



## FOML Officers

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**Sue Johnson**  
Novi Public Library

Vice President

**Jill Sodt**  
Mott Community College

Secretary

**Bryonna Barton**  
Eaton Rapids Area District Library

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**Charles D. Hanson**  
United for Libraries Representative

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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](http://www.facebook.com/FOMLLibraries)



### From the President,

The Holiday season is here and as we look back 2023 has been a good year for Friends of Michigan Libraries. Through Talk About Friends, we met with you in person in Novi, Cascade and Alpena spanning much of the state. The three events represented around 40 libraries. For the first time since 2020 Friends members sat down together and shared ideas. It was a pleasure to learn more about your Friends groups and some of the great things you are doing to support your libraries and reading in Michigan.

We are pleased to have given two Harriet Larson awards: one to Pontiac who purchased logo items as they are working hard to restart their Friends group and the other to Hamburg Township Library who started a "Lucky Day" collection to bring more patrons into their library. Remember to submit your applications for the FOML Merit Award by January 12, 2024. It can focus on a specific project carried out in 2023 or can be based on the full scope of the group's activities during 2023.

Looking ahead to next year, we will continue with Talk About Friends, have plans to update our web site, and are in the process of planning our Annual Meeting. We will be holding it at the Library of Michigan. Hope to see you there! Membership will open for renewals and new members in January, 2024. Warm wishes for a Happy Holiday season.

**Sue Johnson**  
**FOML President**



### TALK ABOUT FRIENDS

#### Talk About Friends at the Alpena County Library

FOML held its third Talk About Friends meeting of 2023 on Friday, October 6, at the Alpena County Library. Charles Hanson, FOML Treasurer, attended the meeting and coordinated the discussion among the 14 participants. Clare Membiela, Library Law Consultant at the Library of Michigan, made her presentation to the group by Zoom, emphasizing the best practices and principles for Friends groups. Follow this link to download Clare's presentation: <https://foml.org/workshop-resources/>

She pointed out the organizational structure for Friends as a 501(c)3 or as a Michigan nonprofit corporation under LARA. She noted that Friends groups must follow the rules and regulations of licensing and legal requirements when presenting fundraising events such as raffles. Clare also stressed the importance of knowing how public libraries are organized in Michigan (city, township, and district) and the importance of being aware of the respective roles and responsibilities of the library trustees, the director and staff, and the Friends of the library.

The meeting was another opportunity for Friends from different libraries to exchange ideas, talk about their successful fundraising projects, and work together on solving problems that Friends groups sometimes encounter. The meeting evaluations were positive. One person remarked, "I sat with people from other areas and learned a lot."



### FOML MERIT AWARD

#### Apply for the 2024 FOML Merit Award

The FOML Merit Award will be given to two Michigan Friends groups either for a specific project carried out in 2023 or based on the full scope of the group's activities during 2023. While selecting the winners of this award, preference will be given to applicants who have not previously won this award. Applications will be judged by the FOML Membership & Marketing Committee. Deadline for applications is Friday, January 12, 2024. <https://foml.org/foml-merit-award/>



### CONNECTING ACROSS MICHIGAN

Creating a Strong  
Community of Friends

#### FOML Membership Drive Opens January 1, 2024

FOML's 2024 Membership Campaign is **Connecting Across Michigan: Creating a Strong Community of Friends**. Membership will open on January 1, 2024. An email will be sent to current members with links to the membership forms.

The membership fee for Group Members in 2024 will be \$50. All Friends in the group are eligible to receive the benefits of FOML membership.

FOML will be accepting electronic payments only for membership, either using Paypal or a credit card. If your Friends group does not have a credit card, we recommend using the credit card of the library or a Friends member, then submit for reimbursement.