



# Among Michigan Friends

INFORMATION • SUPPORT • ADVOCACY

## FOML President Dr. Charles Hanson Receives MLA Award of Excellence



"Michigan Library Association Award of Excellence presented to Dr. Charles Hanson, Kettering University Library, on this 10th day of November, 2010."

The distinguished career of Dr. Charles Hanson, director of Kettering's Library, was celebrated Nov. 10 when he received the Michigan Library Association Award of Excellence during the MLA state conference. The award is Michigan's highest recognition in Library Services. Charles has worked at Kettering for nine years. Congratulations Charles!



## Message from the FOML President: *Volunteer*

Charles Hanson,  
Library Director,  
Kettering University

Volunteer. It seems to be such a simple word, and yet it carries with it a commitment and call to action that conveys responsibilities to others. "I volunteer" is a personal statement about helping others in a meaningful and worthwhile way.

Friends are the library's best volunteers! Their dedication to the library's best interests and improvement is testimony to the value of volunteerism in Michigan library communities. At FOML's recent workshop on advocacy and community involvement over 115 Friends participated in the day's events, demonstrating that Friends want to be library supporters by strengthening ties to local communities.

I recently read David T. Levinson's book on volunteerism, *Everyone Helps, Everyone Wins*. Levinson contends that everyone can be a volunteer for some cause; he reassures that one need not fret or feel uneasy about volunteering. His message: "How absolutely anyone can pitch in, help out, give back, and make the world a better place."

Thank you, Michigan Friends of Libraries, for continuing your important volunteer work! (Applause)

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# FOML Interviews with Representative Tim Bledsoe, Ph.D., October 2010



State Representative  
Tim Bledsoe, Ph.D.

*Tim Bledsoe is serving his first term as State Representative for the 1st House District, which covers Grosse Pointe, Grosse Pointe Township, Grosse Pointe Farms, Grosse Pointe Park, Grosse Pointe Woods, Harper Woods and Eastpointe. In his first term as State Representative, Bledsoe has:*

- *Worked to reform Michigan's broken budget process by spearheading a plan that amends Michigan's Constitution to dock lawmakers, the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor one day's pay for every day the state budget remains unbalanced past the deadline. The plan also would apply to continuation budgets, such as the one in effect after the Legislature missed the Sept. 30 deadline.*
- *Voted for a major school reform plan that will help to turn around failing schools so all children are prepared to compete for good-paying jobs in the 21st century global economy.*
- *Championed passage of a statewide smoking ban that will protect Michigan's workers and families from deadly secondhand tobacco smoke by prohibiting smoking in most indoor places, including bars and restaurants.*
- *Supported plans to make Michigan a leader in renewable energy technologies, which will create jobs for our workers and strengthen our economy.*
- *Introduced a plan that will hold municipal pension boards accountable for expenses by requiring them to retain all records – including but not limited to travel records – for five years. The plan aims to prevent abuses such as those by the Detroit Fire and Police Pension and General Pension Board, whose members used pension funds to rack up global travel expenses totaling nearly \$380,000 over one year, while pension investments lost billions.*

*Bledsoe taught political science at Wayne State University for nearly 20 years before becoming a State Representative. He earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Louisiana State University, his master's from the University of Arkansas, and then his doctorate from the University of Nebraska. Bledsoe is married to Dr. Mary Herring, a professor at Wayne State University. Their daughter, Daisy, is a student at the College of Wooster in Wooster, Ohio. Bledsoe and his family are longtime residents of Grosse Pointe, and are active members of Christ Church Grosse Pointe in Grosse Pointe Farms.*

## **What prompted you to begin a career in politics? What attracts you to politics?**

It is difficult to identify an exact moment. As a young man I had a strong interest in and attraction to the area. I studied Political Science at Louisiana State University, I was awarded a masters from University of Arkansas, and a Ph.D. from the University of Nebraska in electoral politics. I taught political science at two universities and then decided to run for public office. I have always been dedicated to politics; it is the nature of that dedication that has changed over the years. Whatever prompted my initial interest in politics, I can say with certainty that I am proud to represent the first district.

**Charles Hyde, a Michigan author, has remarked, "The easiest way to measure a community's commitment to the education of its citizens of all ages is to examine the public library facilities and services it provides." What is your response to that statement?**

It is always difficult to measure a community's commitment to education, and I am generally reluctant to adopt one sole indicator for quality of education. That being said, I live several blocks from my community's library. This library sits directly next to the high school that my daughter attended. This library, Grosse Pointe Central Library, and the School, Grosse Pointe South, are both exceptional and outstanding in many ways. I suppose I would respond that, as far as my family is concerned, I am in total agreement with Mr. Hyde. What we must strive for, is improving access to these kinds of facilities for all areas of Michigan, within our current financial constraints.

**Michigan public libraries, similar to libraries nationwide, rely on support for their services through voted millages. What do you believe are some best strategies for gaining voter support for library services?**

# Bledsoe's Interview (cont'd.)

We have an obligation to prove, at all levels of government, that taxpayers are receiving the best possible value for their dollars. Encouraging support for library services is a matter of effectively communicating the value of libraries as irreplaceable community centers. In my opinion, this is related to the greater effort of emphasizing the importance of education. As for voters in my district, encouraging them to step foot into one of our several outstanding libraries accomplishes the goal of gaining support for libraries. There is simply no way to have a bad reaction if you spend any time there!

**Last year the Michigan Governor threatened to eliminate the Michigan Electronic Library ([www.mel.org](http://www.mel.org)) as a budget reduction option. Michigan libraries rallied in Lansing to voice our concern about the elimination of this critical feature of our library services (funded in part by matching LSTA funds from the federal government). Were you involved in opposition to this threat and its possible consequences for library services in Michigan?**

I do not serve on the appropriations committee, where these funding discussions take place; however I followed this debate closely. In these tough economic times, we need to maximize our use of Federal funding and fund programs that provide the most value for our limited resources. In this case, Michigan's libraries did an excellent job demonstrating their great value.

**State Aid and Penal Fines for libraries are written into the Michigan State Constitution. Yet these areas are often underfunded or threatened for possible elimination during the political process. Is there any way that libraries can strengthen our support for full funding of State Aid and Penal Fines?**

The best way to voice your concerns and achieve action in the Legislature is to generate conversation within your communities and to contact your elected officials. Now, I am going to take a break from this interview to notify my staff that they should expect a barrage of phone calls and letters from some very passionate librarians...

**I've heard they say in Washington, D.C., that there are two things you never want actually to witness: How they make sausage, and how they make laws. Do you think the legislative process in Michigan can be equally challenging?**

I saw a sausage being made once; I think the saying is unfair to sausages. Partisan tribalism has gripped Lansing and prevented cooperation across the board. Unfortunately, term limits have forced law makers to look barely beyond the next election. This is not only a detriment to good government, it actively prevents good government. Within the existing framework, too

much power is placed in the hands of special interests, and it is more attractive to become a corporate lobbyist than to be a legislator. These disturbing facts force one to ask: what are we doing to make lawmaking, as a profession, appealing to good men and women?

**What kind of advice would you give to Friends of Michigan Libraries who want to contact their elected representatives about issues that affect libraries? Are there some "best strategies" for library advocacy?**

Most of us have heard the expression 'all politics are local'. This is definitely the case when it comes to libraries. Not only because they are primarily local institutions, but because the millages that finance them are all levied and passed locally. I would say that local advocacy is probably the best strategy. Additionally, Legislators are always more than willing to listen to the needs of their constituents. Often enough politics can (and should) be left out altogether. Great organizations--such as Friends of the Library-- are capable and willing to effect advocacy through generating discussion and coordination amongst libraries.

**The Library of Michigan and its services have been a source of pride for Michigan libraries and librarians for many years. Yet there has been recent erosion in the legislative support for the Library of Michigan. What do you believe are the reasons for this decreased support?**

I think that the answer is relatively simple. Hard economic times have fallen on Michigan, and when people are less financially comfortable their concerns become very urgent. People must focus on paying for food and electricity, and naturally some have come to consider places like libraries to be more of a luxury. Ensuring that our children are equipped with every resource to improve our communities and our state is the best way to ensure that the future will be a brighter place. Sadly, during this harsh economic climate, fulfilling this promise has become very difficult. Hopefully, we will soon see better days for our state, and we will begin to feel more comfortable about investing in these cherished community centers.

**What is your outlook for Michigan's future? What should we consider our major points of pride about our State?**

If we are all willing to work hard and compromise, I see no insurmountable obstacles in Michigan's path to prosperity. There is so much to be proud of in our state, it is difficult to isolate a few major sources of pride. As a father, my first reaction is to say our children. Then there are the abundant natural resources and natural wonders our state has to offer. I am also very proud of our hard working and talented work force, and

# Bledsoe's Interview (cont'd.)

our commitment to innovation and the production of great products. I am very proud to live in our great state.

**in support of and advocacy for libraries, what might that message say?**

**If you could leave one message of encouragement for Michigan libraries and Michigan Friends working**

Never stop reading. ♦

## AGENDA

### **Friends of Michigan Libraries FOML Workshop & Annual Membership Meeting Delta Township District Library February 11, 2011**

#### **“Virtually Speaking: Friends in the Digital and Social Media Worlds”**

SNOPSIS: We live in an online world, and we are constantly reminded that media is the message for conveying information and for bringing people together. What does this digital world contain that Friends might use to help support the library and also to recruit and retain members? Is this a world of confusion (all-a-twitter) or a world of digital opportunities? Is a Kindle in your future? Is Facebook the new face for your Friends organization? And what does it take to tweet on Twitter?

8:30 a.m. Registration Opens

8:30 a.m. Early Bird Networking & Talk Tables

9:00 a.m. FOML Annual Membership Meeting

9:30 a.m. E-Books, E-Book Readers, and Social Media: What's Your Preference?  
Paul Gallagher, Developer Librarian, New Media & Information Technology, Wayne State University Libraries

10:15 a.m. Morning Break

10:30 a.m. Implementing Electronic Resources and Social Media: What's in it for me (us)?

Jessica Sanchez, Digital Technology Librarian, Kettering University  
Adele Ernsberger, Systems Librarian at PALnet  
Gerald Furi, Assistant Director, Farmington Community Library  
Laurie Golden, Marketing & Communications Manager, Canton Public Library

11:45 a.m. LUNCH

1:15 p.m. Volunteers! Get 'em, train 'em, keep 'em  
Tami Rummel, Director, Huron Valley Area Service Center - American Cancer Society

2:00 p.m. Break

2:15 p.m. Talk Tables

3:00 p.m. Adjournment

For registration form, please go to [www.foml.org](http://www.foml.org).

# FOML FALL 2010 WORKSHOP



*Kent Oliver, Executive Director of the Stark County District Library, Canton, Ohio, was the keynote speaker at the FOML Fall workshop.*

Over 115 Michigan Friends participated in the FOML Fall workshop, "Speak up! The Role of Friends in Library Advocacy and Community Involvement." Kent Oliver, Director of the Stark County District Library in Canton, Ohio, was the keynote speaker. He presented examples of his accomplishments with local government officials, congressmen, and others in connecting them to the library, and he encouraged Friends to connect with others to establish a network of library community support. (Kent's Powerpoint presentation is posted on the FOML website.)

Remarks about Friends and Trustees involvement in Michigan communities were given by Larry Neal, Director of the Clinton-Macomb Public Library; Julie Farkas, Director of the Novi Public Library, and Shirley Bruursema, Trustee of the Kent District Library. Each speaker emphasized how Friends can make a big difference in improving library services and getting the word out to the community about the valuable role that Michigan libraries play in the economic development of the community.

The afternoon session featured a presentation on online book sales based on the Northville Public Library experience. The workshop concluded with table talks on recruitment, book sales, and other topics for idea-sharing among Friends.

## **FOML Features Library Boosters at MAME Conference, October 27-29, 2010**

### **Annette Haley, FOML Board Advisor**

A more intimate MAME (Michigan Association of Media in Education) conference at the Hyatt in Dearborn with somewhat smaller attendance than last year provided high quality programs and increased personal services to members. The attendees most all agreed that cutting costs of conferences and increasing services resulted in a more satisfying learning environment.

The FOML handouts were displayed at registration (where my team worked for much of the busiest times), and then at the MAME HQ and MAME Exhibits booth in the ballroom. Folks had questions, and the free computer lab located conveniently next to the MAME booth created an ease of "let's just see" regarding the FOML website with all of its rich information. Many attendees without PTO support in their schools commented that this may be the tool they would use to garner support and perhaps funds.



## FOML HELPS FRIENDS HELP LIBRARIES

Get your Friends news from around the State by sending your Friends newsletters to FOML President Charles Hanson at his Kettering University address or to FOML Newsletter Entries, 706 Park Street, Fenton, Michigan 48430. Newsletters can be sent to [newslettereditor@foml.org](mailto:newslettereditor@foml.org) as well.

Our new newsletter editors want to see your logos, your programs, events, fundraisers, and book sale \$\$ tallies, etc. If we can help you become more proactive, more innovative, more creative, then we will all be more productive!

Impact our public libraries with creative ideas, proactive solutions and innovative events. Let us know what you are doing. If you reinvent the wheel, let everyone else know! That's what we're here for ... we have work to do. You can help!

Please label or make clear, all Friends of the Library programs. Some attributions may be missing due to the lack of sufficient clarity.

### What FRIENDS have been doing around the State:

#### BALDWIN PUBLIC

The Friends of the Baldwin Public Library in Birmingham announced a total contribution of \$50,000 in FY 2009 that funded programs, collection and equipment for Adult, Teen and Youth Services. They also published an astounding list of 496 Friends donors for the period September 2009 through May 2010!

#### BELLAIRE PUBLIC

Friends of the Bellaire Public Library opened their Annual Summer Book Sale August 19-20, 2010, asking for donations of "...gently used, sweet smelling books...." They provided books and t-shirts to the Summer Reading Program.

#### CHEBOYGAN AREA PUBLIC

The Friends hosted their 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Fashion Show in October, sponsored several 2010 summer programs and operated the Book Nook book store which periodically holds "Buy One, Get One," sales.

#### CHELSEA DISTRICT

The Friends sponsor bi-monthly book sales in the Library. The following list highlights programs made possible by the Friends: Music@McKune, Books & Banter, Chelsea Reads Together, Authors in Chelsea, Summer Reading Program, Chelsea Comedy Showcase, Toddlertime, Midwest Library Week, and National Library Week.

#### DETROIT PUBLIC

The DPL Friends group was a co-sponsor of the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Family History Festival program for the Burton Historical Collection, "Not Far From the Tree" in September 2010. Two renowned faculty members and researchers from Samford University of Birmingham, Alabama were the keynote speakers of the day-long program.

#### ENGLEHARDT LIBRARY

The Friends of this library in Lowell, Michigan hosted the "Book Worms" monthly book club discussions, two evenings with authors: John Otterbacher on October 5<sup>th</sup> and Dr. Michael Deeb on November 18<sup>th</sup>, the "Schuler Book Days," October 10-16, CHRISTMAS THRU LOWELL, November 1-20 and a Holiday Tea on December 17<sup>th</sup>.

### **FENTON LIBRARY**

The Friends of the Fenton Jack R. Winegarden Library were allotted significant book storage space from the City of Fenton to facilitate a book sale planned for March 25, 2011. Book donation periods are to be announced.

### **FLINT PUBLIC**

The Friends of Flint Public Library are sponsoring an all-day Chicago Bus Trip on December 4, 2010 at the Navy-Pier-Winter Wonderland for \$60! They will announce an evening dinner and races outing at Sports Creek Raceway for January 2011. The Friends Fall Book Sale was held on October 27-30, 2010. The Friends also sponsor a "Friends Book Drop Off" on the first Saturday of each month.

### **GLEN LAKE COMMUNITY**

The Friends of this small Empire, Michigan community library continued their 30-year tradition of support through the annual Vintage Book Sale held August 11-13, 2010. They maintain a 'book-shelf' book sale in the lobby of the building daily. The complete list of 2009 donors to the Friends of the Glen Lake Community Library revealed an extraordinary 148 contributors!

### **HACKLEY PUBLIC**

As primary fundraisers for the complete renovation of the Children's Department, the Friends of the Hackley Public Library sponsored an "Evening with Mitch Albom" at the Frauenthal Center on October 4, 2010. The Friends were the beneficiaries of the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Bookfair at Barnes & Noble, sponsored the Spring Book Sale that netted just under \$3800 and boasted a list of 50 Friends members.

### **HOWELL CARNEGIE DISTRICT**

The Friends of the Library hosted the Melon Fest Book Sale August 19-23, 2010 with twice-monthly book sales resuming in October. The Friends were responsible for making the "Summer Reading Final Party" a successful part of the Melon Festival Weekend as well.

### **INTERLOCHEN PUBLIC**

The Friends of the Interlochen Public Library supported library programs and events, which included a potluck dinner on September 20th to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Library.

### **JACKSON DISTRICT**

The Friends of Jackson District Library held their annual meeting during National Friends of the Library Week, October 17-23, 2010 with a dinner program on October 19th featuring *Jackson Citizen Patriot* columnist, Brad Flory.

### **LEWISTON LIBRARY**

The "Seventh Annual Holiday Gala" was a 'go' for December 2, 2010. The sit-down dinner included a silent auction, raffle and door prizes. A collection box was set up in the Library on November 2<sup>nd</sup> through December 4<sup>th</sup> for the River House Shelter for women and children. The Friends actively maintain the Friends Room perpetual Book Sale with 'Green Bags' for sale for a \$5 donation. The Lewiston Library was awarded a "Books for Children Grant" from the Libri Foundation due to the FOLL grant submission and 2-to-1 contribution. 2011 Friends programs include the 2011 Children's Summer Fun & Learning Program and an Earth Day Celebration with the Lewiston School.

### **MENOMINEE COUNTY LIBRARY**

In 2010, the Friends held the Annual Book Sale in August, the Fall Festival Raffle in October, the Special Book Drawing at the Festival of Lights on December 5<sup>th</sup> and the annual Christmas Party on December 12<sup>th</sup>. The group provided funding for books, audio books, DVDs, software, and new blinds for the Library. Additionally, the Garden Committee was responsible for designing and maintaining the library gardens. An on-going book sale is offered throughout the year.

### **NORTON SHORES BRANCH**

This branch of the Muskegon Area District Library Friends group sponsored six programs for adults, contributed \$2000 to MADL Summer Reading program prizes for youth, donated over \$3600 toward four leather club chairs, four glider rockers and two red accent chairs for four new "Seating Groups". They hosted the semi-annual Book Sale in October, and provided the monthly periodical *Book Page* for library patrons.

### **ONAWAY BRANCH**

As a branch of the Presque Isle District Library, this Friends group actively presented "First Tuesday with Friends," a monthly educational program with authors and their books, sponsored seven programs with schools for children, purchased individual book collections for classrooms, provided Junior Guild Books for middle school and high school students, provided six new computer chairs and a Big Book display rack, purchased school supplies for use by students in the library, and supported the PIDL Summer Reading Program. Additional activities included providing materials for "Books for Babies," for the annual Goodfellows Christmas Project and for the "Project Connect" initiative. They also produce a list of "*Friends Recommend*" titles monthly, and host an on-going Used Book Sale.

### **PETOSKEY DISTRICT**

Friends of the Petoskey Library presented "Candy Cane Village!" on December 3, 2010 to give away free books, cookies and candy. The history of the Mackinac Bridge was featured at the annual meeting and dinner program in September. This group also purchased new books and computer software, presented programs such as an antique appraisal day and the Carnegie Lecture Series, and promoted literacy by sponsoring "First Grade, First Visit."

### **RAWSON MEMORIAL DISTRICT**

The Friends of the Rawson Memorial District Library hosted the 19th Annual Book Sale, netting just under \$2100 and co-sponsored the "Christmas Sing-Along" December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

### **ST. CLAIR LIBRARY**

The Friends of St. Clair Library presented four "First Thursday Series" programs from September through December 2010 with five more planned through May 2011. Monthly book sales are held in the library, bringing in \$300-\$500 per month!

### **ST. CLAIR SHORES PUBLIC**

The Friends of the St. Clair Shores Public Library held a book sale during at the Lac St. Claire Fine Art Fair September 18-19, scheduled a huge Fall Book Sale for October 6-9, and sponsored a Friends Book Discussion Group on the 2nd Wednesday of every month during 2010. Additionally, the Friends Gift Shop "After-Thanksgiving Sale" was scheduled for November 29 - December 13 and the Friends "Christmas Sale" was held on December 11.

### **STERLING HEIGHTS PUBLIC**

"*Library Briefings*," the newsletter of the Friends of the Sterling Heights Public Library announces the Friends allocation of 2011 funds to the Library: \$70,592! These funds will sponsor Adult, Teen and Children's programs including youth Summer Reading, prizes and giveaways, collections including e-books, audio books, video games, book club kits, and contributions to the Children's Art Garden.

### **TRAVERSE AREA DISTRICT**

The TADL Friends sponsored a monthly Brown Bag Book Club and the Annual Book Sale was held on September 25-26, 2010.

## Cooperative Library News:

### Freeze on State Aid payments to Libraries and Cooperatives

Roger Mendel, Director

Northland Library Cooperative

At the present time there is a freeze on state aid payments to libraries and cooperatives in Michigan. This freeze may have a major affect on the cooperatives' ability to deliver services to their member libraries. Library Cooperatives depend on state aid for a majority of their funding ranging up to 90% the operational funding for any fiscal year. With no state aid the cooperatives will have to depend on their fund balances (rainy day funds) to operate until state aid funds are released. For some of the eleven cooperatives this may jeopardize their very existence. Following is an explanation of why we are in this situation.

When the state distributes state aid according to law (PA 89 of 1977), it is done so under rules that have been promulgated that interpret the law. But this year, Herrick District Library won a declaratory ruling in a lower court that invalidated those rules. The Library of Michigan requested a stay at the lower court which was rejected. A stay would leave the rules in place until the appeal is heard and the Library of Michigan could

issue payments according to the current rules. The Library of Michigan has filed an appeal and requested an additional stay. The Library of Michigan is working with the Attorney General's office which is representing the state in this court case.

The decision was made to delay payment because the rules are being litigated and are therefore in question. The process could take as long as a few months until the court determines whether it will hear the appeal and issue a stay. This is the first step in the process. If a stay is not granted, then the state may develop a new process to distribute the funds while these rules remain in question. It is unclear how long it could take for the entire lawsuit to be resolved. At this time it is not advisable to contact legislators on this matter. Michigan Library Association has the lobbying firm working on this matter.

I would advise Friends and trustees to direct questions about this matter their respective library director or cooperative director.

FOML members are reminded to check the FOML website ([www.foml.org](http://www.foml.org)) for the latest postings about Michigan (and other) library news and for FOML activities and events. On the website you will also find information about contact information, grants, the Trustee Alliance, and photo galleries. You can help build this website by sending us a photo of your library for inclusion on the website.

## Friends of Michigan Libraries (FOML) Board of Directors

**President & ALA/ALTAFF Liaison:** Charles Hanson, Kettering University Library

**Vice President:** Shelley Gach-Droz, Huntington Woods Public Library

**Secretary:** Ann Ingles, Petoskey District Library

**Treasurer:** Sandra Brown Gellis, Kettering University

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**Trustee:** Paul Snyder, Northville District Library

**Trustee:** Roger Mendel, Director, Northland Library Cooperative

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**Advisor:** Annette Haley, MAME

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**Trustee/Newsletter Assistant:** JoAnn Gavey

**Newsletter Design and Graphics:** Bethany Kozel-Emmendorfer, Kettering University Library

*Among Michigan Friends* is published three times a year as part of membership in the Friends of Michigan Libraries. FOML would like to thank Gale/Cengage Learning for its support in helping to print and mail copies of this newsletter. Administrative questions may be directed to Laura Difilippo, Kettering University Library, at: [ldifilipp@kettering.edu](mailto:ldifilipp@kettering.edu) Editorial contributions to the publication are welcome and should be sent to: [newslettereditor@foml.org](mailto:newslettereditor@foml.org)

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## FOML MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Friends of Michigan Libraries (FOML) is to support Friends working on behalf of Michigan libraries, to serve as an information resource for Friends groups, and to be advocates for libraries at the state level.

## Mark Your Calendar!

Future Meetings of the FOML Board:

Wednesday, January 5, 2011 – Conference Call Meeting

Wednesday, February 2, 2011 – Conference Call Meeting

Future Workshops:

Friday, February 11, 2011 – Delta Township District Library, Lansing, Michigan

Wednesday, April 27 – Kentwood Branch, Kent District Library, Grand Rapids, Michigan

Thursday, April 28 – Kentwood Branch, Trustee Alliance Workshop