



FOML Officers

President
Patricia Orr
Livonia Public Library

Vice President
Sue Johnson
Novi Public Library

Secretary
Dillon Geshel
Superiorland Library Cooperative

Treasurer
Charles D. Hanson
United for Libraries Representative

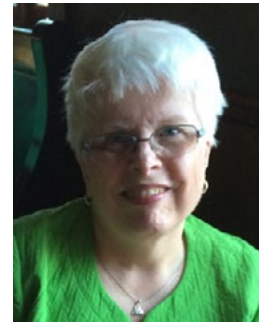
Contact
friendsofmichiganlibraries@gmail.com
734-506-8410



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,

Recently we have received questions regarding the role of Friends on a Library Board of Trustees, and the role of Trustees on a Friends of the Library Board. There are important reasons why Friends should not hold voting seats on a Library Board and vice versa.

From United for Libraries Fact Sheet #11:

1. It can imbue a single member with more power and authority than his/her peers on each of the boards.
2. There can be perceived conflict of interest if a member of the policy making Board is also in a decision-making roll on the Friends Board that helps fund library services.
3. There can be a potential conflict of interest when a policy the library Board of Trustees is proposing might not be considered to be in the best interests of the Friends

The Friends Manual on our website provides additional information in Appendix A. Click on the Manual link at the top of the page.

Access to the United for Libraries division of the American Library Association is funded by the Library of Michigan. Friends and Foundation Fact Sheets are valuable sources of information on numerous topics. We will review these Fact Sheets throughout 2022.

Pat Orr
FOML President



Friends and Volunteers

As we begin a new year, now might be a good time to evaluate your Friends organization and its relationship with the volunteers who work for your group. We need to remember that people expect to receive something in return for contributing as a volunteer. They may expect to develop skills, meet new people, obtain a career advantage, or to feel a sense of self-worth as they have done something to help others. Understanding these motivations is very important in being able to show your thanks in a way they will appreciate. Everyone likes to feel part of a team, and holding a social hour to build team spirit and cooperation is a helpful step in keeping volunteers focused on the purpose and mission of your Friends.

Saying thanks to your volunteers should be part of your Friends ongoing strategy for recognizing their work. Saying thanks can be done informally - in person, on the telephone, email or card - or at a special event honoring volunteers with a certificate or other item of recognition. Perhaps a volunteer badge or t-shirt would demonstrate appreciation for their work.

Remember that a happy volunteer is a great representative for your Friends and the library. If you haven't done so already, consider developing a plan for training and thanking volunteers this year.

Thank You

Thank you for reading this issue of Focus on Friends. We hope to provide you with helpful services and events.



2022 Membership Drive

Our annual membership drive has begun for 2022. Your FOML membership is greatly appreciated and supports our mission to serve Michigan libraries.

Annual membership is based on a calendar year, January 1st through December 31st.

Please visit the membership page to join or renew your membership.

<https://foml.org/membership/>



Mark Your Calendar FOML Annual Membership Meeting

FOML will hold its Annual Membership Meeting by Zoom on Thursday, April 7, 10:00 a.m. Our speaker will be Cordelia Anderson and her presentation will focus on "How Library Friends Can Be Super Supporters."

Registration will open in early March.

Share Your Stories

If you have a story for the Focus on Friends bulletin you would like to share with Friends, please email it to friendsofmichiganlibraries@gmail.com