



Friends of Tennessee Libraries *newsletter*

May-June 2014

Volume 21, Number 3

Board Revises Grant Program

Three years ago the Friends of Tennessee Libraries began awarding \$200 grants to groups striving to promote advocacy, fundraising, and membership.

The FOTL board has approved three major changes to the grant program in order to make it even more beneficial to recipients.

- Awards will increase from \$200 to \$300.

- The grant cycle will move from a November 15 deadline to a March 1 deadline, thereby giving Friends' groups more time during the slower winter season to refine their applications. Winners will be announced at the 2015 Annual Meeting in Memphis.

- FOTL will provide media releases and notification to elected leaders in the winners' geographical areas to promote the winning projects.

Applicants must be members of FOTL whose dues are fully paid. Applications will appear in the November-December and January-February issues of the newsletter and online at <friendstnlibraries.org>.



FOTL's Susie Webb Ries presents the Friend of the Year award to Carolyn McDermott, 2013 past president of the Friends of the Tellico Village Library, as Rich Seymour, current president; David Damm, 2013 past president; and Becky Hail, library manager, look on.

Tellico Village Acclaimed '2013 Friend of the Year'

November 5, 2013, marked the first anniversary of the opening of the Public Library at Tellico Village, the library that Friends of the Tellico Village Library built. For that achievement, Tellico Village Friends were named 2013 Friend of the Year, an award co-sponsored by Friends of Tennessee Libraries and the Tennessee Library Association and announced May 2 at TLA's conference in Murfreesboro.

The process of building that library began as the Tellico Village Friends obtained a USDA loan, chose an architect, and selected a construction company. The result? A LEEDS-certified, state-of-the-art, 6,442-square-foot facility built with contributions from citizens and local groups. In addition the Friends initiated or continued to support a number of community-outreach projects. For more details, see remarks by Becky Haile on page 6.

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President Ponders Libraries and Friends

By Don Reynolds

FOTL President

Since it was founded in 1992, the Friends of Tennessee Libraries (FOTL) has existed for only one purpose: to support Tennessee libraries and local Friends of Library groups. FOTL is citizens supporting what the public needs and wants through their libraries.

What an honor and privilege it is to be asked to be FOTL president. Being a Friend is one of life's greatest joys and opportunities. Being a Library Friend is a commitment to help make one's community a stronger and better place, improving its quality of life.

"A public library can mean different things to different people. For me, the library offers our best example of the public commons. For many, the library upholds the 19th century belief that the future of democracy is contingent upon an educated citizenry. For others, the library simply means free access to the Internet, or a warm place to take shelter, a chance for an education, or the endless possibilities that jump to life in your imagination the moment you open the cover of a book." — Robert Dawson, *The Public Library: A Photographic Essay*. Princeton Architectural Press, 2014

I've always thought of Friends groups like grandparents, who can provide those treats (and basics, sometimes) that parents (Boards of Trustees) do or can not. Rudy Giuliani once said that grandparents "give unconditional love, kindness, patience, humor, comfort, lessons in life. And, most importantly, cookies."

I'm looking forward this year to helping provide support to our member Friends groups throughout the state. And cookies.



Don Reynolds



FOTL board members at the 2014 Annual Meeting include Susie Webb Ries, now past president; Ed Jared, treasurer; Dot Childs, one of East Tennessee's representatives; Martha Gill, newsletter editor; Wanda Jared, one of Middle Tennessee's representatives; William Sundquist, now president-elect; and Julie Webb, member of the advisory committee.

FOTL's 2014 Annual Report

By Susie Webb Ries

FOTL Past President

■ FOTL has 168 total Friends as members: 75 are family members, 35 are individual members, and 58 are organizations.

■ The award-winning FOTL newsletter was published six times this past year. Posts to our Facebook page are added almost daily.

■ Regularly updated sources of timely information include the Facebook page, the newsletter, and the website (www.friendstnlibraries.org) and blog.

■ An FOTL Board of Directors listserv has been established.

■ The week of October 20-26, 2013, was declared Friends of Libraries Week by Governor Bill Haslam.

■ For the third year FOTL awarded three annual grants of \$200 to help local groups launch projects related to membership, advocacy, and fundraising.

■ For 2015 the grants will be \$300. All Friends groups that are FOTL members are encouraged to apply.

■ Don Reynolds (Talbot) was nominated and elected FOTL president, and William Sundquist (Chattanooga) was nominated and elected as president-elect.

■ New regional and metro representatives were welcomed to the board:

from Memphis, Jacqueline Wallace and Sally Smith

from the West Tennessee Region, Debbie Moore, Dyersburg, and Carolyn Stark, Trimble.

from the Middle Tennessee Region, Gerald Beavers, Clarksville, and Michelle Kenley, Columbia

from the East Tennessee Region, Colleen Shannon, Seymour

■ On May 2 FOTL hosted the annual Trustees and Friends luncheon at the TLA Conference in Murfreesboro when Tellico Village Friends were recognized as Friend of the Year, an award co-sponsored by FOTL and TLA.

■ President-elect William Sundquist represented FOTL in Washington on May 6 at the annual National Library Legislative Day.

■ President Reynolds represented FOTL at the annual TLA Leadership Conference in May.

■ FOTL looks forward to the 2015 Annual Meeting in Memphis on Saturday, April, 25.

Save the Date: April 25, 2015

FOTL Goes to Memphis

In 2015 Friends of Tennessee Libraries' Annual Meeting moves west to Memphis, another great city and another welcoming group of Friends. Stay tuned for more details.

The 10 Commandments for Friends

From *Friends of the Library Sourcebook* (1978) by Sandy Dolnick come these wise words to live by.

1. The head librarian must want a friends group.
2. The library staff must be willing to work with the friends.
3. Those involved must be willing to make a commitment of time.
4. The library must make a commitment as to which of its resources may be used by the friends group (space, staff time, paper, artist, printing, phones, desks, etc.) .
5. A core group of interested people must exist.
6. The authority to which the librarian is responsible (the trustees, the provost) should be aware of and in agreement with the need for a friends group.
7. Communication must be open among all groups concerned with library policy.
8. It is agreed that friends are not concerned with library policy.
9. The group must understand the role that it is expected to play.
10. It must be clear that the functions of the trustees and friends are separate.

FOTL Recognizes Exemplary Friends

They Raise the Bar of Service

Editor's Note: FOTL awarded certificates and \$100 to three outstanding individuals and one group at the 2014 Annual Meeting. Here, in the words of their admiring nominators, are the recipients' contributions to their Friends and their libraries.



Sharon Duff and Martha Agler from the Sevier County Friends' Sort Team receive the certificate of recognition and a check for \$100 from FOTL's Frances Darnell. Other members of the Sort Team but not pictured are Mary Lou Fair and Susan Sarten.

Sevier County Team Prepares Book Sales

The Book Sort Team for the Sevier County Public Library System has provided a significant and measurable impact on book sales, our primary fundraising tool.

They meet twice a week to sort, categorize, alphabetize, and organize the books to be ready for sales or any other opportunity to raise money for our libraries. They have also managed and delivered large donations to stock libraries in Kenya and the British Virgin Islands.

Because of their dedication and excellent team work, we have earned \$11,300 year-to-date from all book-sale sources. We couldn't have accomplished that without them. In short, they are our heroes!

Paul Bailey Continues To Help Greenback

Paul Bailey has been a member of the Friends of Greenback Library for many years, formerly serving as its long-time president and currently as its secretary. He has headed up a committee to update by-laws, been active in numerous fundraising activities, and been the go-to person for computer help (for both service and instruction). He also composed an informative brochure about the library.

He was appointed trustee on the Loudon County Library Board. He has served the community by ably heading a years-long project of compiling a history of Greenback for the Historical Society (where he also serves on the board).

Phyllis Williams Sets Up Friends' eBay Account

The word *hero* brings excellence to mind. That certainly is a word that describes Phyllis Williams.

In 2013, a large number of first editions and autographed books were donated to the Friends of Blount County Library. Through Phyllis's efforts, the Friends established an online account at the eBay store, which provides additional funding to help the library with programs and equipment not in their budget.

Phyllis has also continued maintaining the children's section of the library, acting as liaison between the Friends' board and the Sales Committee and providing leadership during the preparation for each quarterly sale.

Phyllis Williams is certainly a hero who has helped the Friends of Blount County Library to achieve excellence with its partner.



Elinor Ross, center, receives her certificate of appreciation from FOTL's Wanda Jared, left, and Connie Albrecht.

Elinor Ross Edits Putnam Newsletter

Elinor Ross is an outstanding advocate for the Putnam County Library. As editor of the Putnam County Library Friends' newsletter from its beginning in 2002 until now, she has written articles, collected columns written by others, delivered the material to the printer, and made sure the newsletter was mailed to members. Additionally she supports all PCLF activities and fundraisers with her presence, her hard work, and her contributions. She helps set up for meetings, fundraisers, and community programs and donates food for all activities. Elinor is a past president. She does it all!

Thanks to Chattanooga!

To the mayor, the city, the library staff, and William Sundquist and the other Chattanooga Friends, FOTL owes many thanks for an informative, inspiring, and smoothly running annual meeting. We appreciate your hospitality and admire your achievements.

Chattanooga Friends Extend Hospitality *By Welcoming Annual Meeting April 26*



Chattanooga Mayor Andy Berke opens the meeting by greeting participants.



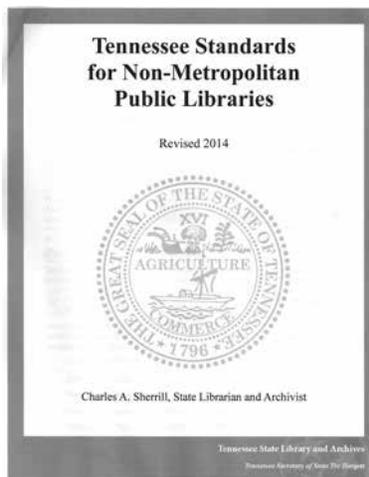
Soloist Nel Reid thrills the group with her rendition of the national anthem.



Marj Fleming of LaunchPoint Leadership outlines the process of strategic planning.



Abby Wintker and Marye Rose from Knoxville join others for a delicious lunch.



Chuck Sherrill reviews the new standards, found at <http://tn.gov/tsla/lps/Library%20Standards%20for%20Non-Metropolitan%20Libraries.pdf>.



Corinne Hill, Chattanooga Public Library director, explores the challenges and rewards of change.



Information That Every Friend Needs To Know

How the State of Tennessee Budget Supports Libraries

Editor's note: Friends who understand how their libraries are financed as well as what those libraries do for their communities are well prepared to advocate for their libraries. FOTL asked Chuck Sherrill to bring this essential information to Friends' attention.

By Chuck Sherrill

Tennessee State Librarian and Archivist

By law, the Secretary of State is responsible for the Tennessee Regional Library System, which presently includes 210 public libraries across the state. Funds for the operation of the system are included in the Secretary of State's budget through the State Library and Archives (TSLA).

Included in the TSLA budget are the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, the State Archives functions of collecting and preserving historical records, the operation of the State Library, which stores state and federal government documents and the research collection, and the Planning and Development section which supports public library development in Tennessee. The current year budget includes approximately \$14 million in state funds and \$3 million in federal funds.

Among the expenditures directly benefitting libraries is almost \$2 million for the Tennessee Electronic Library (funded at about 50% each with state and federal funds). This service benefits not only the regional system libraries, but school and academic libraries as well.

Public libraries in the four metropolitan counties of Tennessee (Davidson, Hamilton, Knox and Shelby) are supported primarily by their local city/county governments. TSLA provides a grant of approximately \$80,000 to each of the metro libraries for the purchase of materials.

Advocating with your state senator or representative works best when you can ask him or her to vote for your cause on a particular bill. That's hard to do for library support at the state level in Tennessee because the funds for the Secretary of State's budget are combined with all other state spending in the annual appropriations bill.

The state budget is drafted by the governor and his staff, who submit it to the legislature early each year. The legislature then debates, adding and subtracting funds for various programs, and eventually passes an appropriations bill. Negotiations on amendments to the budget are often made in last-minute discussions between legislators, or between the governor's office and the legislature.

When discussing library funding with your legislators, it is important to help them see that funding for the Secretary of State's budget for TSLA is important in their districts. Let them know about the funds for books and materials the regional libraries provide. Explain how important the technology grants and tech support staff are to your library. Emphasize the training provided by the regional libraries that help your library staff stay current in a fast-changing environment.

Most of all, your state legislators need to understand that your library is a critical community resource, providing help for people who are seeking work or improving their skills, helping young children get ready to read, and enriching the lives of residents with opportunities for lifelong learning. When your elected representatives can see that the work of the library is at the heart of community life and growth, selling them on supporting state funding through TSLA will be much easier to do.



Chuck Sherrill was appointed to the position of state librarian and archivist by Secretary of State Tre Hargett in 2010. To that post he brings 20 years as a public library director, first in Cleveland, TN, and then in Brentwood. Here he is shown speaking at the FOTL 2014 Annual Meeting in Chattanooga on April 26.

Tellico Village Library Manager Reflects on Friends' History

Editor's Note: Becky Haile, CPLM, made the following remarks at the Friends and Trustees Luncheon of the TLA Conference in Murfreesboro on May 2, when Friends of the Tellico Village Library were named 2013 Friend of the Year.

By Becky Haile

Manager, Tellico Village Public Library

It is my privilege to speak for the Friends of Tellico Village Library. We are sincerely honored to accept this award on behalf of our membership. We also want to accept this award in memory of two of our founders; Maryann Bork and Robert Gibson. Maryann and Bob served on the Tennessee Friends

Board. They spread the support of libraries beyond the boundaries of Tellico Village, Loudon County and East Tennessee.

But first they planted a seed in a small

alcove of their Tellico Village community center. That seed gave promise of something to watch grow. And grow it did because of the nurturing of the Tellico Village Friends group. Hundreds of Friends volunteers spent thousands of hours on fundraisers, hours of planning and recruiting talented and resourceful people for their cause. This story got out in the community, and as the community grew, so did our seed. This seed blossomed into a public library serving not only Tellico Village but Loudon County and surrounding communities.

“The Friends of Tellico Village Library are dedicated library advocates who built a library with blood, sweat, and tears plus one extra ingredient—heart!”

—excerpt from nomination

It has also been my privilege to serve ex-officio on the Friends boards for the last 16 years. So I have witnessed the dedication of this group of extraordinary people doing extraordinary things. Each changing board had its own dynamics. They supported growth and embraced changes that served our library well.

As I think of this extraordinary group of people and all Friends groups, I remember the facts about the Sea of Galilee and how it teems with plant and animal life. Today, as in past times many an able fisherman earns a living from its bountiful waters. In startling contrast the Dead Sea, to the south, is incapable of supporting life of any kind at all. In

fact, so deadly are its waters, it is reported that birds will not even fly over them. The Sea of Galilee thrives because it not only receives water from the River Jordan, but passes it on as well.

The Dead Sea receives water from the River Jordan, too, but since there are no significant outlets for it, the water merely stays and stagnates.

The Friends groups, like the Sea of Galilee, receive and pass it on so our libraries can thrive. We are never doomed for stagnation.

Thank you for listening to a small portion of our story. Thank you for volunteering in your communities. You do make a difference in people's lives and the quality of our communities.



Here is the library that the Friends of Tellico Village built as seen in the FOTL newsletter September-October 2012.

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The Friends of Tennessee Libraries is a volunteer organization of individuals and groups dedicated to supporting Tennessee libraries and local Friends of Library groups through

- **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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(Membership year is January to December.)

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