



Friends of Kentucky Libraries

Dedicated Volunteers Supporting
Libraries Across the State



Welcome 2026!

A new year brings fresh energy and renewed purpose for Friends of Kentucky Libraries (FOKL).

One of our biggest goals is expanding our membership so we can better support the Friends Chapters who make a difference in communities across Kentucky.

We invite you to be part of this momentum as we launch new initiatives and continue the work that strengthens every library we serve.



A New Year Brings New Leadership for Friends of Kentucky Libraries

The Friends of Kentucky Libraries (FOKL) enters 2026 with renewed energy and a familiar face stepping into a new role. Patti Jensen, now beginning her second three-year term on the Board and her first year as elected President, expressed deep appreciation for the people who make FOKL's mission possible.

Jensen noted that the strength of FOKL lies not only in its Board of Directors, but also in the dedicated professionals across the Commonwealth who champion library services every day. "There isn't a better, more knowledgeable, or more experienced team to work with," she shared. "It's humbling to collaborate with KDLA staff, Regional Consultants, Library Directors, Assistant Directors, and Friends Chapters statewide. We're united by a shared passion for Kentucky's libraries, and it's exciting to watch FOKL continue to grow."



- New Leadership
- Kentucky Library Legislative Day
- Clark County Friends Chapter Highlight
- FREE Advertising
- Membership
- Our Mission



Membership support remains essential to FOKL's ability to serve communities. Through member dues and sponsorships, FOKL provides \$500 grants to local Friends Chapters, assists libraries recovering from natural disasters, and helps fund initiatives for statewide partners such as KDLA and KLA. These efforts are only possible when individuals and organizations invest in FOKL's mission.

Jensen extended gratitude to the organizations that have stepped forward as past and present sponsors, including Codell Construction Company, KPC Architectural Products, Inc., Sutherland & Associates, Baird & Co., and the Swope Family of Dealerships. "FOKL can't support you if you don't support us," she emphasized. "Your contributions directly strengthen libraries and communities across the Commonwealth of Kentucky."

With a new year underway, FOKL looks forward to continued collaboration, expanded outreach, advocacy, and meaningful progress in supporting the Commonwealth's libraries and the people who rely on them.

Kentucky Library Advocacy Day in Frankfort

February 12 is Library Advocacy Day at the state Capitol, and we will be there with lots of Library staff, trustees, and supporters. Public library directors and staff are making appointments with individual legislators. They will take this opportunity to tell their stories—about the important work happening every day in their individual libraries and to talk about proposed legislation that would impact public libraries.

The Friends of Ky Libraries will set up in the Capital Annex that day, and we will have our special "Support Libraries" M&Ms for each State Legislator—and the Governor!

We would love to have each Chapter send at least a Friend or two—to show to legislators the strong support public libraries have. For those coming to Frankfort the day before (February 11), there will be an orientation session at the offices of the Kentucky Department for Library and Archives (KDLA) at 5:30 pm.

If your Chapter can send some folks to the event, please check with your library director to coordinate efforts. If your library cannot make this year's Library Advocacy Day, but your Chapter would still like to participate, please let us know by emailing: marylynn41@hotmail.com



Patti Jensen, FOKL President

FOKL supports these statewide partners



Kentucky Library Legislative Day
at the State Capitol
February 12

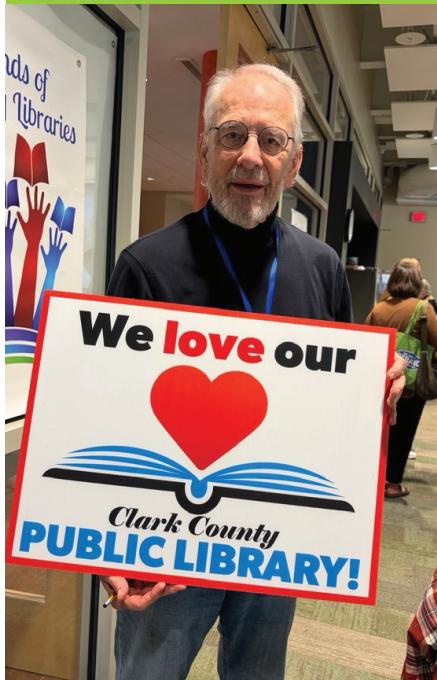
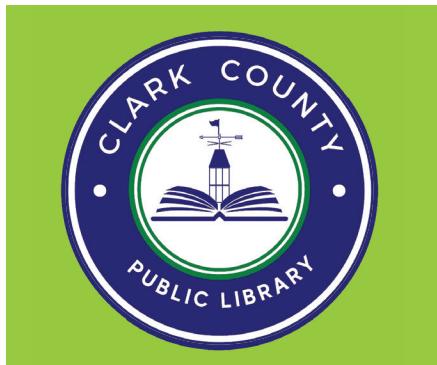
Our Friends in Clark County

With each issue of our newsletter, we like to highlight a local chapter of the Friends of the Library. And so, for this issue, we checked in with our Friends in Clark County. In 2023, two of the Friends of Kentucky Libraries board members made a trip to Winchester one evening to talk to a group gathered at the Clark County Public Library about starting a Friends of the Library Chapter. We shared recommended steps in establishing a Friends Chapter and talked a lot that night about how to be an effective advocate and support group for a public library. In addition, once the chapter was established, we awarded Clark County Friends a grant to cover expenses relating to their filing for 501(c)(3) nonprofit status.

We are happy to report, with pride, that the Friends of the Clark County Public Library, established in 2023, are thriving. They now have 68 members and host four book sales each year. The money raised in those book sales have allowed the summer reading program to grow.

For several years, the Clark County Friends provided a reading remediation program for local students. Since then, due to transportation issues, that program was handed off to an educational support group in the school system.

We are most excited about this chapter's most recent library advocacy effort. It started when the Clark County Friends Treasurer, Harry Enoch, was on vacation in a small town in Maine last summer. While there, he noted all these signs in the yards of homes all over town, proclaiming love of the local library. Harry brought the idea back to Winchester and the Clark County Friends created their own signs that read: We love our Clark County Public Library! The signs were given away and spread throughout the community. Clark County Friends President Lisa Johns notes "Those yard signs have been quite the talk of the town!" The signs are a great reminder to local elected leaders of the community's support of their public library. We would love to see this initiative taken up by all of our chapters!



Clark County Friends Treasurer
Harry Enoch



FREE Book Sale Advertising and More

Any Kentucky public library can receive
FREE advertising for their
Book Sales on our website and Facebook page.

Just email your event details to
contact@FriendsKYLibraries.org,
and we'll share it!

If you haven't renewed your membership—
or are ready to join—
visit *FriendsKYLibraries.org/join*.

FOKL is ready to support your Chapter with ideas
and resources to help you succeed!



Expanding Statewide Support in 2026

We're energized by the strength of our
66 Friends Chapters, now serving over
75% of Kentucky's population.

According to United for Libraries
(a national ALA division),

Kentucky is one of only 22 states with a statewide
Friends organization—leading the way in library
advocacy and support.

Interested in launching a chapter or
revitalizing an existing one? We're here to help.
Reach out to us at *contact@FriendsKYLibraries.org*
We'd love to hear from you!



Friends of Kentucky Libraries 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) nonprofit 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.

***"The only thing better than a library
is a library with Friends."***
-Anonymous

Email us at
contact@FriendsKYLibraries.com

We want to
hear from you!

For questions, comments
or assistance, contact us at:

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Or
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