the library’s old bookmobile to serve library users in Clay City that do not have transportation to the main library in Stanton. A contract has been signed with the church where the bookmobile will be parked. The process has slowed because of COVID-19, but the bookmobile is being cleaned and painted. Purchase of the necessary equipment will begin soon.

The Pendleton County Public Library received funds to purchase a laptop and a vinyl cutter to cut out designs for crafts and supplies for special occasions both for the public and for programming and other purposes. The library staff is using the system to upgrade library exhibits and signage.

Silhouette cuts now available at Pendleton County Public Library through Friends of KY Libraries grant—photo courtesy of Kelly Zumwalt, Assistant Director Pendleton Co. Public Library
Advocacy Update
The Public Library Advocacy Committee has chosen Feb. 11, 2021 as the date for Library Legislative Day in Frankfort. Of course, the date is tentative based on the conditions that exist at that time. The 2021 session of the Kentucky General Assembly will be a 60 day session but unlike normal short sessions, this will also be a budget session since the legislature decided to do a one year budget in 2020. Thus, it will be an important session for public libraries as we hope to regain state funding for libraries that was eliminated from the state budget. There will also be other issues related to public libraries that legislators will consider.

The Advocacy Committee is encouraging all public librarians to meet with their legislators locally in November and December before the legislative session begins to let them know about all the libraries are doing. Public libraries are playing many new roles to help communities deal with the virus. A second meeting with legislators will be planned early in the year when we know more about what bills have been proposed. Look for updates as the session proceeds with information on proposed legislation and the needs for contacts with legislators.

Of course every member of the Kentucky House of Representatives and half of the Kentucky Senate will be elected in November. Many candidates will be campaigning before November 3. If a candidate approaches you to ask for your vote, make sure they are aware of your desire for strong libraries and ask for their commitment to support libraries if they are elected.
Dr. Thomas D. Clark is considered the Dean of Kentucky historians. The Kentucky General Assembly named him Kentucky’s Historian Laureate for Life. He was primarily responsible for the establishment of the Kentucky State Archives and the building of both the Department for Libraries and Archives Building and the Kentucky History Center in Frankfort which were named in his honor. He died in 2005 at the age of 101. Dr. Clark was the keynote speaker for the annual meeting of the Kentucky Citizens’ Library League (the organization which became the Friends of Kentucky Libraries) in 1942. There is no text of Dr. Clark’s remarks, but the League’s Secretary included some quotes from Dr. Clark’s remarks in her minutes of the meeting. Even though his speech was almost 80 years ago, many of his comments are relevant today.

Among his remarks which were made during the midst of World War II:

- “The safest arsenal in this country is the great storehouse of knowledge, and it is in our libraries we find this great storehouse.”
- “We find an informed democracy in an informed citizenry.”
- “Communities are starved for reading matter. Circulating libraries could use ten times the number of books available. A hopeful sign is this awakening of library consciousness.” (At that time, 80% of Kentucky’s rural areas had no library service and the existing libraries were limited and underfunded.)
- “We have had a good crop of authors in Kentucky in the last few years. This is a great step forward.”
- “You can always tell a community by its general tone. Poor library facilities - poor community.”
- “If there is no demand on your library, you will not get tax support. You cannot have a democracy until you have an informed citizenry.”
- “When this war is over and even before it is, the citizens will turn more and more to libraries.”
- “Libraries can reach people from the cradle to the grave.”
A LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

During this trying time, I hope all of us everywhere are stopping to count our blessings.

A pandemic should be a significant emotional event for all and a great time to evaluate what and who is really important to us. If secure in one's faith, life is not really scary, nor is the prospect of one's demise. What should be scary is not knowing who and what you are and not having anyone to love on this earth.

In America we love to disagree but regardless of what is said we defend the right to say it because we are a proud and fiercely independent country of individuals who love our freedom to express ourselves, even if often ridiculous things are said and possibly done.

How do we know people? Not by what they say so much as what they do. During this weird time on earth it is wonderful to see folks helping others. That is what God intended. "Love thy neighbor as thy self" should always be the mantra for all of us. I love hearing of random acts of kindness and being reminded by "Just Be Kind" signs throughout our community.

Life is extremely rewarding and not scary when you are doing good deeds to benefit others. Please call your friends and neighbors and check on them. They will get such pleasure from your calls. Do not forget that family and friends are the real treasures on earth and the real heroes now are those in the front lines during this pandemic-- the doctors, nurses, EMS personnel, and the army of folks tending to our medical needs and at times paying the ultimate price for doing so. Please pray for the families who have lost loved ones and do your part by being kind to everyone during this pandemic. Life is way too short. Please do something nice today for someone other than yourself. That way you will enjoy life much more than you ever thought possible. PEACE.

Respectfully,

Jim Weise

Elizabethtown, KY
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 through this newsletter. You can email me directly at emerfi@gmail.com

Thank you,
Eunice Murphy

Friends CONNECT is published quarterly by the Friends of Kentucky Libraries, Inc.

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

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