



Friends Of Kentucky Libraries

Dedicated Volunteers Supporting
Libraries Across the State



We're celebrating National Library Week, April 6-12, 2025,

along with the Spring edition of the
Friends of Kentucky Libraries (FOKL)!
We have exciting plans for this year, and are looking forward to
sharing News, Friends Chapters success stories,
and events to help your
Friends' communities succeed.



Our Mission is Two-Fold:

- 1** To advocate for libraries on the local, state, and national levels. We are a unified voice advocating for libraries across the commonwealth. FOKL supports the Kentucky Department of Libraries and Archives (KDLA) and the American Library Association (ALA) in their efforts to build awareness of the crucial value of libraries and financial support for the future. In February, Legislative Day was held and had record attendance. Forty-seven public libraries were represented. Twenty-three state senators and forty-nine representatives received a visit from those advocating for funding and support that libraries need to continue their vital role in their communities.
- 2** To provide support for the formation and success of local Friends of the Library chapters. Our experienced FOKL members are available to assist you in starting a new Friends group, mentoring, and building relationships in your communities. To better understand your needs, FOKL will soon be emailing a survey to you to complete so that we can gather what topics you want to hear about. Then in future newsletters, we can share ideas and other helpful information to use in your Friends groups.



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2025 Friends of Kentucky Libraries Grants*

We are offering eight \$500 grants to assist Friends Chapters and libraries. A grant can be used for purposes deemed by your local library as appropriate for strengthening service or increasing its profile in the community.

Some past winners have used the funds for summer reading programs and events, free little libraries, equipment and more!

Look for Applications being sent out now! They are requested back by 5/31/25. Winners have one year to use the funds. We may request pictures so that FOKL can share with your Friends chapters.

Good luck everyone!



“Outstanding” Volunteer, Small and Large Friends Chapter Awards*

Is there a volunteer who has gone “above and beyond” to help your Friends Group this year? Consider nominating them for the honor of “Outstanding Volunteer”. Is there a Friends Chapter that deserves to be given the moniker of “Outstanding” for their efforts this year? We know there are many but we have to choose just one in each of the three categories. Nomination requests for these awards will be emailed by 7/1/25 and are required back by 8/1/25.

Submissions will be reviewed, and winners will be notified.

Awards will be given out at the annual meeting in October.

**To be eligible for grants and awards, you must be a member of FOKL.*

Highlight Your Chapter!



We'd love to share what your Friends group is doing to make a difference in your community.

Friends of Kentucky Libraries Annual Meeting



The FOKL annual meeting will be held on Saturday, October 18, 2025 at the Paul Sawyer Public Library in Frankfort. This fun event includes idea-sharing sessions, lunch, awards, and guest speaker. While in Frankfort, there are other opportunities for members to enjoy, including a possible visit to the Capitol, KDLA, or take a Rebecca Ruth candy-making tour, and more!

Look for more information in the coming months!

Email us at
contact@

friendskylibraries.com

We want to hear from you!

For questions, comments or assistance, contact us at:

Friends Of Kentucky Libraries

P.O.Box 537
Frankfort, KY 40602-0537

Or:

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Membership

We would like 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. Membership categories include Individual, Library Friends Chapter, Library Board of Trustees, and Business. Join online at [https:// friendskylibraries.org/membership](https://friendskylibraries.org/membership) or download a membership form. To become a member, a Friends group does not require a 501(c)3 status or the “Friends” name (i.e. Foundations, volunteer groups, etc.)