



Among Michigan Friends

INFORMATION • SUPPORT • ADVOCACY

Volume 18, Issue 1

Spring 2011

www.foml.org

FOML Winter Workshop



Delta Township District Library.

The theme of the FOML winter workshop held on Friday, February 11th, 2011, at the Delta Township District Library was “Virtually Speaking: Friends in the Digital and Social Media Worlds.” The speakers addressed the fact that we live in an online world, and we are constantly reminded that virtual 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 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?

Participants received a brief introduction to ebooks, ebook readers, and their applications from Paul Gallagher, Developer Librarian, New Media & Information Technology, Wayne State University. Four other speakers spoke about implementing electronic resources and social media, with tips about using Facebook and Twitter.

In the afternoon Tami Rummel, Director, Huron Valley Area Service Center – American Cancer Society, gave a lively presentation on “Volunteers: Get ‘em, train ‘em, keep ‘em.” The final workshop session included discussion groups which provided an opportunity for sharing among Friends. It was a day of good food, good presentations, and good social connections; yes, even more, ideas about how to connect using social media.

Message from the FOML President: Friend-Raising: Look About You

*Charles Hanson,
Library Director, Kettering University*

One of the questions that I am often asked is: How do I get more people interested in becoming a member of my Friends organization? The answer might be summed up with the words of the State of Michigan slogan: If you seek a pleasant peninsula (Friend), look about you. Look at professionals in your community – teachers, lawyers, doctors – and look at every opportunity to spread the news about Friends, whether through an attractive brochure (distributed widely and available at the library) or a party. Yes, give a party for current members and ask each current member to bring at least one prospective member to the event. The party could be tied to a holiday, an author event, recognition, or just social in nature.

Most important, remember to look at the mission of your Friends and the benefits of being a member of the Friends. Perhaps it is time to look at the opportunities for service that a Friends member might perform, whether as a committee member, a book sale volunteer, or as a member of the board. It’s always good to look for potential new or future board members.

Serving on a Friends’ board is often a way to give back to the community, and community service ranks high on the list of accomplishments for many individuals. And community service, as the saying goes, “looks good on the resume.”

In short, never stop looking! And take a few minutes to read the ALTAFF fact sheets on “Getting and Keeping Members” and “How to Revitalize Your Friends Group.” Go to the ALTAFF website (www.ala.org/altaff) and click on “Friends Groups.” Friend-raising: If you seek a pleasant Friend, look about you.

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FOML Interview with Annette Marie Haley

March 2011



Annette Marie Haley

Married to Paul (Captain Paul L. Haley, USNR-R), two grown, married, employed (yay!) children Eric (Aimee) who are parents of first grandchild, Bryan Alexander; and Margaret (Peter) Tirpak. Lives in Trenton, where both Annette and Paul were raised. Graduate of Marygrove College and WSU's LISP.

Annette has made a home with military hubby (whose specialty was antisubmarine warfare) all over the world, but chose to return to Trenton. Retired (2010) from Wyandotte Public Schools as both Media Coordinator for district and High School Media Specialist, also was formerly employed by Grosse Ile Schools, Monroe County Community College, Trenton and Riverview Public Libraries and at the law library of the Wayne County Corporation Counsel; former adjunct instructor of School Library Science courses, graduate program at WSU for 5 years. Best (and most painful) career project: successfully defending "Bookseller of Kabul", chaired District Censorship ("Selection") committee and survived skewed international media coverage and the FOX 2 News microscope.

Active in community: past President of AAUW Wyandotte-Downriver (19 communities), Foundation Board Secretary and Director for the financial arm of AAUW; current President of WNBA: Women's National Book Association, Detroit, current National Board member, WNBA; Co-chair and founder of MAME 4Ever: Michigan Association of Media in Education's retiree advocacy organization; past chair and current commissioner of Trenton Veteran's Memorial Library commission, member of Friends of the Trenton Veteran's Memorial Library, currently serving on Wayne County Library Board; new advisory member of FOML; active in many ministries for St. Timothy Parish, where she was married 35 years ago. When not

busy making a difference (she hopes!), outside of her home, Annette's passions are family, photography, painting, knitting, needlework, entertaining, gardening, and (duh) reading!

I know that you recently retired as a high school librarian (or media specialist, as school librarians are sometimes called), but I would like to know what motivated you to become a school librarian and what sustained your interest in school libraries during your library career?

I loved teaching all forms of art, but in the '70's physical education, music and art teachers were summarily dismissed everywhere. Having worked in libraries since the age of 16 and active in every conceivable library-sponsored activity my whole childhood since the Trenton Library was just a short bike ride away, I began to hunt my next career more differently than my first. I always loved school, and wanted to remain a part of education, so I worked at an assortment of libraries as I worked toward my graduate degree. Celia Morse, the Berkley library director, worked with me at Riverview Library and both became my mentor as well as fostering a great friendship we still enjoy! The self-directedness of being a Media Specialist (or Teacher-Librarian) was perfect for me, as friends tell me I am somewhat ADD. Still. Instead of being plugged into just reference, cataloging, programs, teaching or any other aspect, I could do it all at pretty much my own pace. I got totally addicted to that wondrous

"AHA!" moment when a student who 'hates to read' comes to me with a book I helped them select and tells me NOW they like to read—where are more books like this??? It was my crack. I also developed a nasty habit of, as teens will tell you, "shoving MEL at them". Always one to love a challenge, almost yearly some student would tell me and their teacher that they could find better stuff on the internet without using databases. Oh man, did I ever rise to those occasions! Smackdown Face off! It was fun to walk the walk after talking the talk. And that light went on every time....sigh!

The research on the effectiveness of school libraries indicates a strong correlation between a strong school library and student success and achievement. Could you comment on that research and also how you went about convincing your school administration about the library's vital role in fostering student achievement?

I was a participant in the 2003 LRS study in Michigan School Libraries headed up by Keith Curry Lance (http://www.michigan.gov/documents/hal_lm_schlibstudy03_76626_7.pdf) and am known to jump

Haley Interview (cont'd.)

on my soapbox at a moment's notice! I enlightened Boards of Education, administrators, and anyone in education with statistics from the first (2003) Colorado studies; for research and point-making you just cannot beat an argument based on hard facts! The correlation between trained professional librarian/educators and student success is overwhelming; and the obverse is also a very 21st century point to make: the internet and books alone do NOT make for a successful student! You can have a school with a computer in every student's hands and have an information illiterate student body. Someone needs to be able to guide them and develop skills for applicable uses in a huge variety of learning opportunities for that investment in technology to be worth anything. And Librarians are that person—the now nearly-missing link* between technology systems and application. *see answer below

In October 2010 Bob Edwards, commentator on National Public Radio, aired a program entitled “A Nation Without School Libraries,” in which he pointed out the nationwide diminishment of school libraries. What’s happening and why is this happening?

I am so glad you asked this follow-up question! Bob Edwards was using Lance's studies as his statistical base or jumping off point for his program. *Not only are schools confiscating the area which once was the library and turning it into computer labs or classrooms, perhaps due to the economy, school districts are not hiring professionals to replace retiring librarians. Sadly, myself included. I was replaced by my secretary. There is a huge problem with this trend and it will not be felt (statistically) for years, when the almighty MEAP, ACT, AS-VAB and more test scores drop in reading, writing and comprehension across grade levels. I am pushing the powers that be to create a survey to correlate these items in the near future. How can a student perform at best capacity if there are no librarians as guides, coaches, facilitators to move their independent learning ahead? There have been studies reflecting that readers correlate to persons with better vocabulary, better language and writing skills, more creativity and imagination. Would you hire someone without knowing they can do all of those? Nope. Perhaps the questions of interviews in the future should be “did your school have a media center/library and a librarian?” A girl can dream...

Young teachers are beginning to think that the internet is the Answer, too. Without good media centers/libraries and librarians to support the education of not only students, but staff, how can we maximize the good resources of the world of information so that this generation is better prepared to handle a fast changing world? The most long lasting bequest I made to students was not merely in the media center, but in demonstrating, modeling and interacting with teachers so that their lessons were more valid, filled with the latest information, sparkled with differentiated ideas for them to springboard into even better teachers. I loved collaborating with teachers to push lessons across barriers—for example, not just to team teach in science, but to relate that learning for kids to their math course,

their language arts class and more. School librarians are the singular person in a school building who knows the curriculum in their school, the resources for it to be fabulous, the individual teacher styles, the students and, very importantly, how to get all of that on the same wavelength simultaneously to strengthen each lesson!

We truly need creative and adept educators as our most golden resource in schools today; professional school librarians are the current “throwaway”, but the pendulum will swing again. I am praying-and doing-to make it so.

Librarians often remark that “libraries can help you create knowledge.” How did you manage your school library so that students were active learners and creators of knowledge, so that the library became the genesis for ideas and thoughtful learning?

Simple answer: applications to real world situations. I heavily use analogies in instruction because it offers a connectivity to a person's past learning methodology. “This is like that” is a good way to link theory to application and one which sticks in a person's memory. Knowing why and how to use a system of knowledge makes the mental leap to a different but similarly organized system of knowledge. Think of the process of learning Spanish; once you understand configuring verbs and arrangement of words in romance languages, then Italian and French will be easier systems to learn. The same methods are easily used to teach research—not just finding information but using it becomes the quest. Databases and search term generation are all applicable skills; the way to find general to specific information in books is just another form of your brain's search engine and not all that different from using a complex database to find what you need. As a librarian, guiding people to searching for their own information packets and then finessing their search and goal, even through a short conversation, can be that wonderful AHA! moment. In a typical high school of 1500 or more students, all of whom come to you for help at some point in their 4 (or 5) years there, even the smallest affirmation can reap huge rewards as most students do not have much individual interaction with staff in the course of a day. Sad, but true. Positively commenting on a student's cool, creative hair, or that I saw them in the parade, sport, or play begins to cut a path to their hearts so that I am an entity to them, a person with respect for them as individuals. It opens communication on other, perhaps deeper topics. They will be more likely to listen and, subsequently, learn!

Today's learning environment is greatly affected by technology. Many turn to Google for instant answers. What did you do to create technological opportunities in the school library while also retaining your librarian role as a key information resource?

Demonstrate the lesson in a painless, entertaining, as well as educational way, model sought-after behaviors, and interact on

Haley Interview (cont'd.)

an individual basis—sort of my keystone three for teaching anyone anything! See answer above!

Did you have opportunities to use social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) in the school library? or might you now have some thoughts about how a school library could use social media to connect with students, faculty, and staff? Are you a blogger?

I enjoyed a few years of blogging with book club members, other high school student readers, and staff about reading and books primarily. The media center had a webpage so that students could connect to their resources at home or on the go. Their library is everywhere! I follow a handful of interesting twitter authors and I used Facebook but tweeting is faster and more personal. I think everyone in the work world should be active on Linked In.

I know that you have taught the school media course in the Library and Information Science Program at Wayne State University. What are three important lessons that you want to give library science students concerning school media centers (i.e., libraries).

Be present – be ‘in the moment’ and consciously aware of surroundings, each person and what they are trying to communicate

Be involved – with individuals, groups, clubs, student activities, communicate with parents, teachers, Board of Education, the businesses and the community as a whole

Be consistent – with your message, your response, your professional voice and your help

You do make a difference! Make a positive one.

FOML has made some connections to school librarians through MAME (Michigan Association for Media Education) for Library Boosters as possible Friends of School Libraries, similar to Band or Football Boosters. Did you have a group in your school library similar to Library Boosters? What do you think about the idea of being a Library Booster?

My Book Club and the parents of the club members were the Boosters! A formal Boosters/Friends group would have been welcome, but it takes a supportive community and involved parents for any school-related idea to go gung ho! I would love to be a booster for my community school libraries; hey, time to let them know, right?

If you could describe the ideal school library (or school media center), what components would be part of that ideal structure?

A Media Center is not a structure but a composite of ideologies, appropriate tools (which change almost monthly!), and

professional guidance. It can be online or a physical place, but should focus on a desire by people to grow their own knowledge. I used to think that it had to be a ‘books, paper and wood’ place, but the learners of today need information 24/7 and they will use anything to gain that goal or quench their quest. The only requirement of a physical structure is one that respects the user’s needs. Each library needs to conform to what their patrons need. I abhor libraries filled with posted rules, “checkout” signs, ‘story time area’ designations—these set up kids to narrow their minds and let them know that we adults think they are too dumb to find and use these areas; signs also limit the use of an area in people’s mind and disrespect the individual. Mark where the bathrooms are and you will be good to go! Literally. The forward thinking public libraries with “Librarian on call” online services, links to resources and ease of use online have my vote and my donations! It has been said that Panera and Starbucks are the libraries of the future—but these do not have a person to help you at your beck and call (excluding baristas!).

Now that you are retired, what are your goals for “things to accomplish in retirement”? and is keeping active involvement with MAME and the school library profession one of them?

As you can probably tell, I do not wait for a specific time (retirement) to do something, but when it is available and the window opens, there is no time like now to do it! I try to listen for the clues to act and I think God is actively engaged in dropping obvious hints that I need to act upon. I have travelled and engaged in my passion for living my entire life and would never put off new experiences for “someday” because that someday may never align with my life at any point in the future. Also, I will always be a part of the profession which helped me grow; I absolutely cannot just shut off my life’s experience simply because I am retired from being paid to work. My one goal in life now is to let my light shine wherever it is needed and as often as I can, because, kids, when it’s over, it is really over! Until then, I will be running in life at full tilt.

Why are you a Friends member?

As a lifelong library addict, my public library provided me with so much: escape, entertainment, education, life direction, jobs (worked as a page from age 16) and a husband (he was a page at the same time!) I wanted to do something for my library beyond being a good patron! The Friends gave me an opportunity to make a difference. As a Library commission member, I saw firsthand what the budget could not accommodate but what would certainly enrich my community via our library, and the Friends’ events not only provided fundraisers but positive Trenton events! The behind-the-scenes boost that the organization offers is more than just money; it is the energy which supports the library staff, the creative “juice” to spur new growth in the library and clearly illustrates the appreciation people have for their library. Friends help create energy!

♦♦♦

MINUTES

FOML Annual Membership Meeting

Friday, February 11, 2011

1. Call to Order and Determination of Membership Quorum

Charles Hanson, FOML President, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. at the Delta Township District Library, Lansing, Michigan. A quorum was declared, with 50 FOML members present.

2. Treasurer's Report

Charles Hanson gave the treasurer's report due to Sandra Gellis's absence (illness). FOML had a 2010 ending bank balance of \$12,468.76, with CD investments of \$10,160.16, for total assets at the end of the 2010 fiscal year of \$22,628.92

3. Approval of 2011 FOML Board & FOML Officers

Charles presented the list of FOML Board members and nominations for FOML officers to the group for a membership vote. All votes were affirmative. The 2011 board officers include Charles Hanson, President; Shelley Gach-Droz, Vice-President; Sandra L. Brown Gellis, Treasurer; and Ann Ingles, Secretary.

4. Old Business

A. FOML Grants. FOML awarded several grants during 2010 and will continue this program in 2011. Information about the grant program and an application can be found on the FOML website.

B. FOML Newsletter. FOML will no longer distribute print copies of the newsletter; the link to the newsletter is sent electronically to all FOML members.

C. FOML Websites. FOML continued the construction and development of its website (www.foml.org) over the past year, with the addition of a new website for the FOML Trustee Alliance (www.fomltrusteealliance.org). New features include Library News, the FOML Friends Directory, and Michigan Authors for Libraries.

5. New Business

A. 2011 Outstanding Friends of the Library Group. The FOML Board has approved this new program. FOML will award two awards in 2011, one to a Friends group in a Michigan Class I-III library and one to a Class IV-VI library. The FOML Public Relations and Marketing Committee will review applications postmarked by January 15, 2012, from Friends of the Library that carried out an outstanding project or a number of successful activities in its community during 2011 that had a significant impact on that library's services to the community.

B. FOML Manual. Various members of the FOML Board as well as invited writers are in the process of revising *A Manual for Michigan Friends*. This will probably be an electronic publication, with print copies available upon request from a FOML member at a cost to be determined.

C. FOML Workshops. There will be a FOML Friends workshop on April 27th and a FOML Trustee Alliance Workshop on April 28th; both being held at the Kentwood Branch Library, Kent District Library.

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Charles D. Hanson, Recording Secretary (2-14-11)

Friends of Michigan Libraries (FOML)

2011 Outstanding Michigan Friends of the Library Award

The FOML Board is pleased to announce a new award for Michigan Friends. The award will go to two Friends of the Library organizations for a quality project or library community involvement which merits recognition. Read the announcement below to get a better understanding about this new award. And encourage your Friends group to consider applying!

Did your Friends of the Library carry out an outstanding project or a number of successful activities in your community during 2011 that had a significant impact on your library's services to the community?

The Friends of Michigan Libraries (FOML) is initiating an Outstanding Michigan Friends of the Library Award for 2011, an award based on the ALTAFF model. FOML invites Michigan Friends groups to apply for this award. There will be two \$400 awards: one to a Friends group in a Michigan Class I-III library and one to a Class IV-VI library. (Check with your library director for your library's class size.) Applications must be postmarked by January 15, 2012, and the winner will be presented with the award at the FOML Annual Membership Meeting in 2012.

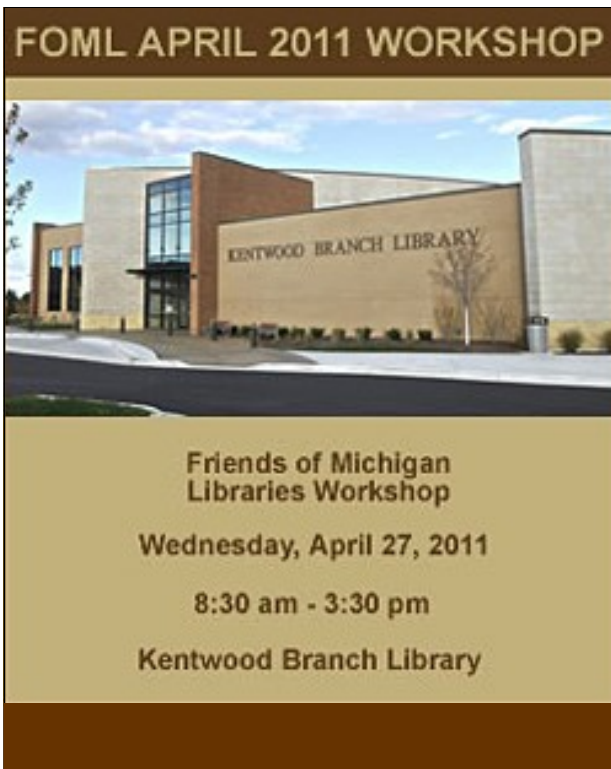
The award will be given to a Michigan Friends group for a specific project carried out in 2011 or based on the full scope of the group's activities during 2011. Applications will be judged by the FOML Membership & Marketing Committee on the following criteria:

1. **Planning:** Involvement of the Friends, library, and community in the use of resources, an innovative and appropriate activity, and measurable outcomes (e.g., attendance at event, increase in patron use of the library, etc.).
2. **Implementation:** Public relations, broad membership involvement, and use of resources.
3. **Evaluation:** Assessment of activity or program with measurable results.
4. **Innovation:** New idea(s) for program or activity, creative involvement of community and specific citizens, and creative use of public relations.
5. **Community Involvement:** Evidence of community involvement in planning and implementation.

The winning Friends group will receive \$400 and a plaque, with an invitation to attend the FOML Annual Membership Meeting in 2012 to receive the award.

To be eligible for this award your Friends group must be a 2011 FOML member (membership information can be found at www.foml.org) and completed the project or activities during the 2011 calendar year. A description of this award and the procedures for submitting an application can also be found on the FOML website – www.foml.org. Click on "FOML Merit Award." Send electronic (Word document) applications with descriptions of how your Friends group achieved the results of the five criteria listed above to chanson@kettering.edu.

Your Friends group could be a winner!



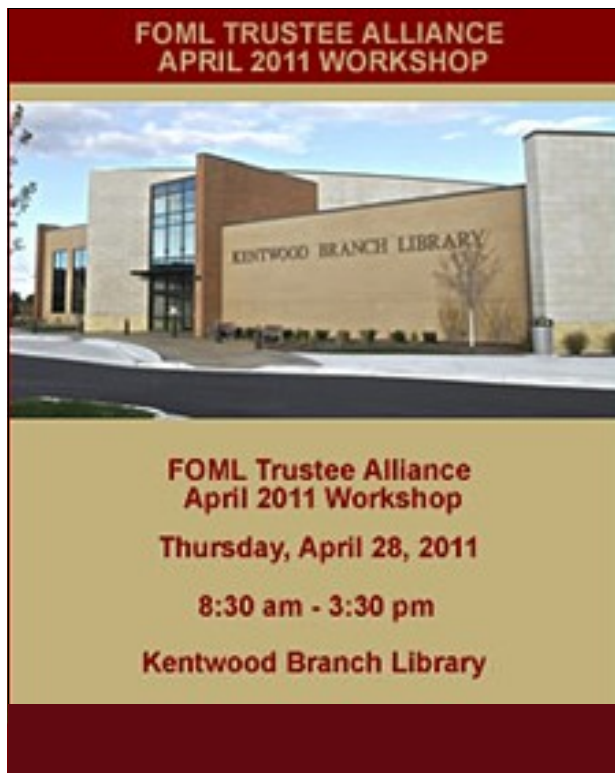
For a registration form,
please go to :

[http://www.foml.org/
fomlwork-
shop2011spring.php](http://www.foml.org/fomlworkshop2011spring.php)

AGENDA

SYNOPSIS: What is being a Friend of the Library all about? When you decided to become a Friend, did you assume that working on Book Sales and other fundraisers would be a responsibility that you would enthusiastically embrace? Or that you might play a role in “gifting” items to the library? What are the roles and responsibilities of Friends, and are there some pitfalls your Friends want to avoid? This workshop’s keynote speaker will bring some advice about Friends based on her years of experience with Friends groups.

- | | |
|------------|--|
| 8:30 a.m. | Registration Opens |
| 8:30 a.m. | Early Bird Networking & Talk Tables |
| 9:30 a.m. | Welcome: Cheryl Cammenga, Branch Manager, and Elaine Tainter, KDL Alliance of Friends |
| 9:45 a.m. | Key Lessons about Friends from a Veteran in the Field
Jane Rutledge, Friends of Indiana Libraries |
| 10:30 a.m. | Morning Break |
| 10:45 a.m. | Troublesome Questions: What I want to know is, can the Friends....?
Question-and-Answer Session |
| 11:45 a.m. | Lunch with Library Tour |
| 1:15 p.m. | Keeping the Fundraising Fires Burning
Melissa Huisman, Gary Byker Memorial Library of Hudsonville |
| 2:00 p.m. | Break |
| 2:15 p.m. | Talk Tables |
| 3:00 p.m. | Workshop Evaluations & Adjournment |



For a registration form,
please go to :

[http://
fomltrusteealliance.org/
april28workshop.php](http://fomltrusteealliance.org/april28workshop.php)

AGENDA

SYNOPSIS: What roles and responsibilities were you prepared to assume when you became a library trustee? Were you prepared for the duties you faced as a community representative for your library's interests and images? Do you feel you want to know more about some of the knotty issues facing library trustees in Michigan and what legal, financial, and governance challenges all boards of trustees must face? This workshop will provide some tips, some encouragement, and some answers to these and other questions as you carry out your duties as a library trustee.

- 8:30 a.m. Registration Opens
- 8:30 a.m. Early Bird Networking and Information Sharing
- 9:30 a.m. Welcome: Charles Myers, Chair of Kent District Library, Richard Root, Mayor of the City of Kentwood and Charles D. Hanson, President, Friends of Michigan Libraries
- 9:45 a.m. The Ten+C's of being a Great Trustee
Shirley Bruursema, Past Chair Kent District Library, President of Lakeland Library Cooperative
- 10:15 a.m. Morning Break
- 10:30 a.m. Panel Discussion including Open Meetings Act, Going into and out of Closed Sessions, Problem Patrons, FOIA, the Michigan Privacy Act, Legal Issues and Liabilities for Trustees and ABC's of Lobbying
- 11:45 a.m. Lunch with opportunity to Tour the Kentwood District Library
- 1:15 p.m. From A Library Director's Point of View
Roger Mendel, Northland Library Cooperative, Alpena
- 2:00 p.m. Break
- 2:15 p.m. 5 Questions (with 5 Answers) That Bear Repeating (Talk Tables) – Information Sharing Time
- 3:00 p.m. Workshop Evaluations & Adjournment



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 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.

NOTICE: Due to increased numbers of newsletters submitted to this column and the great responses for shared FOL information, the NEWS AROUND THE STATE will go to a theme-oriented format in 2011.

This SPRING issue will focus on Book Sales, the FALL issue will highlight your FOL events that have to do with planning and/or sponsoring afterschool programs, and the WINTER issue will include news related to monetary/materials donations and for your programs that benefit library collections, programs, and facilities enhancement. Include \$\$ amounts; we want to share how much you made!

Let's use this popular FOML newsletter feature to encourage innovative planning for programs and fundraisers. Get your community involved as well! Take special note of our FOML Awards of Merit application qualifications cited elsewhere in this issue.

What FRIENDS have been doing around the State:

Bayliss Public

Spring Book Sale Saturday, April 16.

Summer Book Sale August 5-6

Great idea: Winter Farmer's Market in the library every Saturday from 9:30 AM – 12:30PM until May 7th!

Fenton Winegarden

March Book Sale Friday, March 25-Saturday March 26, 2011

Hackley Public

April Book Sale Friday, April 15-Saturday, April 16, 2011

"Building of Character" Campaign to refurbish the Children's Department has raised \$33,000 toward their \$100,000 goal!

Huntington Woods

The Best Little Book Sale: 1st Saturday of each month from October through May from 10:00AM – 3:00PM!

Lois Wagner Memorial –Richmond, MI

Spring Sweep Book Sale Thursday, March 10 – Saturday, March 12, 2011

Shelby Township

Year-round Used Book Store during Library hours. \$10,000 raised in 2010!

Walled Lake City

Big Bag Book Sale Saturday, March 26 – Sunday, March 27, 2011

Fill a grocery bag for \$2.00!

Michigan Library Cooperative News

Roger Mendel, Director

Northland Library Cooperative

The financial outlook for libraries in the state continues to look dim and for Michigan's eleven Library Cooperatives it is even bleaker. Governor Snyder in his proposed state budget for the coming year slashes another 40% from state aid which totals about a 70% cut in state aid funding since 2000. With cooperatives depending on 80-90% of their income derived from state aid this additional cut puts some of the eleven cooperatives on the brink of closure within the next 12-18 months. In the last ten years, two cooperatives closed, at least four cooperatives have cut back enough that they have gone from a full time director to a part-time director as well as reducing staff and services. Northland Library Cooperative and Southwest Library Cooperative have gone to a virtual administration and have divested the respective cooperatives of buildings and paid staff. In both cases the administration of the

cooperative is done on a contractual basis. Doing this has enabled the two cooperatives to spend a greater share of the remaining income in services to its member libraries.

The cooperative directors are looking at a number of alternatives to continue their services to member libraries. The irony of this situation is that the previous governor as well as the present governor have been asking government to become more efficient, consolidate, use economies of scale to get greater "bang for the buck" and yet in each case they have slashed funding to the very organizations that provide that incentive in the library world. Cooperatives serve a similar role in the library world as intermediate school districts do in education and yet intermediate school districts received a 5% cut in funding for the coming year.

Since 1977 when the cooperatives were

formed they have worked to get greater savings for the member libraries with technology, resource sharing, integrated library circulation systems, continuing education, book and a/v discounts and other equipment purchases which in turn has meant greater access to information and service to the residents of Michigan. The continued slashing of funding will destroy what has been built over the years and the residents of Michigan will be the ones who suffer for this action.

I urge you to contact your public library director and the director of your cooperative and find out what the impact of this cut is on the local library and the cooperative and lend your support in advocating for a restoration of state aid funding so that public libraries and cooperatives can continue getting the "biggest bang for buck". ♦

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

Past President/Advisor: Daniel Stock, Robert J. Parks Library

Grants Administrator/Trustee: Betty Newton, Livonia Civic Center Library

Archivist: Jim Doyle, Livonia Civic Center Library

Trustee: Debbie Straub, Cascade Branch, Kent District Library

Trustee: Michael Mok, AWE, Inc.

Trustee: Avery Weaver, Emery-Pratt

Trustee: Charlaune Ezell, The Extra Edge

Trustee: Barbara Fronczak

Trustee: Harriet Larson, Livonia Civic Center Library

Trustee: Tim Richards, Mardigian Library, U of M-Dearborn

Trustee: Paul Snyder, Northville District Library

Trustee: Roger Mendel, Director, Northland Library Cooperative

Trustee: Burton Brooks, Loutit District Library

Advisor: Deb Biggs-Thomas, Library of Michigan

Advisor: Lee Ann Messimer

Advisor: Cindy Lou Poquette, Indian River Public Library

Advisor: Mary McCormack, Petoskey Public Library

Advisor: Annette Haley, MAME

Emeritus: Marcia Barker, Canton Public Library

Emeritus: Annie Brewer, Whiteford Press

Emeritus: Sandra Novacek

Emeritus: Carol Perrin, Helena Twp. Library

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Friends of Michigan Libraries

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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 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.

HEAR YE, HEAR YE

FOML would like to hear stories from Friends about how you have encouraged young people to become active library users or how you became an active library user as a result of someone (a Friendly school librarian, teacher, etc.). We'll publish these in our Fall FOML newsletter. Tell us your story and send it to the FOML President, Charles Hanson, at chanson@kettering.edu.

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, April 6, 2011
Wednesday, May 4, 2011
Wednesday, June 1, 2011
No meeting in July

Future Workshops:

Wednesday, April 27, 2011 – FOML Workshop for Friends, Kentwood Branch Library, Kentwood, Michigan
Thursday, April 28 – FOML Trustee Alliance Workshop, Kentwood Branch Library, Kentwood, Michigan

Deadlines:

Thursday, March 31, 2011 -- Deadline for receipt of FOML Grant applications

ALA Annual Conference, New Orleans
Thursday, June 23-Tuesday, June 28, 2011