

Focus On Friends

January 2025



A New Year's Greeting from FOML President Jill Sodd



Happy New Year! As we step into 2025, I am excited about the opportunities ahead for Friends of Michigan Libraries. Together, we'll continue to support and empower Friends groups across the state, fostering a love of libraries and strengthening our communities.

Thank you for your dedication and enthusiasm. Let's make this year a remarkable one for Michigan libraries. I look forward to working with all of you in 2025!

Apply for the \$750 Merit Award!



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More Information

Great news! The FOML Merit Award is now **\$750**, offering even more support for exceptional Friends groups. This award recognizes outstanding achievements and innovative contributions that benefit libraries and their communities. The deadline for submissions is **January 31, 2025**. Don't miss this opportunity—visit foml.org/foml-merit-award/ to learn more and apply today!

FOML Annual Membership Drive



Now is the perfect time to join or renew your membership with Friends of Michigan Libraries (FOML)! Membership provides access to exclusive benefits, including workshops, resources, and our new **Consult-A-Friend** program launching in 2025. Your support helps strengthen Friends groups and enhance library services across Michigan.

Visit foml.org/membership to explore benefits and renew or join today. Together, we can make a difference for Michigan libraries!

FOML Introduces 'Consult-A-Friend' Program to Offer Enhanced Support for Members



[Click Here For More
Information](#)

At the October "Talk About Friends" workshop, FOML unveiled **Consult-A-Friend (CAF)**, a new program offering members enhanced support. CAF provides three levels of free assistance: **Self-Service**, where members access resources on the

FOML website; **Assisted Service**, offering personalized responses to specific questions; and **Consultative Service**, which provides in-depth guidance for complex needs.

FOML President Jill Sodt called CAF a unique way to provide flexibility and tailored assistance to members. Whether you're seeking quick answers or strategic planning support, CAF is here to help.

Looking Ahead: FOML Annual Membership Meeting



Save the date! The Friends of Michigan Libraries (FOML) annual membership meeting will take place on Friday, April 11, 2025, at the Library of Michigan in Lansing. Stay tuned for more details and plan to join us for this important gathering!

Spotlight on Calumet Public Library - Michigan's Northern Gem



The Calumet Public Library is a unique and special library, and the Friends of the Library are proud to be a part of it. The villages of Calumet and Laurium are located in the northern part of Houghton County (often called the Copper Country), across the famous lift bridge and north of Michigan Technological University.

The Calumet Public Library holds the honor of being the northernmost public library in Michigan, 507 miles north of Lansing. We serve the northern half of Houghton County and the entire Keweenaw County. If you include Isle Royale, Keweenaw County is one of the largest counties in Michigan, giving the Calumet Public Library the distinction of having one of the state's largest circulation parameters. Our circulation area includes two National Parks: Isle Royale National Park and the Keweenaw National Historical Park.

In the U.P., we have forests, lakes, streams, waterfalls, historic sites, wildlife, and tourists right in our backyard. Because of the Copper Boom, our population includes a wide spectrum of ethnicities and cultures that have blended over the years to form a strong and proud community that values its library.

However, the characteristic that makes the Calumet Public Library so unique is that it is a combined school and public library. Housed in Calumet High School, the library serves both the student population (1,100 students) and the general public (4,537 library cards issued). Hours of operation extend from the opening of the school day through the evening, providing opportunities for both students and citizens to enjoy the library.



We also offer summer hours so that both students and the public can use the resources any time of the year!

With one full-time librarian and 12-16 paid student helpers, the Calumet Public Library circulates 1,600-2,500 items monthly. Funding sources include generous annual public donations as well as school resources. And, of course, the Friends of the Library provide assistance as well. The Friends' primary focus is on preschool and post-graduates, while the school serves grades K-12. By combining public and school library funds, financial resources can serve both groups. Books, computers, newspapers, tapes, an online card catalog, research materials, a virtual reference library, Michigan eLibrary, Great Lakes Digital, a seed library, a hockey collection, story hour, and the book club are all available for patrons to use.

For more information on the Calumet Public Library, please call the library directly at (906) 337-0311 (ext. 1107), write to the library at 57070 Mine Street, Calumet, MI 49913, or visit their website at [Calumet Public Library](http://www.calumetpubliclibrary.org).

Attention all Friends of the Library groups! Your hard work deserves recognition, and The Friends of Michigan Libraries newsletter wants to feature you! Send us images and a short article highlighting a project you're proud of, and we'll showcase it in our newsletter. Let's celebrate the incredible efforts of Friends of the library groups across Michigan and inspire others with your accomplishments. Email us today to be part of our next issue!

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45255 Ten Mile Road
Novi
48375
United States of America

