



## FOTL, TLA Join Forces to Find

# FRIEND OF THE YEAR

For the very first time in 2011, the Friends of Tennessee Libraries and the Tennessee Library Association will recognize an individual or a group earning the designation of “Friend of the Year.”

The recipient, either an individual or a group, must be a member in good standing of the Friends of Tennessee Libraries and must have made a significant contribution to a Friends’ group and to the advancement of libraries in Tennessee.

Frances Darnell, former president of FOTL and a current member of FOTL’s advisory committee, worked with the TLA board to design this award, which will be presented at the Trustees and Friends Luncheon at TLA’s annual conference in March.

Now you have the opportunity to nominate a group or a person who deserves that honor, but you must act quickly. The deadline for nominations is November 15.

**See page 5.**

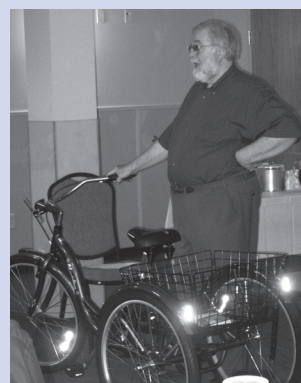
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# Taking Care of Today and Tomorrow

By Martha Gill  
FOTL President

Please meet two people who, along with other members of the FOTL board, are taking care of FOTL business today and tomorrow.

Helen Seiler has joined the FOTL board as representative from the Caney Fork Region. Her appointment was announced in the summer issue of our *Newsletter*, but no picture appeared then.

Susie Webb Ries will become president of FOTL in May. She has served the organization as representative from the Nashville-Davidson County area for many years.

For both of these capable and devoted advocates of libraries, I wish the same kind of pleasure, excitement, and challenge that I experience as an active member of FOTL. As past president, I will continue to serve FOTL through its newsletter, website, and Facebook page “until the cows come home,” as my beloved grandmother would have said.



Helen Seiler  
Caney Fork Representative



Susie Webb Ries  
FOTL President-Elect

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## Manny Buzzell, 1933-2010

Board members of the Friends of Tennessee Library knew Manny Buzzell as Blue Grass regional representative for little more than a year, but in that short period of time he defined himself as a dedicated, generous man of action.

For example, he and his wife Pat traveled from Brentwood to Clinton for his very first FOTL annual meeting in 2009. On another occasion Manny purchased outright a number of license-plate frames for resale by the Friends of the Brentwood Library and thereby benefited both FOTL and his local Friends. When the FOTL board cast about for a location for its 2011 annual meeting, Manny reached for his cell phone, and in a matter of minutes he had reserved the Brentwood Library for that event.

Those actions were characteristic, for, as the *Williamson Herald* reported on August 27, “Saturday’s death of Manny D. Buzzell, 77, is being mourned as a loss for the written word due to his dedication to the Brentwood, Williamson County and Bluegrass Regional library systems.” In that same article Brentwood City Commissioner Joe Sweeney is quoted: “I can’t say enough about Manny. He was successful in business. He was successful in life. And more importantly he was successful as a human being.”

## Why Renew?

Soon you will receive a request to renew your membership in FOTL. Please do. When you do, you join other advocates of libraries across the state. Aside from occasional donations and modest income from sales of our license-plate frames, FOTL relies entirely on membership dues to support its work. In the past year that support consisted of the following.

- FOTL staged an extremely successful annual meeting, thanks in huge part to the generous support of the Friends of the Art Circle Public Library in Crossville.
- FOTL has published four editions of its *Newsletter*, a major outlet for living up to its promise to link Friends in their efforts to improve public awareness of Tennessee libraries. Complimentary copies of the newsletter go to all Tennessee legislators. The FOTL website and our Facebook page contribute to the effort of keeping advocates informed.
- FOTL was represented at National Library Advocacy Day in Washington on June 29 when Tennessee delegates spoke up for public libraries in meetings with Tennessee’s legislators.
- FOTL has conducted workshops to energize existing Friends’ groups and and to help future Friends organize.
- FOTL provided financial support for Tennessee’s Library Legislative Day, and FOTL representatives helped plan that event.
- FOTL financially supported the state’s summer reading programs.
- FOTL has become an increasingly active affiliate of the Tennessee Library Association, adding citizens’ voices to those of professionals in support of Tennessee libraries.

Let us hear your voice as well.  
Please renew.

## Secretary of State's Challenge to Every Public Library: Tell Officials Why Library Is Important to Community

Secretary of State Tre Hargett challenges every public library in the state to invite local and state officials to an event where they can learn why the library is important to the community.

Library directors and board chairs are being asked to plan an event between now and Christmas. The Tennessee State Library and Archives (TSLA) and the regions will help by providing templates for invitations and handouts, according to Genny Carter, who brings information from TSLA to

FOTL's board. Secretary Hargett will encourage state legislators to participate.

What are the expected results of these gatherings?

1. At these events advocates and library staffs will have the opportunity to say thanks. They can let state officials know that the funds and services from the regional library are helpful. They can let local officials know that libraries are successful because of officials' support.

2. At these events advocates

and staffs can build relationships. The events can help library advocates get to know those who hold the purse strings. These officials should not see advocates coming only at budget time.

3. Bragging rights will result. Giving officials a few facts about the library that they can use will enable them to say "Since I've been in office, our library has grown by X volumes." Or "Because of my support, the library in our town serves more than X people every day."



### TN Snapshot Day Set for October 7

Libraries across the state will gather statistics, comments, and photographs in order to create public-relations materials for funding agencies, governing bodies, legislators, and the public.

Details are available online: <http://tnsnap.wordpress.com/>. The site provides a SURVEY page, a FORMS page, PR templates for press releases or fliers, and the mechanism for uploading photos on Flickr. Friends should check with library directors to see how they can be of help with this project.

### Workshop Puts Library Funding in Context

By Susie Webb Ries, *FOTL President-Elect*

On September 15 in Nashville, I attended "Creating Solutions," a workshop sponsored by AARP, League of Women Voters, and the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth. One of the presenters suggested it should have been titled "Creating Solutions to Hard Realities."

Consultant Stan Chervin from the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations spoke on the impact of the Great Recession on local governments. News is not good; fiscal 2011-12 will be a big challenge.

Matt Murray, associate director of the University of Tennessee Center for Business and Economic Research, spoke on the economic and fiscal legacy of the Great Recession. My take on his remarks: there is a fundamental economic transformation happening globally, nationwide, and locally, and it will be several years before we have a new perspective on it.

Increased federal spending of almost \$150 million has helped Tennessee this year, but that money will be gone for 2011-12. The deficit, a time bomb, is growing. It's not a question of if, but when taxes will increase.

On the brighter side, Mr. Murray definitely believes that a recovery will come by 2013-14, but in the meantime he urged all listeners to come together, compromise, and come up with creative solutions. Panelists spoke on behalf of children and families, education, health, mental health, disability services, and the environment. Remarks made by Al Mance, executive director of the Tennessee Education Association, resonated the most with me: "Public education is one of our strongest economic engines." He added, "We can be a smart state, even if we're poor."

Stewart Clifton, registered lobbyist for the League of Women Voters of Tennessee, concluded, "We can make a difference working with others, but each of you needs to be part of a group to coordinate the advocacy plan, to communicate effectively, and to work together with other groups."

A follow-up on effective advocacy will occur October 12. In the meantime, check out [www.tn.gov.tccy/conv-agenda.pdf](http://www.tn.gov.tccy/conv-agenda.pdf).



*Nominate*  
**FRIEND**  
**OF**  
**THE YEAR**



**Purpose:** To honor an outstanding member or group of individuals of a Friends of the Library group for exceptional leadership and/or achievements in the current calendar year. The overall accomplishments or distinguished service of the nominee or group to Tennessee libraries will be considered.

**Sponsors:** Tennessee Library Association (TLA) Honors and Awards Committee and TLA affiliate Friends of Tennessee Libraries (FOTL)

**Who May Nominate?** Anyone

**Who Is Eligible?** Recipient(s) must be a Friends' group or a member in good standing of Friends of Tennessee Libraries (FOTL).

**Criteria:** Nominee(s) must have made a significant contribution to the advancement of libraries or education in Tennessee in the current calendar year. Nominee should be one who performs outstanding service related to the activities of a Friends' group. Recipient may be an individual or group but must be a member in good standing of FOTL.

**Nomination:** Please attach a detailed description, limited to 200 words, of the nominee's service, achievements, and contributions to a Friends' group and/or to the advancement of libraries or education through libraries.

**By November 15, 2010:** Mail this completed information and the nomination to Martha Gill, president of FOTL, 4109 Forest Glen Drive, Knoxville, TN 37919. Or send the material by e-mail to <gill333375@bellsouth.net>.

**PLEASE PRINT the following information:**

**Nominee** \_\_\_\_\_

**Nominee's mailing address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Nominee's telephone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Nominee's e-mail address** \_\_\_\_\_

**If nominee is an Individual, is that nominee a member of FOTL?** \_\_\_\_\_

**If nominee is a group, is that group a member of FOTL?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of nominator** \_\_\_\_\_

**Nominator's mailing address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Nominator's e-mail** \_\_\_\_\_ **Nominator's telephone** \_\_\_\_\_

# Rockin' Regions Report In

## Caney Fork Region

By Helen Seiler

Friends of the Art Circle Public Library in Crossville welcomed author Loletta Clouse, author of four novels set in East Tennessee and shown here with FOTL's

John Nye, to the August meeting.

Melissa

Newman,

author of *Sister Blackberry*, will

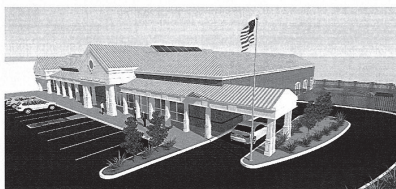
be the featured speaker at the Art Circle Friends' book-and-author luncheon on Thursday, October 7.



## Clinch-Powell Region

By Theresa Venable

LaFollette Friends have been the driving force behind getting a new library for their community. They have met with the architect, attended meetings of City Council, mailed letters to legislators, and helped write an application for a LSTA Technology Grant. Librarian Nancy Green says that she couldn't survive without the Friends' help.



Future Home

## Forked Deer Region

By Carol Harris

The Dyersburg/Dyer County Public Library Foundation is launching a \$2.6 million capital campaign to purchase, renovate, and furnish a building to house the Mclver's Grant Public Library, currently located at 204 N. Mill Avenue in Dyersburg.

Plans call for the adaptive re-use of a structurally sound existing downtown building. The site across

from City Hall has a capacity for parking 60 cars. Amenities like computer labs, exhibit space, an outdoor garden, and rooms for genealogical study, classes, and meetings are consistent with the concept of the library as a community center for learning and enrichment.

## Fort Loudoun Region

By Barbara Zurl

The Mary E. Tippet Library in Townsend held its fundraising summer book sale, which was promoted on the FOTL website.

Marilyn Joiner and Lorie Waters, who attended the FOTL workshop in the Fort Loudoun Region in the spring, report that they are making progress toward their goal of creating a Friends' group in Etowah. They have selected a name, chosen officers, formulated a mission statement, worked on by-laws, and applied for non-profit tax status. They anticipate a membership drive and open house during National Friends of the Libraries Week October 17-23.

**Ready for Friends of the Library Week October 17-23? Ideas at ALTAFF: <[www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs.altaff/index.cfm](http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs.altaff/index.cfm)> Click on Events and Conferences**

## Knoxville-Knox County

By Gay Hurst

Friends of Knox County are gearing up for an advocacy outreach to inform the public, the new county mayor, and the County Commission about the system's positive impact on the area. Knox County's system recently lost its director of library services. The assistant director, Myretta Black, is serving as interim director. Friends have sent a letter to the mayor and to the local newspaper expressing their appreciation for the accomplishments of the outgoing director, Larry Frank, and describing the qualifications that they would like to see in his successor.

## Memphis-Shelby County

By Peter McNeal

The Friends' online book sale continues to be extremely lucrative, and donations to the Go Green campaign for collecting donated books has been so successful that the Memphis chapter of the Public Relations Society of America honored it with one of its prestigious Vox Awards in June. Go Green recycle bins are reconfigured trash receptacles donated by Memphis City Beautiful and placed throughout the city to receive donations.

Longtime volunteer and founding member of the Friends, Frances Manley is one of the reasons for the success of the Go Green campaign. At 90 years of age, she is the Friends' book mender who removes dirt and grime from the leather covers of books over 100 years old and reinserts loose pages in valuable volumes. The Memphis City Council recognized Frances this summer for her service to the library.

## Nashville-Davidson County

By Susie Webb Ries

In August a meeting with Pam Reese, PR director of the Nashville Public Library, led to a discussion of what might be done to foster Nashville Friends' groups, whose organization is somewhat unique in the state. The library website states, "Every branch library has Friends, and all are joined under the group's charter." Proceeds from the Second Saturday Bookstore, held the second Saturday of each month at the Donelson branch, support projects of all groups throughout the year. Some branches have more active groups than others. Identifying people with the time and interest to energize each Friends' branch is the challenge.

Two employees paid by the Nashville Library organize volunteers to help the staff with activities like hosting the Children's Puppet Theater, leading tours of the main library, being a homework helper, or assisting with special events. Susan Chambers, highly commended by Pam Reese, has voluntarily served the Friends as

**More from Regions, p. 7**

# More from the Regions

Continued from p. 6

treasurer for many years. For more information about Nashville Friends, go to [www.library.nashville.org/Info/gen\\_giving\\_volunteer.asp](http://www.library.nashville.org/Info/gen_giving_volunteer.asp).

## **Nolichucky Region** **By Dwight Shepherd**

Using chapters out of books to decide who killed King Henry VIII, Friends in Hamblen County recently took part in a murder-mystery fundraiser to provide doors for the handicapped at the Morristown Library and the Davis Homes Branch.

Friends of Jefferson City Library held their third annual cardboard boat race at the city pool on August 21. Raising funds for a new library building, the Friends are seeking information about available grants.

White Pines Friends have held their annual book sale and have supported the summer reading program popular with members of the Boys & Girls Club right next door to the library.

Formation of a new Friends' group for the Sevier County Public Library System's King Family Library is being explored.

Friends of Kodak and Seymour will hold a jointly sponsored book sale in October; proceeds will benefit Kodak, Seymour, and King Family libraries.

Friends of Kodak Library and the Northview Optimist Club co-sponsored the annual Kodak Heritage Day in June. In memory of Nancy Russell, who served on the Steering Committee that established the Kodak Friends in 1995 and on its initial Board of Directors, Kodak Friends will place a book on crafts at the Kodak Branch.

## **Upper Cumberland** **By Wanda Jared**

Putnam County Library Friends have volunteered for such community activities as the spring Spin-a-Tale event, an annual occurrence for fourth and fifth graders in the county school system. Students see demonstrations of early settlers' skills of woodworking,

preserving food, and making horseshoes. Successful fundraisers of Putnam County Friends include monthly book sales and co-sponsorship of the interactive play *Death by Chocolate*.

Macon County Friends and the Library Board of Trustees are planning the annual BBQ supper for library-funding bodies in the community,

## **Wariota Region** **By Doreen Flash**

Cheatham County's grand finale, covered by TV Channel 4, celebrated the biggest attendance ever for the county's Storey Time programs this summer. The Friends honored Storey

Time Lady Susan Schloma with a party and a commemorative plaque.

Friends discussed concerns about the library with the president of the Chamber of commerce, who spoke at one of the Friends' meetings.

Members of the Beta Club are being sought to help enter information on the computer about used books to be sold on Amazon.

## **Watauga Region** **By Theresa McMahan**

An e-mail outlining services and benefits of FOTL membership has been sent out to fellow librarians and through them to Friends' groups in East Tennessee. Let's make East Tennessee's presence known in FOTL!

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## Noteworthy from Newsletters

**Chattanooga's Friends of the Library** reported an astonishing record for summer reading. According to *Volumes*, children, teens, and adults recorded a total of 163,178 books read.

Following the summer book sale at the Westgate Town Center, the Chattanooga Friends are recruiting volunteers for future sales. More information is available at 423.757.5425.

**Friends of the Cleveland Bradley County Library** will feature Dr. William Bass at the annual author's event on Tuesday, October 26. The noted forensic scientist, founder of the so-called Body Farm at the University of Tennessee and novelist, will speak at the Arnold Elementary School Auditorium following a reception in the library's community room.

**Friends of the Lawrence County Public Library** held their fall book sale September 11-25.

**Friends of the Tellico Village Public Library** netted over \$13,000 at the 16th annual used book sale April 30-May 1. October 16 has been set aside in Tellico Village for the Friends' wine tasting and silent auction, a major fundraising event to benefit the Tellico Village Public Library Building Fund.

The Tellico Village Friends' annual meeting on November 10 will feature

Bill Landry, popular local personality and past host of the Heartland series.

**Williamson County** is among a handful of Middle Tennessee counties to receive money through Nissan North America for the Governor's Books from Birth Foundation. The car company, whose regional headquarters are in Franklin, recently contributed \$100,000 to the foundation with money divided among communities where its employees live and work. Williamson County received \$14,700.

**Friends of the White County Public Library** have scheduled their fall book sale for September 30-October 2.

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## Keep Up with FOTL On Facebook, Web

FOTL now counts over 300 followers who like its Facebook page, where something new appears almost every day—links to media reports about libraries in Tennessee and beyond as well as suggestions for resources that might be of use to you in newsletters, meetings, or social networking. FOTL continues to maintain its website as well. Check us out at [www.friendstnlibraries.org](http://www.friendstnlibraries.org) and Facebook. Send us material to be posted at [gill333375@bellsouth.net](mailto:gill333375@bellsouth.net).

## 'No Plan To Shut Down Regional Library Service' By Chuck Sherrill

**State Librarian and Archivist**

I know many library advocates are concerned about the Regional Library System, and I am glad to have an opportunity to set the record straight.

First, let me say emphatically that there is no plan underway to shut down regional library service. However, we are under a mandate to cut more than \$1 million out of the budget. That can only be done by reorganizing the boundaries of the regions and streamlining services.

Our mission is to strengthen local public libraries. The Regional Directors have been working to identify the ways in which they can do that most effectively. We fully intend to continue providing library materials, consultation services to local boards and staff, in-service training, and technology support. The ways in which we deliver these services may change, but they are core services.

We are presently working with a consulting firm which has helped other states faced with regional library reorganization. We have asked the consultants to advise us about what other states are doing to centralize purchasing and cataloging, provide automated systems for small libraries, leverage state materials funds to encourage better local funding, and improve resource sharing among libraries.

While "doing more with less" is not always possible, it is my intention that the regional libraries will emerge from this reorganization stronger, leaner and more focused than ever on the important part they play in supporting Tennessee's public libraries.

Friends of the Library groups, both state and local, can and should advocate with their legislators for improved library services. I recommend you do this by reminding them why the regional services are important to your community. Encourage them to support funding for library services through the Secretary of State's budget.

## Reynolds' Predecessor Says Save the Regional System

*Editor's note: At Don Reynolds' retirement party in Morristown on August 21, Dwight Shepherd, FOTL's representative for the Nolichucky Region, introduced me to Anne Kraus, who preceded Don as director of the Nolichucky Region. Here is the letter that she wrote to me on August 24.*

It was very nice to meet you last Saturday at Don's retirement party. It is always nice to meet someone who is aware of the value of public libraries.

I am serious about an effort to save the Regional Library System. If no one makes an effort the whole statewide system will soon be gone. The Nolichucky Region is first on the chopping block. If it were not, the State Library would be hiring a new director to replace Don. It has been made clear that the position is to be left vacant.

The regional libraries are the most valuable to rural counties with a small population, limited financial resources and high unemployment. A different level of help and service is useful to libraries such as Morristown-Hamblen and Sevier County.



**Dwight Shepherd and Anne Kraus**

Some services provided by regional libraries are

- Library materials—books, videos, etc.
- Professional help like advice to County Library Boards, information provided to libraries and staff on library procedures, help on developing long-range and short-term plans, cataloguing books, ordering new books as requested by the local librarian;
- In-service training for local libraries and staff
- Training on computer use in libraries by staff and patrons

The emphasis on these functions may vary from region to region, depending on

local needs. Also the interests and expertise of the regional director will be reflected in the way programs are developed.

I did not think to ask you on Saturday how many Friends' groups belong to your organization. I would be interested to know how many groups and where they are located.

If Friends across the state will contact representatives and state senators to say public libraries are important and regional library services are particularly important to small libraries, we may have a chance.

Sincerely, Anne Kraus  
Morristown, TN  
Retired Director  
Nolichucky Regional Library

*[Editor's note: Supervision of libraries within the Nolichucky Region was divided and transferred this summer to Susan Simmons, director of the Clinch-Powell Region, and Nancy Renfro, director of the Watauga Region.]*



FOTL representatives Martha Gill, left, and Julie Webb wished Don Reynolds well at his retirement party in Morristown on August 21.

## Don Reynolds, Alias ‘Walrus,’ Retires

Don Reynolds, director of the Nolichucky Regional Library and formerly FOTL’s Nolichucky’s regional representative, has retired. Known to his staff as “The Walrus,” Don received tributes and gifts from guests at a party arranged by his staff at the Morristown-Hamblen Public Library on August 21.

Judy Greeson, retired director of the Clinch-Powell Regional Library, gave Don a road atlas to map his future travels. Lynette Sloan, director of the Fort Loudoun Regional Library, and Faith Holdredge, director of the Caney Fork Region, presented Don with an e-reader on behalf of his colleagues in the regional library system. Don’s staff and FOTL joined forces to provide Don with a three-wheeled bike, which he refers to as his “tricycle.”

Barbara Earnest of the library staff waxed poetic:

The Walrus is leaving!  
Oh, how can that be true?  
It seems such a short time  
Since we became part of the  
Walrus Crew! . . .  
The years have gone by  
So very fast  
But your loving and giving spirit  
Will always last. . . .

## Supporting Summer Reading = Helping Kids Retain Skills

A favorite and enduring partnership between Tennessee Friends and their local libraries is summer reading. Consider these examples.

■ Friends of the Putnam County Library contributed \$3,000 to support summer reading. For lovely photos, see <[www.pclibrary.org](http://www.pclibrary.org)>.

■ The organization of Friends of the Kodak Library acts as accounting agent for the summer reading program by receiving all donations from the public to finance the program and by paying for all supplies and programs for the entire Sevier County system. Friends in Kodak, Seymour, Pigeon Forge, White Pine, and Jefferson City contribute funds for summer reading.

■ With a grant of \$5,000, Friends of the Knox County Public Library supported the Children’s Festival of Reading, the kick-off event of summer reading in the library system at the World’s Fair Park in May.

■ Friends of Macon County Public Library registered 248 children for the summer reading program, thereby freeing up the library staff to attend to professional duties.

■ Friends of Scott County Public Libraries, headed by Susan Ellis, provided volunteer assistance during the summer’s creative programs.

The potential effect of these programs for all children is indicated by research coming out of the University of Tennessee. According to the *New York Times* (“Summer Must-Read for Kids? Any Book,” August 2, 2010) a study from UT confirms that the so-called “summer slide” in reading and spelling skills can be slowed or halted by summer reading.

The study, financed by the federal Department of Education, tracked the reading habits and test scores of more than 1,300 Florida children from 17 schools serving youngsters from low incomes. At the start of the study, 852 randomly selected first- and second graders were allowed to choose 12 books from among 600 titles at a school book fair in the spring. A control group of randomly selected 478 students were offered free activity and puzzle books rather than reading books for the same period of time. Tested in the fourth and fifth grades, those selected students who received free books “posted significantly higher test scores than did the children who received activity books.” Tennessee’s summer reading programs through public libraries are not limited to children from low-income schools but are available to all.

Reading of this result, one professional remarked, “Don’t you love it when research confirms what you already knew?” Those librarians behind summer reading programs and the Friends who help them might agree.

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### Because of Libraries . . .

■ The new manager of the Tellico Village Subway completed the requirements for her job on the public library’s computer, according to the Friends of Tellico Village Library newsletter.

■ When Julie Webb read E. B. White’s letters from her public library, she wanted to compliment the editor of the revised version, White’s granddaughter. The library then furnished Julie with the editor’s e-mail address. Within days Martha White responded to Julie.

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- Establishing and helping Friends of Library groups succeed
- Communicating with libraries and trustees about the value of Friends
- Serving members as a communication network and clearinghouse for information
- Advocating for library funding and legislative support on a local, state, and national basis

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