

Strengthening Libraries in Oklahoma through Friends of Libraries

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Public Libraries = Strong Communities

Public libraries serve and sustain their communities. The Public

Library Association just published its survey results - *2022 Public Library Services for Strong Communities Survey*. Libraries are cornerstones of civic and social infrastructure that support strong communities.

Continuing strengths are in core areas, such as literacy, education, civic engagement, and public access to information resources. Almost all libraries (99%) have summer reading programs for children, teens, and/or adults. Services such as those for GED/diploma students (provided by 59% of libraries) and English language learners (provided by 46% of libraries) support adult learning and literacy.

A growth in new types of programs and services was identified. 78% of libraries offer job and career services and 24% have workforce development programs. 17% of libraries have at least one type of mobile programming facility.

Libraries are partnering with external organizations with 98% having at least one collaboration. These partnerships are both formal (95%) and informal (59%). Building partnerships can benefit the library, the other organization, and the community as a whole, working toward a common goal.

Libraries face significant challenges in maintaining current operations and expanding them to meet growing needs. Lack of investment in infrastructure also hinders services and access for community members. 40% of library buildings have not undergone major renovations in over two decades (since 2000 or earlier). Half of libraries have special designations for emergencies, serving as cooling/warming centers in extreme temperatures, distribution centers during public health emergencies, and/or centers for

(continued on p. 2)



Q - My Friends group and Library staff sometimes are not clear on our different roles? What should we do?

A - Many Friends and Libraries have a Memo of Understanding to help clarify expectations.

To have a clear framework for the Library and the Friends of the Library to work together, a Memorandum of Understanding can help settle the details of the working relationship. This will permit both the Library and Friends to work out terms and outline ways the projects may move forward. Think about - Who's doing what in the relationship? What are the timelines, budget request process, etc.?

An MOU outlines an agreement between the Library and Friends in a formal document to eliminate misunderstanding. An MOU communicates the mutually accepted expectations and helps outline terms of the relationship. This foundation for the partnership may lay out the mission, specific objectives, and milestones. Ways to resolve disputes and details on financial arrangements should be included.

The legal template for an MOU is suggested to include:

1. Title – This MOU is between ___ Library and ___ Friends of the Library.
2. Date the MOU will go into effect.
3. Introduction - Full names, addresses and contact information of parties.
4. Purpose and Objectives – Describe the purpose of the agreement.
5. Description – Describe the subject matter of the MOU and the reason for its investigation.

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Join FOLIO or renew your membership now. All memberships begin on July 1. Go to okfriends.net or complete the form on p. 7.

From the President. . .



I recently returned from a Mediterranean Cruise culminating with two days in Rome. It was a trip of a lifetime for me and my husband. As with any good trip, we learned and experienced new things, some sobering and some hilarious, but maybe the most tangible of our experiences was jet lag. We can now say with authority that it is real. That said, the loss of sleep and just general

disorientation were well worth the sacrifice. Now that we are home, we have begun reflecting on all we saw and did. For me, one of the things that stands out and haunts me is the Colosseum. I admired the architecture and marveled that it is still standing after so many centuries, and, of course, I knew what its purpose was. However, walking inside it and actually seeing where so much death and destruction enacted for public entertainment took place was visceral.

In contemplating ancient Roman culture, I can't help but make comparisons with our own history and culture. Of course, much of the art we admire and treasure has Roman origins, and we have copied their architecture in many of our prominent buildings. Go into any large sports arena, and resemblance to the Roman Colosseum is obvious, though thankfully not the tradition of blood sports. Another interesting fact is that in the fifteenth century there were booksellers, such as Christopher Columbus, in Italian cities such as Florence and Genoa. Of course, that dissemination of information did not go unnoticed, and censorship reared its self-righteous head. For instance, an evangelical Dominican priest by the name of Girolamo Savonarola sought to prevent common people from reading certain books. He sent his followers into the streets to enforce morality. They went from home to home collecting books and what he called vanities. He created a huge pyramid and set it afire. One of the tiers of the pyramid was made up of books. Sounds familiar, doesn't it?

That tidy little fact brings me to my main theme here. (It's about time some of you may be thinking.) First, the written word has always stirred controversy. History and human nature prove that someone will always seek to control others by limiting what they read. I suspect even cave paintings had detractors.

Second, those who seek to censor books almost never have altruistic motives. For instance, Adolph Hitler could not remain in power and spread his Aryan superiority ideas if people could read, heed other voices, and think for themselves, so Nazis banned and burned books that presented alternative views, couching their acts as patriotism. In all, the Nazis burned and banned more than 100 million books.

Closer to home, American librarians were outraged by Germany's destruction of books. One way they responded was by providing books to soldiers. It soon became apparent that books were too heavy for most soldiers to carry in their packs, so the U. S. War Department stepped in, and with the help of publishers, small, light-weight

paperbacks known as Armed Services Editions, were created. Though small and portable, the books were complete, not condensed versions. The program was a hit with soldiers, but not everyone was pleased. Democrat Franklin Roosevelt was about to run for a fourth term as President. Some Republican lawmakers sought to censor the books and films going to soldiers so that they did not include any political references that could sway the servicemen to vote Democratic. The mandate was tacked onto the Soldier Voting Act, a bill that would make voting easier for servicemen serving overseas. Roosevelt signed the bill into law, although he disagreed with the censorship addition. Many books fell within the law's very broad wording, stifling what our soldiers were allowed to read. Even though ignoring the mandate carried penalties of fines and jail time, many members of the Council on Books in Wartime refused to be bullied. In fact, there was such a backlash over the censorship that lawmakers were forced to reconsider the wording of the law.

Finally, we can be part of the solution to censorship. Advocating for libraries and librarians goes without saying. Also, we need to let lawmakers know where we stand; silence can be perceived as complaisance. But here is another idea: create and encourage readers. Journalist and activist Margaret Fuller said, "Today a reader, tomorrow a leader." From those bright-eyed, enthusiastic young readers enrolled in library summer reading programs come tomorrow's leaders. It is my contention that an educated, reading public will not stand for censorship.

So as Friends of Libraries and FOLIO members, do what you can to enhance those summer reading programs. Create and support programs that promote literacy for children and adults. Programs like Imagination Library, 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten, and StoryWalks® are all excellent programs promoting early childhood literacy. Also, many local Friends groups have established their own literacy programs to connect young people with books. These are small things, but the cumulative effect can be great.

Martin Luther King, Jr. is quoted as saying, "If I cannot do great things, I can do small things in a great way." Fighting censorship through promoting literacy is one of those small great things. As Friends and FOLIO members, what great things will you do?

Judy Haught, President

Public Libraries = Strong Communities

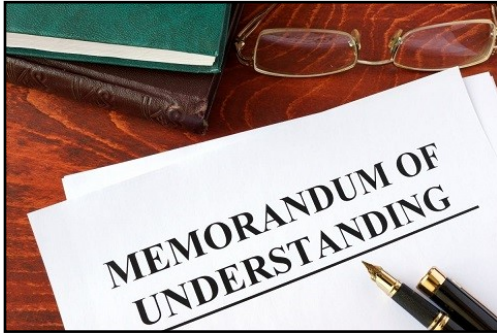
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community and first responders during disaster recovery.

Some libraries have renovated in recent years with a focus on creating or updating programming and meeting spaces. Libraries are vital social hubs and learning centers. Since 2011 libraries have added or renovated public meeting rooms (35%), age-specific programming spaces (27%), and large event community spaces (18%). Investment in infrastructure and staff is critical for public libraries to continue to provide a broad range of services.

https://www.ala.org/pls/sites/ala.org/pla/files/content/data/PLA_Services_Survey_Report_2023.pdf

Ask a Friend (continued from p. 1)



6. Terms of agreement – The agreement explains how the Library and Friends will cooperate and what resources each party will bring to the agreement.
7. Responsibilities – Outline what the Library and Friends will do to fulfill the agreement.
8. Miscellaneous – Insert provisions such as dispute resolution options, the method of termination, or a privacy clause.
9. Signature – Include “Acknowledged and Agreed” with signatures and date.

Here are some points you might include in an MOU. The Library agrees to:

- keep the Friends apprised of the strategic plan; has a non-voting representative at Friends’ meetings;
- provide a wish list indicating the anticipated needs for Friends’ support;
- provide support staff to assist with social media, Newsletters, and/or marketing; and
- provide space for sales, meetings, and Friends membership info.

The Friends agree to:

- publicly support the library and its policies,
- raise monies for the library,
- work with library administration and engage in advocacy.

Of course, adapt the MOU to meet your local needs. One size does not fit all. Having an MOU in place certainly helps explain expectations from the Library and Friends’ perspectives.

The Good, the Great and the Unfriendly by Sally Gardner Reed (ALA, 2017) is a great resource for understanding the roles of Friends and Libraries working together. The book is available at alastore.ala.org or through interlibrary loan. A sample Library and Friends’ MOU is in Appendix A on pp.133-134.

Sharon Saulmon and Sharon Douthitt, FOLIO Board

Friends of Pryor Creek Support the Library & Literacy

Friends of the Pryor Creek Public Library (FOPCL) have had a busy, productive first half of the year. At the end of 2022, the library was moved back into its totally renovated facility. However, a pipe froze, and the water damage that occurred had to be repaired, and so it somewhat delayed the implementation of some planned library programs. The firefighters and the police, as they could, along with Friends volunteers, worked together to minimize the damage. In the spring the library was moved in and totally ready for business.

The new facility boasts new meeting rooms, a Maker Space, new conference rooms, a new teen area, and a museum addition to display Native American artist Traci Rabbit’s Painted Pony, along with other artworks held by the library. Friends group members are working to do some landscaping around the new library footprint. The library is located directly across from the new municipal police and fire facility. Friends gave library tours and provided snacks during an Open House for the community.

In February, together with the library and the Pryor Area Chamber of Commerce, FOPCL sponsored three candidate forums for municipal office. They were for Ward candidates and mayoral office. FOPCL provided a master of ceremonies and greeters and a timer, along with distributing refreshments for the forums.

During all of this time, as an affiliate of Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library, FOPCL continued to promote and fundraise to provide books to preschool age children in Mayes County. In July of 2023, 600 Mayes County children will receive a free quality book. Since 2017 Friends of Pryor Creek Library have gifted 12,196 books to Mayes County children.

But to help the Imagination Library be successful, we must promote its use with families. One place that we did so was at the First Church of God Pryor (now Creekside Church) community outreach event Single Moms Day, where single moms from the community were treated to massages, hair treatments, oil changes, and gifts from the congregation, such as bath oils, lotions, jewelry, books, a wide variety of items that were free for the mothers. Child care, lunch, and booths about community service were provided for moms. FOCPL manned a booth there, promoted Imagination Library, helped with signups, and promoted the library offerings to the single mothers who attended.

As an active part of the community, we also participated in the April 2023 Main Street Carnival, where we offered a game to win prizes and bubble blowing, along with library program materials and Imagination Library signups and opportunities to donate. We did it again at Pryor Family Fun in the Sun Day on June 16, 2023, at Mayes County Fairgrounds, sponsored partly by Mayes County Health Department. We’ve had a busy first half of the year but will continue to actively support literacy in our community!

Susan Rice, Board Director, Friends of the Library



Pres. Paul Stevens, directors Dustin Van Horn and Jeanette Anderson are ready to promote literacy, library & fun at the Main Street Carnival.

One of the three candidate forums sponsored by the Friends.



News from Around the State

Eufaula Friends - Small & Mighty

Friends of the Eufaula Memorial Library had a wonderful May meeting. Our guest speaker was Oklahoma author Connie Cronley who regularly gives book reviews on Channel 6 news. On her next television appearance, she even gave a shout out to the Eufaula Friends.

Our group has two major projects in the works: resetting the memorial bricks near the entrance of the library and updating the memorial board. Both of these memorials honor those from McIntosh County who died in wars. That is why our library is Eufaula Memorial Library. We are also working on better signage and have been delighted to welcome a groundskeeping group - both will help to beautify our library grounds.

The Friends continue to change our StoryWalk® book each month. We receive lots of positive feedback on the book which is at Eufaula Cove along a walking trail that our Muscogee Nation provided.

We also recently installed a television monitor in the Library lobby so that librarians can advertise their programs on a loop all the time. We may be a small group, but we are getting things accomplished.

Robyn Burris, Treasurer, Friends of EML

Bling for Books in Claremore

With the information shared by the Anadarko Friends, Friends of the Will Rogers Library in Claremore decided to try their first "Bling for Books" Sale.

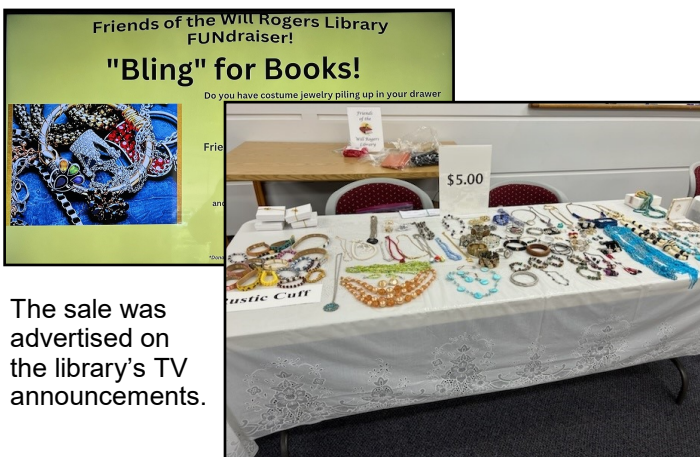
The call for gently-used costume jewelry went out in early April, and by early May an amazing amount of jewelry of all kinds had been received. Items were priced by table, a sales slip was given each customer for the purchases at that table, and payment was made at the door.

Everyone seemed to find the sale great fun, both workers and shoppers. The cutest shoppers, of course, were the children shopping for Mother's Day gifts.

The FOL hoped to raise at least \$500, but were thrilled when the total passed \$1,000 for the two-day sale.

Because of the amount of jewelry left, Claremore Friends are thinking about holding another sale in mid-December, and they wish to send a big thank you to Anadarko Friends for their encouragement and assistance.

Sharon Douthitt, co-chair, "Bling for Books;" co-treasurer, Will Rogers FOL; FOLIO Board



The sale was advertised on the library's TV announcements.

TCCL Literacy Dept. Benefit

The Literacy Department of the Tulsa City-County Library is holding its first annual benefit - VERSES, a celebration of poetry, art, and literacy at the Central Library on Saturday, Sept. 30. Local vendors, poets, authors, and spoken-word performers are invited to participate.

Funds raised at this event will help adults learn or improve their reading and/or English-speaking skills. Application to participate at: <https://forms.gle/o2ruvqBFB2hWDxAu6>.



Elk City Teens Receive Lit Fix Bags

The Friends of Elk City Carnegie Library began a new program this summer aimed at promoting reading and library usage among teenagers. They created Lit Fix, which tailors gift bags to the reading tastes of enrolled teens during the summer months. To enroll in the program, the students in grades seven through twelve scanned a QR code that took them to a Google Form. The form asked for the student's name, grade, and reading preferences. Students could check as many categories of books as they liked.

Volunteers from the Friends acquired young adult and junior fiction books from the Oklahoma City Metropolitan Library Book Sale in February in anticipation of filling Lit Fix bags. The Friends also brought snacks and activities to add to the bags. They met on a day in the last week of May to fill the first bags. They referred to the reading preferences for each child and chose a book accordingly. Each bag also contained a flyer about the library's summer reading program. The participating teens received a text informing them that their Lit Fix bag was available to pick up at the library. The Friends and the Library staff hope that bringing the teens to the library will encourage them to make a habit of reading and library usage. Bags will be distributed again in June and July.

The Lit Fix program has been well received by local teens. Seventh grader Joel Shelton said, "It is nice to know that someone gets what I like," and his tenth grade brother Eli Shelton said, "The books are great!" The Elk City Friends hope to make Lit Fix an annual event.

Judy Haught, FOLIO President

Fundraising Ideas from Around the State & Country

Growing Friends Support with Businesses

The Friends of the Mannford Public Library are giving Certificates of Appreciation to businesses that help support the Library.



Friends Excited in Pauls Valley

The Friends of the Pauls Valley Library are excited that the library has a new director, Rhonda Slayden, and they now have a space for their book sale in the meeting room. Donna Love, Friends Communication Coordinator, says, "Time to get to work on landscaping, hanging pictures by local artists, and planning Let's Talk About It in August."



Newcastle FOL Book Sale - 2023

The annual Newcastle Friends of the Library Booksale took center stage again this year, captivating bookworms and community members alike with its incredible selection of used books, movies, and much more. The event raised over \$1,000, becoming a resounding success. However, this year's gathering wasn't just about books. It also featured a blood drive and welcomed several local vendors, creating a truly memorable collaboration.



The event on June 3 kicked off with attendees being greeted by shelves overflowing with books of all genres, from timeless classics to contemporary booksellers. Volunteers from the FOL curated the collections, ensuring there was something to pique the interest of every visitor. With each purchase made, funds were raised to support the library's programs and initiatives, ultimately enriching the lives of the entire community.

The synergy between the literature, charity and community was palpable through the Newcastle FOL Booksale. The event served as testament to the unwavering spirit of the Newcastle community to come together to celebrate their shared love for books and support a worthy cause and local businesses. It embodied the essence of unity

and collaboration, reminding everyone that the collective efforts of passionate individuals can bring about positive change.

The Newcastle FOL Booksale left all those involved with a sense of fulfillment and joy. Not only did it provide literary enthusiasts with an opportunity to discover new reads, but it also emphasized the importance of giving back and fostering a sense of togetherness. The event's success undoubtedly bodes well for the future, as it continues to grow and evolve, touching the lives of even more community members in the years to come.

Newcastle FOL also had two quilts donated, which they raffled.
Kendall Watson, Branch Manager,
Newcastle Library, Pioneer Library System

Art & Craft Supply Sale



Patrons donated their new or gently used art and craft supplies for 1.5 months. Then the one-day sale raised \$900.

People set their own prices. They asked the buyers to pay what they think the materials are worth with all proceeds going to the library. Great turnout and great response, exceeding expectations.

Fun Run

The Friends of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands held their second annual 5K Fun Run/Walk during National Library Week. They had 77 participants with funds raised for summer reading.



Have Book, Will Travel



Friends of the Matheson Memorial Library (WI) took a bus trip to meet NY Times bestselling author Kristen Hannah. Instead of bringing the author to them, they went to visit the author. The first "Have Book, Will Travel" trip to Illinois was a resounding success. They charged \$35, which included dinner, a book, and transportation.

Selling Books Online

On July 11th, volunteers with the Friends of the Metropolitan Library System of Oklahoma County presented for FOLIO members a Zoom program on how they raise money by selling donated and withdrawn library books online. In 2012, although their annual community book sales were very successful, some volunteers started selling books on Amazon.com.

Online sales were \$2,000 the first year and steadily increased the first few years, but stagnated around \$60,000 from 2017 to 2019. Although 2020 and 2021 sales were affected by the COVID Quarantine, the profit from Amazon sales in 2022 was \$76,000, less some supply costs.

Approximately 1/3 of that is expenses, so the profit to the Friends was about \$50,000. This compares to a profit of \$210,000 from the most recent book sale. Volunteers were even able to continue selling online when the Sort Site was closed for COVID.

What accounted for the approximate 25% increase in 2022 from 2019? Until 2022, volunteers mostly used their own judgment to identify possible Amazon-worthy books. Some had started intermittently using the amazon.com app on their phones to look up prices. They also noticed that more and more booksellers were using sophisticated scanning apps to price books and were profiting from books missed by volunteers as Amazon-worthy. They began advocating for more consistent scanning but received resistance.

The return of volunteers to the Sorting Site in 2021 necessitated a reorganization of space to allow for social distancing. This gave those advocating for consistent scanning an opportunity to set up two computer scanning stations.

A decision was made to begin looking up (using a hand-held scanner to read the barcode or typing in the name on the computer) only newer or better condition nonfiction books, because the potential margin for profit was greater than for fiction and mystery books, and there is a limited storage for listed books.

Books for which the lowest sale price is above \$12 are given to other volunteers who decide if the book is worth listing, based on several criteria, such as condition of the book, how many are already for sale (not only on Amazon but other sites), what is the ranking of the book on Amazon (especially in sub-categories), and the mailing costs. Books priced between \$6 and \$12 are sent to Better Books, where they are priced for the book sale. Books below \$6 go to General Books, which are sold for \$2 for hardbacks and \$1 for paperbacks at the book sale.

The volunteers are also identifying unique and potentially higher profit books, such as vintage literature, single-family genealogy, and signed books. They have recently established an eBay account to list those. One special book was just auctioned at Swann Galleries in New York for \$600. That connection was made by seeing the name of a used bookseller on Antiques Road Show.

The Friends board has charged the volunteers to continue looking for ways to maximize revenue. Prices of books were doubled at the most recent book sale, but sale expenses are also significantly increasing. Expanding

FOLIO Hosts Imagination Library Webinar

On May 17, FOLIO sponsored a webinar on Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. Laura Sikes, Director of Imagination Library in Oklahoma, discussed the origins of Imagination Library, Oklahoma's commitment to the program, and the process for setting up the program in each county in Oklahoma. The goal is to have an Imagination Library Partner in all 77 counties. In addition to Ms. Sikes, State Librarian Natalie Currie and eleven representatives from public libraries, Friends groups, and FOLIO board members attended the webinar.

The program had its start when Dolly Parton sought to increase the high-school graduation rate in her home county. Educators informed her that literacy was key to graduation and that it needed to start early. Since her own father had never learned to read, Dolly realized the necessity of early-childhood literacy. So in 1995, she launched Imagination Library with the goal of sending a book a month free of charge to each child aged newborn to five years. To that end, she formed a Blue Ribbon Book Selection Committee made up of educators, librarians, publishers, and other people involved in children's books. All books selected were safe, non-controversial stories. The first book each child receives is *The Little Engine That Could*. That particular book has special meaning to Dolly, and she wants all children to recognize their potential.

In the 2020 Legislative session, Senator Haste and Representative Townley authored SB 1803. The bill was subsequently signed into law creating the Imagination Library of Oklahoma. The Oklahoma State Department of Education utilized \$2.5 in federal pandemic funds to provide a 1:1 match funding to Oklahoma Imagination Library affiliates. The funding expires in 2024; however, Laura Sikes assured the audience that additional funding would be available after 2024 through private donors or additional grants.

At the time of the webinar, Oklahoma had 252,929 eligible children with 43,357 currently enrolled. The goal is to enroll 65% of eligible children. In order to reach that goal, each individual program needs a nonprofit partner. That is where many public libraries and Friends groups may participate. The cost per month per child is \$2.20 or \$26.40 a year. The Oklahoma State Department of Libraries will pay half of the cost, bringing down the cost for the nonprofit to \$1.10 per month or \$13.20 a year per child. Nonprofits are encouraged to seek corporate donors to defray costs.

When Oklahoma realizes the goal of 65% participation of eligible children, Dolly Parton will come to Oklahoma to recognize our efforts and further promote the program.

Judy Haught, FOLIO President

Major FOLIO Board Actions

- Easynetsites is going to be FOLIO's new membership management software, which will also support communications, endowment, and web site.
- FOLIO and the Oklahoma Center for the Book are partnering to have Oklahoma's own Literary Landmarks.
- FOLIO will begin Facebook ads for Friends of Library group members once per year. The ads will be during promotion weeks, i.e., National Library Week, and in a 5- to 10-mile radius of the library.

Need Help?

Call your FOLIO Ambassador.

FOLIO has Outreach Ambassadors who are ready and willing to talk or consult with your Friends' groups or your officers. We want to help you be successful and strengthen your library. Let us know how we can assist you.



Northeast

- Jon and Sharon Douthitt
douthittsharon60@gmail.com

Northwest

- Dr. Karen Neurohr
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- Linda Pye
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Southwest

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- Bridgette Shelton
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Yes! I want to join FOLIO and
Be a Friend of Oklahoma Libraries!

Join FOLIO! Being a Friend will. . .

- Provide networking opportunities to make new friends and to share information and ideas about programs, activities, fundraising, legal issues, and great books to enjoy;
- Award scholarships to library support staff;
- Recognize outstanding Friends of the Library with awards for annual Best Friends and Friends of Library Week;
- Showcase the work of Oklahoma Friends in the quarterly newsletter and on Facebook;
- Honor esteemed Oklahoma authors through Literary Landmarks;
- Assist Friends groups with incorporation or reactivation;
- Advocate for library support.

Find out more about FOLIO at

www.okfriends.net

and

Facebook—@ FOLIOOKFriends

Your membership dues and donations are the primary source of funds to support FOLIO's mission which is to strengthen Libraries through Friends of Libraries.

New members are always welcome.

Basic dues are as follows:

\$20	Individual Membership
\$25	Friends Group Membership
\$30	Library Membership

Contributions above the minimum dues further support FOLIO's mission, are greatly appreciated, and are tax deductible as a charitable contribution.

Name: _____

(Name of Individual, Friends group, Library or Corporate Business)

Address: _____

City: _____

Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Dues Enclosed: _____

Gift Donation enclosed: _____

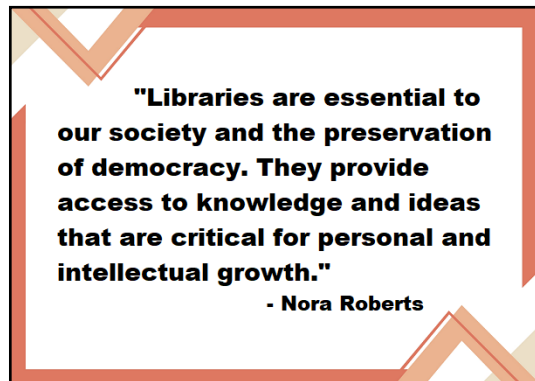
FOLIO—We are Friends helping Friends!



**Mail to: FOLIO Treasurer
P.O. Box 702585, Tulsa, OK
74170**

P. O. Box 702585
Tulsa, OK 74170

Return Service Requested



Friends of Libraries Week

It's time to start planning for National Friends of Libraries (FOL) Week! It may seem like a long time away – but October 15-21, 2023 will be here before we know it!

Friends of Libraries Week offers an opportunity to celebrate Friends, to promote your group in the community, to raise awareness, and to promote membership. Begin planning now to celebrate and promote your Friends group to library users and the community. Many dedicated library users/patrons don't even know about Friends groups. Now is the time to let them know what you do and how they can get involved and ramp up their support for the library.

FOLIO has two \$200 awards to recognize local FOL Week activities, one for Friends serving communities under 10,000 population and one for over 10,000 population. An application and instructions are available on the web site (www.okfriends.net) under Awards. The entry deadline is November 15, 2023, with awards to be presented in December. Friends groups must be FOLIO members to apply for the award.

Some ideas on how to celebrate the week include:

- Plan a special display, membership drive, or book-mark contest.
- Tell your city officials how important the Friends are to the ongoing success of the library.
- Use this opportunity to convey to officials how the Friends raise money, promote the library, and volunteer in many ways.

- Host a mayoral proclamation with special coverage in the local news media.
- Drawing for gift baskets for library customers each day during FOL Week.
- Host an author panel discussion, local author book signing, or book review.
- Feature different library services each day of the week on Facebook.
- Have different programs each day, ending with a Staff Appreciation Dinner.
- Celebrate what is unique about your group, library staff, and library services.

Plan your Celebration now!

Angie Lewis, FOL Week Committee Chair, FOLIO Board



- **Library Card Sign-Up Month - September**
- **International Literacy Day - September 8, 2023**
- **Voter Registration Day - September 19, 2023**
- **FOLIO Newsletter deadline - October 1, 2023**
- **Banned Books Week - October 1-7, 2023**
- **TeenTober - October**
- **National Friends of the Library Week - October 15-21**
- **International Games Month - November**
- **Children's Book Week - November 6-12, 2023**
- **FOLIO Annual Meeting - March 8, 2023**