



FOML Officers

President

Sue Johnson
Novi Public Library

Vice President

Jill Sodt
Mott Community College

Dillon Geshel

Superiorland Library Cooperative

Treasurer

Charles D. Hanson
United for Libraries Representative

Contact

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Connect with FOML online! Be sure to like and follow Friends of Michigan Libraries, FOML, on Facebook.

You can get the latest news about other Library Friend groups around the state and helpful reminders of resources useful for your own group.

www.facebook.com/FOMLLibraries



Hello FOML Family,

It is my pleasure to serve as the newly-elected FOML President and to work with Friends in carrying out FOML's mission of service to the library community.

Reading has always been an important part of my life. I became a member of the Friends of the Novi Public Library in 2013 and am currently President of the Novi Library Friends.

I joined the FOML Friends in 2020 and have served as Vice President since 2021. We focused on supporting Friends groups by holding virtual *Connect with Friends* sessions when many libraries were closed. This year with FOML *Talk About Friends* we are once again meeting in-person.

I invite you to continue sharing your success stories as you work on your projects in support of your library. Keep up the good work, and I look forward to hearing about your activities during the upcoming year.

The impact of Library Friends knows no bounds.

Sue Johnson
FOML President

FOML has been promoting libraries and sharing Friends activities for more than 50 years since it was founded in 1969.



FOML Annual Membership Meeting

On Thursday, April 6, 2023, FOML held its annual membership meeting by Zoom. Fifty-seven Friends members registered for the event. Members approved the 2023 FOML Board officers and board members.

Officers

President: Sue Johnson, *Novi Public Library*

Vice-President: Jill Sodt, *Mott Community College*

Treasurer: Charles D. Hanson, *UFL Representative*

Secretary: Dillon Geshel, *Superiorland Library Cooperative*

New Board Members

Debra Friedman, *Devereaux Memorial Crawford County Library*

Cindy McKinnon, *Shelby Area District Library*

FOML Board of Directors Members *(continuing service)*

Bryonna Barton, *Eaton Rapids Area District Library*

Rebekah Craft, *Baldwin Public Library*

Gerald Furi, *Farmington Community Library (retired)*

Yolanda Haynes, *Southfield Public Library*

Patricia Orr, *Livonia Public Library*

Stephanie Reinhardt, *Public Libraries of Saginaw*

Kristin Shelley, *East Lansing Public Library*

Lisa Waskin, *Superior District Library*

FOML Board Advisors

Mary Beall, *Southfield Public Library*

Shelley Gach-Droz, *Huntington Woods Public Lib*

Ann Ingles, *Petoskey District Library*

Jennifer Kundak, *Chelsea District Library*

Clare Membiela, *Library of Michigan*

Roger Mendel, *Library Consultant*

Paul Snyder, *Friends of the Commerce Library*

Karren Reish, *Library of Michigan*

FOML Board Members Leaving the Board

Kate Pohjola Andrade, *Woodlands Library Coop*

Dr. Jeffrey G. Charnley, *Leslie Public Library*

Sara Tackett, *Jackson District Library*

FOML Board Service Providers

Fiscal Agent: Mideastern Michigan Library

Cooperative: Eric Palmer, *Executive Director*

and Irene Bancroft, *Administrative Specialist Web*

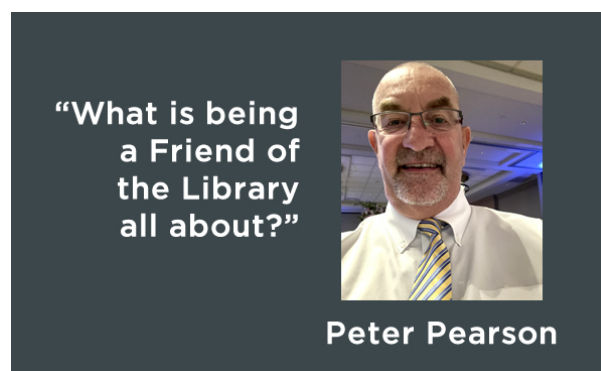
Developer & Membership Coordinator: Janet

Newell, *Island River Digital*

Peter Pearson Keynote Speaker

The Annual Meeting's keynote speaker was Peter Pearson, Library Consultant, Library Foundation for Sarasota County who gave his presentation entitled "What is being a Friend of the Library all about?"

You can view his video presentation by logging into the FOML Member portal.



Access to United for Libraries for Michigan Libraries

Michigan has partnered with United for Libraries to provide all library staff, Friends Groups, and Foundations with the benefits and resources of statewide access to United for Libraries.

Benefits include online training, webinars, publications, tip sheets, best practices, discussion forums, and more.

This project is supported by the Library of Michigan with federal funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

1. Visit www.ala.org/united
2. Click on the STATEWIDE ACCESS FIND YOUR STATE blue bar
3. Scroll down to Michigan
4. Click Register to create your own profile
5. For future access you simply login to your account under MICHIGAN



TALK ABOUT FRIENDS

The Novi Library Friends hosted FOML “Talk About Friends” on March 17, 2023. It was very successful and achieved the goal of getting Friends together face-to-face to share and learn. Fifty people attended the half-day session from 24 different libraries. The speaker was Clare Membiela, Library Law Consultant from the Library of Michigan. Clare engaged everyone as she discussed many topics relevant to Friends.

They included:

- Benefits of a Memorandum of Understanding between a Library and the Friends
- Conflict of interest when an individual is both on the Library Board and the Friends Board
- Friends groups as a corporation
- Friends groups getting 501 (C) 3 status
- Issues around fundraising

The breakout session following Clare’s talk focused on membership. The goal was to meet and get ideas from other libraries, so each table had a mix of people representing both large and small libraries. Some ideas discussed to encourage membership included:

- Early access to book sales
- Free tote with a new membership, bookmarks
- Advertising in community newsletters and flyers in local businesses
- Friends Group on Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter,...
- Monthly newsletters highlighting Friends activities
- Passing out membership information at Library events
- Open House, Easter Egg Hunt, Senior Outreach
- Presidential Service Awards

Pat Orr, FOML President, gave a preview of the newly revised FOML Friends Manual. She explained the revision process and showed how to navigate the manual. It will soon be available on the FOML.org under the “Members Login”. The password will be sent out to all members.

A second breakout session focused on “How does a friends group define success?”. This seems to vary with the size and age of the Friends groups. Established groups have trackable metrics while smaller groups consider success to be raising money when the library has a particular need. A tour of the Novi Library was offered at the end of the morning.

The next FOML Talk About Friends will be held at the Cascade Branch of the Kent District Library on Friday, May 19 at 9 am.

To register for this event, please visit this link:

<https://fomlevents.org/events/talk-about-friends-may-19-2023/>



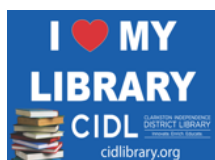
Mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

- April 23-27 - National Library Week
- April 25 - Michigan Library Advocacy Day
- May 19 - Talk About Friends, Cascade Branch, Kent District Library





Meet the Friends of Clarkston Independence District Library



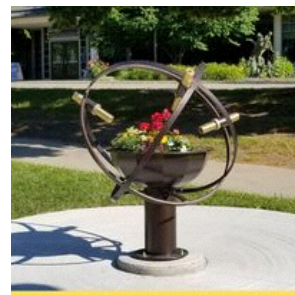
Greetings from Clarkston. The Clarkston Independence District Library (CIDL) Friends are now engaged in preparing for our first bookstall of 2023.

This will take place later in April at the library. Our book sales are a major fundraiser for the Friends group here and we are optimistic for another good year. In addition to book sales we also have fund raising in merchandise available for purchase, lobby book sales and online books for sale through the website Reading Market.

CIDL is a Class 4 library that was founded in 1954. We are in the upper edge of the Detroit metro area located in Oakland County. Although the service population of the library is just under 40,000 persons, the library had over 90,000 visitors and over 240,000 circulations last year and is experiencing large increases in circulation, computer use and patron participation in programs. CIDL was voted the Best Library in area voting for the fourth year in a row.

The Friends have been active in the district library since its beginning in 2012. We have over 250 members. The Friends support the library in their wish list that includes Adult Trivia Night, Summer Reading Program, Read and Steep, Exam Cram, Battle of the Books, Author Visit and Trunk or Treat, etc.. In addition to programs we have also donated book carts, bike racks, a Kaleidoscope sculpture (in partnership with the Clarkston Women's Club), and a Book Nook (reading area) for children.

The Friends publishes a newsletter twice a year to advise members on activities being sponsored by the organization and upcoming events. We invite the community to join the CIDL Friends group.



FOML Membership Drive is Now Open



FOML's 2023 Membership Campaign is Rebuilding Connections: Creating a Strong Community of Friends. Membership benefits include:

- Access to information exchange about Friends groups throughout Michigan;
- Access to "A FOML Friends Manual" (digital publication on the FOML website);
- The opportunity to participate in FOML events at member rates;
- Eligibility for the Harriet Larsen Founders Award and the annual FOML Award of Merit.

To join, visit <https://foml.org/membership>

Thank You!

Thanks for reading this issue of Focus on Friends and thanks for being a FOML member. We appreciate you and hope to provide you with helpful services and events.

