FOML Friends’ Spring Workshop and Fred Ruffner Symposium

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY
THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2017
Winners! Friends Helping Libraries Achieve Great Service...

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Library of Michigan and Friends Groups

- Recent history
- Personal history
- Staffing
- Emphasis on collaboration and partnerships
- Sharpening the focus
Common Goals

- Help make Michigan’s public libraries strong and healthy
- Increase visibility
- Flaunt successes
- Look for increased funding opportunities
- Provide support for public library staff and programs
United for Libraries Membership

- Trustees, Foundations and Friends
- LM pays a statewide membership
- Access to webinars and online courses
- How to work with foundations
- How to engage volunteers
- Etc.
Role of friends groups
- Work **WITH** director and library board
- Change equals opportunity
- Uncertainty often creates the “space” for new leaders
- Where do you want to be?
Embrace Change!!!
What libraries are not looking for...

- More bosses
- More work
- More demands on their time
- Reasons for more meetings
- Additional demands on the budget
- Complaints
Opportunities for Friends

- Advocacy, Advocacy, Advocacy!!!
- “Sales” people
- Partners/collaborators
- It takes a village
- Networking
- Fundraising
Advocacy

Friends are in a unique position to talk to local, state and nationally elected officials.
Help “sell” the library

Promote the library mission within the community
Volunteer
Partnerships

Liaison with the library board
Provide input and support implementation of strategic plans
Trusted member of the community ("village")

Help to build consensus
Network with groups not within the library’s circle

Join FOML
More than used book sellers…
Conduct fundraising that supports the library’s mission and plans
Questions?