



Among Michigan Friends

INFORMATION • SUPPORT • ADVOCACY

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www.foml.org

Message from the FOML President: Looking Back . . . And *Forward*

By Allison Arnold

As Friends of Michigan Libraries (FOML) we are dedicated to sharing knowledge and expertise with library Friends and Friends groups across the state. We feel strongly that by connecting and engaging with each other, we can both learn and share ideas that will help us all to support libraries.

The FOML endeavors to support you in your activities by helping you inspire more people to become Friends; to increase the impact of Friends service to your libraries; to equip Friends and Friends groups to solve specific problems and to create a culture that encourages volunteerism and Friends growth.



Allison Arnold
FOML President

The annual meeting and spring workshop was held at the [Bloomfield Township Public Library](#) this past March and it was a great success. I hope that everyone who attended enjoyed sharing ideas, successes and challenges, and learning from each other. Many thanks are due the administration and staff of the Bloomfield Township Public Library as well as our Friends hosts. We look forward to the chance to work with them again.

The FOML Workshop Planning Committee has been finalizing the details for the upcoming fall workshop at the [Kent District Library Service Center](#) on October 12, 2017. There are more details inside this issue of “Among Michigan Friends.”

I encourage everyone to register early. We know that this will be a wonderful venue for Friends to come together and be inspired to work together to support and encourage Friends activities.

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“Harriet Larson Founders Grant” Deadline

Each year, FOML awards up to two \$400 Founders Grants in honor of founding FOML Director [Harriet Larson](#). They are designed to help Friends groups in their efforts to support, enhance and showcase their local library. The criteria:

- a new Friends group is being officially formed
- a Friends group that is being rejuvenated, with a higher priority given to a group with a longer period of inactivity
- an existing Friends group has a proposal for increasing membership, increasing community awareness, or a proposal for a novel approach to advocating for their library in the community

Applications must be postmarked by September 30th and will be considered by the grant committee at the first FOML board meeting following.

Visit the FOML website for more information, an application for the [Harriet Larson Founders Grant](#) and directions on how to fill it out.

FOML Strategic Planning

Every year the FOML Board has dedicated its June meeting to a strategic planning session that provides guidelines for the future development of the organization. This year the board met at Kettering University on June 7th to review and define strategies for achieving the following goals:

- sharing information about Friends and Trustees
- promote and advocate for libraries at the state level
- support and promote continuous learning
- identify and respond to the needs of Friends
- foster FOML membership recruitment and retention and FOML organizational development

The board reaffirmed its commitment to its mission statement to offer support for Michigan Friends and Trustees by providing information through its websites and workshops.

Upcoming organizational changes were discussed, including the change in business and financial services from the Library Network (TLN) to Mideastern Michigan Library Cooperative (MMLC) and the change in office management services from TLN to Island River Digital, effective July 1st.

The most important discussion during the strategic planning session focused on areas where FOML can become more responsive to its membership and provide improved services to members.

“Thumbs Up” for FOML’s Facebook Page



Does this describe you? If so, then you’ll want to head on over to @FOMLibraries on Facebook and “like” us! You will get a fantastic view of the amazing things going on in our 396 Michigan Public Libraries! Who will benefit? Anyone who has an interest in public libraries in Michigan: Friends of Libraries, patrons, library staff, library directors, library Board members.

How will you benefit? Since Friends of Michigan Libraries promote libraries and the sharing of Friends activities throughout Michigan, you will get to see and learn about exciting things happening in libraries all across Michigan – from the tiniest to the very largest! If there’s one thing we know for sure, our Michigan public libraries are doing AMAZING things!

You will get ideas from seeing what fellow libraries are doing, you will stay on top of advocacy concerns, and you will be able to easily connect with colleagues all across the state to learn from one another and share ideas.



You’ll also get notice of upcoming workshop and grant opportunities and easily connect with staff here at Friends of Michigan Libraries. FOML can provide assistance with answering your concerns or questions about Friends, whether you are wondering about revitalizing your Friends group, have specific issues about the management of a Friends organization, or whatever your questions might be.



We would also like to mention that trustees would greatly benefit by the affordable membership in the FOML Trustee Alliance. Just \$35 a year covers all of your trustees and they can receive training at workshops, a trustee alliance website, newsletter, networking opportunities, publications and informative articles, and advocacy assistance. By “liking” the [FOML Facebook page](#), trustees will stay abreast of important library news and happenings!

We’re just a “click” away – so make it happen today – “LIKE” @FOMLibraries !!!!!

Submitted by Doreen Hannon, FOML Board Director

Talk About Friends

This year's FOML's "Talk About Friends" event will take place on Wednesday, November 8, 2017, at the [Alpena County Library](#).



This event is an informal gathering of Friends from the area who come together in the afternoon, 1:00 – 3:30 pm, to share information about their Friends and to engage in conversation about Friends development and Friends activities. It's also a time to promote the United for Libraries [statewide membership](#) (supported by the [Library of Michigan](#)) and the resources available for Michigan Friends groups, Trustees, and library directors/staff on the [United for Libraries](#) website.

FOML wants to thank Eric Magness-Eubank, Alpena County Library Director, for providing the library meeting room and to Pam Christensen, [Superiorland Library Cooperative](#) Director, for helping to host and provide refreshments for this event.

FOML Membership Fee Change

Several changes will be taking place in FOML membership services in the months ahead. The first change is paying for membership using the FOML website (www.foml.org) and PayPal. FOML encourages membership renewal using PayPal, since those electronic payments are sent directly to MMLC (our financial services provider) and to Island River Digital (our office manager service). PayPal accepts credit card payments without needing a PayPal account. Payment by check will still be an option. Send check payments to Mideastern Michigan Library Cooperative, 503 S. Saginaw St., Flint, MI 48502.

The second change involves an increase in membership fees, effective December 1, 2017, for the 2018 membership year beginning January 1, 2018. After December 1st the FOML annual individual membership will increase from \$15 to \$20 and the annual group membership will increase from \$40 to \$45.

As a value-added benefit to members, your 2018 membership payment will now include FOML website access to the latest edition of *"A Manual for Michigan Friends (A Guide to Creating and Nurturing an Effective Friends of the Library Organization)."* Print copies of the manual are no longer available. However, anyone with a paid FOML membership will have access to the 180-page electronic copy.

These changes reflect FOML's continued commitment to its mission as an information resource and support group for all its members.

Michigan Library Cooperative News

By Denise Hooks, Director
Mideastern Michigan Library Cooperative



Cooperatives: Our Continuing Education Mission

Cooperatives have several guiding principles and continuing education is near the top. To help satisfy the need for coverage of issues that concern libraries, the Cooperative Directors Association sponsored a series of webinars that are free and available in a recorded format to anyone who is involved with Michigan libraries – Friends groups and Trustees included. Experts with extensive experience on each topic provide a one hour presentation. The list includes: 1) Human Resources; 2) the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA); 3) Parliamentary Procedure; 4) Records Retention; and 5) Health Insurance. The links for listening and accessing the slides is: <http://mml.org/workshops.html>

Additionally, the Cooperative Directors Association works with our statewide collaborating partners – Library of Michigan, Midwest Collaborative for Library Services, Michigan Library Association, and Michigan Academic Library Association – to provide information about current topics of importance to libraries. Library safety and security are the cornerstones of providing a good patron experience in our public libraries. Two workshop days are scheduled with different agendas. “Library Security: A Safer Place” is Wednesday, September 6, 2017, and features Dr. Steve Albrecht at the University Center in Gaylord. The next day, “Creating a Culture of Safety and Security in Your Library” is Thursday, September 7, 2017, and will be held at the Dearborn Public Library; again featuring Dr. Albrecht.

Added to that agenda are: Jodie Layne, Safer Spaces Winnipeg creator; and Eva Davis, Canton Public Library Director. Registration link: <https://www.mcls.org/training-events/events/michigan-library-safety-programs/>

We sincerely hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to further your knowledge of library operations and needs of the libraries you serve!

September is Library Card Sign-Up Month!

This September, crimefighting DC Super Heroes, the Teen Titans, will team up with the [American Library Association \(ALA\)](#) to promote the value of a library card. As honorary chairs, DC’s Teen Titans will remind parents, caregivers and students that signing up for a library card is the first step towards academic achievement and lifelong learning.

The Teen Titans are a young group of crime fighters who keep the world safe from the clutches of evil. From Starfire’s green energy beams and power of flight to Raven’s telekinetic and psychokinetic abilities, the Teen Titans have the power, courage and teamwork to rise to any challenges thrown their way.



Upcoming Fall FOML Workshop

Kent District Library Service Center

*814 West River Center Drive NE
Comstock Park, Michigan 49321
(616) 784-2007 for Service Center information*



“Good To Great: Becoming High-Achieving Friends”

Thursday, October 12, 2017, 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**With Keynote Speaker:
Lance Werner, Director of the Kent District Library**

SYNOPSIS: There’s a saying that applies to all our work as Friends of the Library, “Good, better, best; never let it rest; ‘til your good is better, and your better best.” What actions and activities stand out in great Friends groups? What practices might improve your Friends activities and make your group “the best Friends” in your community library?

NEW! We encourage you to talk about one of your best projects. Share your success stories with other Friends groups. If you wish, bring handouts, pictures or any other presentation/display materials to share.

Register today! More information is available on the FOML website:

www.foml.org

Upcoming Fall Trustee Alliance Workshop

Kent District Library Service Center

*814 West River Center Drive NE
Comstock Park, Michigan 49321
(616) 784-2007 for Service Center information*



“Good To Great: Becoming High-Achieving Trustees”

Friday, October 13, 2017, 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

With Special Presenter:

Larry Neal, Director of the Clinton-Macomb Public Library

SYNOPSIS: There's a saying that might apply to all the work of library trustees: "Good, better, best; never let it rest; 'til your good is better and your better best." What key roles do you play in the governance of the library? How can you improve your skills to make your library "the best" and become a high-achiever trustee as well?

*Register today! More information is available on the
Trustee Alliance website: www.fomltrusteealliance.org*

Friends Activities From Around the State

*By Jennifer Kundak
Chelsea District Library*

[Friends of Baldwin Public Library](#) in Birmingham donated a cozy and quiet place to read, The Claudia Ireland Reading Room, just left of the Grand Hall. You're invited to take a look the next time you visit! Also, the library recently thanked the Friends for sponsoring their BookPage subscription. Pick up a copy during your next trip there.

[Friends of the Calumet Public Library](#), through money raised in their successful annual book sale, donated funds to the library for purchase of large print books, additions to books written by Michigan authors, the Mango software program, books for the Red Jacket readers, and other projects.

[Friends of Ferndale Public Library](#) were able to sponsor this year's summer music series, with gratitude from the Ferndale Area District Library. In celebration, a lively event featuring the Detroit Party Marching Band was held in the library courtyard in early August. The Friends also posted an excellent video of the performance on their [Facebook page](#), don't miss watching it!

[Friends of the Garden City Library](#) sponsored several free Yoga on the Lawn classes during the summer, open to ages 14+. A wonderful community service to help with fitness and relaxation!

[Friends of the Northville Library](#) [gift shop](#) volunteers greet patrons who come to children's story times, give them gift bags, and use the opportunity to explain the Friends group to them.

What's cooking with YOUR Friends? Please send your newsletters and/or information to us anytime of the year: newsletters@foml.org. Keep updating your Facebook page, expand your networking by "liking" lots of other library and Friends Facebook pages, help to grow ideas and share more fun!



A MUST READ! A new ALA Press publication, *The Good, The Great, and the Unfriendly: A Librarian's Guide to Working With Friends Groups* by Sally Gardner Reed, Executive Director of United for Libraries, a division of the American Library Association (ALA). Published in 2017, this handy reference contains up-to-date basics and practical tips, in an easy to read style. This book is chock-full of an abundance of Friends activities, including successful fundraisers. Every library Friends group, library staff member and library trustee organization will benefit from a review of this fresh, new collection of information and ideas. Ask your library to add it to the collection, making it available for everyone to borrow, as I did at my home Chelsea District Library. Visit the [ALA website](#) for ordering information.

Your FOML Board of Directors

President: Allison Arnold, St. Clair County Library System
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Secretary: Patricia Orr, Livonia Civic Center Library
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Director: Michael Mok, Grosse Pointe Public Library + AWE, Inc (retired)
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Director: Jill Sodt, Mott Community College Library
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Trustee Alliance Representatives:

Shirley A. Bruursema, Kent District Library
Elizabeth Miller, Romeo District Library

Advisors: Ann Ingles, Petoskey District Library
Lee Ann Messimer, Escanaba Public Library
Betty Newton, Livonia Civic Center Library
Cindy Lou Poquette, Indian River Public Library
Linda Sickles, Orion Township Public Library
Shannon White, Library of Michigan

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Irene Bancroft, Mideastern Michigan Library Cooperative

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Janet Newell, Island River Digital

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Among Michigan Friends

is published
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as part of
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Libraries.

FOML would like to
thank Gale Cengage
Learning for its support
of this newsletter.

Administrative
questions and editorial
contributions may be
directed to Charles
Hanson, Kettering
University Library, at:
chanson@kettering.ed



Friends of Michigan Libraries

% Mideastern MI Library Cooperative

Attn: Irene Bancroft (FOML)

503 Saginaw Street

Flint, MI 48502

FOML thanks...

Gale Cengage Learning

for their generous grant.



We appreciate your
ongoing support of Michigan Friends!

FOML members are reminded to check the FOML website (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 grants, the Trustee Alliance, contact information, and photo galleries. You can help build this website by sending us a photo of your library for inclusion on the website.

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.

With a Little Help From Our Friends

FOML is pleased to have so many Friends in the publishing world who have donated either money or supplies to help FOML carry out its services to Michigan Friends. For example, FOML has received financial contributions from Omnigraphics and Gale Cengage Learning.



Others have supplied materials for our workshops: bags from Scholastic, pens from Doris Taylor (representing Quality Publishers), pens and note pads from Emery Pratt. Thanks to all who contribute! To quote from a Beatles song, we "get by with a little help from our Friends."



Mark Your Calendar!

Wednesday, September 6

Friday, September 30

Wednesday, October 4

Thursday, October 12

Friday, October 13

October 15 - 21

October 18 - 20

March 8 + 9, 2018

FOML Board Meeting

Deadline for receipt of FOML Grant applications

FOML Board Meeting

FOML Fall Friends Workshop

Kent District Library Service Center

FOML Fall Trustee Alliance Workshop

Kent District Library Service Center

12th Annual "National Friends of Libraries Week"

MLA Annual Conference, Lansing

FOML & Trustee Alliance Spring Workshops

Southfield Public Library

NOTE: FOML Board meetings are conference call meetings and are held the first Wednesday of the month at 10:00 a.m. Any FOML member who wishes to participate should email the [FOML President](mailto:president@foml.org) (president@foml.org) requesting conference call information.