

friends of kansas LIBRARIES

Assist - Support - Educate

FoKL POINT Newsletter — October 2025



**FIRST FRIDAY
WITH FRIENDS**
will not meet
in November.

We  the **Friends**
of the **Library.**

NATIONAL **Friends** OF **Libraries** WEEK
OCTOBER 19-25, 2025 AN INITIATIVE OF UNITED FOR LIBRARIES

#NFOLW25

ANNUAL MEETING

Friday, November 21
9 AM Central



All FoKL members are invited to our Annual Meeting on Friday, November 21 at 9 AM Central. We will:

- Elect open officer and board positions
- Highlight FoKL's 2025 activities

There will also be time for you to ask questions and discuss how FoKL can best serve you and your library.

Join us on Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84940394057>

See You At KLA Conference!

FoKL is looking forward to seeing old friends and meeting many new ones at KLA conference! Stop by our table on Thursday to say hello and:



CELEBRATING 125 YEARS OF FREEDOM

- Learn about FoKL challenge grants and awards.
- Get expert advice from our experienced, knowledgeable board members.
- Find out about FoKL's start-up and mentoring resources for Friends groups.
- Get connected with fellow library advocates through FoKL's newsletter and interactive "First Friday with Friends" events on Zoom, where successful programs and innovative ideas are shared.

FoKL awards will be presented during the State Librarian's Luncheon. See you there!

Judith Cremer Awarded 2025 Duane F. Johnson Library Leadership Award

Judith Cremer, Director of the Pottawatomie Wabunsee Regional Library headquartered in St. Marys, Kansas, is the recipient of the 2025 Duane F. Johnson Library Leadership Award.

This award was established by FoKL to recognize outstanding contributions to Kansas libraries, and is named for Johnson, who served as State Librarian for 20 years under five governors.

Judith Cremer received her first library card at the Humbolt Public Library with her first grade class, and that was the beginning of her

lifelong love of the Library. The Library was a constant in her life and she literally grew up in the stacks, spending much time volunteering. That experience continued all the way through high school, where she held a job at the Library typing catalog cards and helping with circulation.

Judith later graduated with her MLS from Emporia State in 1992 and an MA in History in 1995. During that time, she worked at the William Allen White University Library in periodicals, adding many more memories along the way.

From 1996-2002 Judith worked in Topeka as the Director of the Education America – Topeka Technical College Library. While in that position she created and maintained the campus library and was responsible for all aspects of library service including administration, collection management, technical services, reference, interlibrary loan, and library education and instruction.

In 2003 Judith joined the staff as Assistant Director of the Pottawatomie Wabaunsee

Regional Library. She was appointed Director in October 2006, and continues to serve in that role. Under her leadership, the library successfully automated the Library in 2008, moving from a paper system to an online public access catalog. Judith was in charge of installing the first patron computers and managed the library's movement from dial-up connections to high speed Internet, free wifi, and circulating hotspots for patrons who have a need for Internet service outside the library.

The service area in the two counties covers 1,612 square miles and includes Libraries in the rural communities of Alma, Alta Vista, Eskridge, Harveyville, Olsburg, Onaga, St. Marys, and Westmoreland. Never did Cremer think she would be faced with the pressure and stress of book bans or the potential loss of long used facilities. She worked through it and all are satisfied with the solution.

Judith says, "The Pottawatomie Wabaunsee Regional Library was built on the concept of resource

sharing. The pooled resources are shared under the umbrella of one library with multiple locations. The goal is that every patron will receive the best possible library service regardless of their location. There have definitely been many challenges to this system over the years, but we continue to do our best to see that every person that comes through the doors seeking help finds the resources they need to get where they need to go."

The award will be presented to Judith at Kansas Library Association 2025 Conference in Manhattan on Thursday, November 6 the State Librarian's luncheon at noon.



Hamilton County High School Leadership Group

During Homecoming Week, the High School Library Leadership Group at Hamilton County Library in Syracuse responded creatively to the school's challenge for local businesses to "Paint the Town Orange." Using school yearbooks from the Library's local genealogy collection, the Leadership Group made a display of fall homecomings from the past. Their "HOCO Thru The Years" encompassed years spanning from 1946 to the present. The display remained on display at the library an additional week for the community to view.

The High School Library Leadership Group in Syracuse takes on a variety of projects on behalf of the Library that have included hosting end-of-school events and blood drives. Amy Brucker, Director at Hamilton County Library, notes that they are the only Teen Friends of the Library Group in the state.



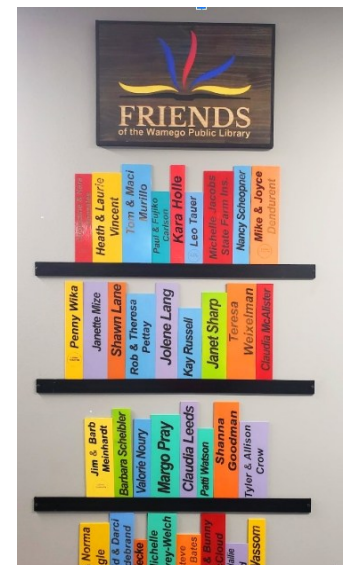
Friends of the Wamego Public Library Membership Drive 2025

The Wamego Friends thank members who join the group with a handwritten thank you note that includes a Toto water bottle sticker (their unofficial mascot). The sticker says, "There's no place like Wamego Public Library."



The group has also established a membership wall at the Library. The bookmarks/bookspines are removable so the display can be easily updated every year. There is a special insignia on the book spine of Lifetime Members.

The group says, "Between the thank you notes, the Toto stickers, and the opportunity to have their names displayed, the Friends of Wamego Public Library have managed to garner more memberships and thus more money than in the past 6 years." They have 70 total members and raised over \$7,600.



BOOK SALES!

Friends of Ottawa Library

Friends of Dodge City Library

Liberal Memorial Library

Andover Friends

Friends of Great Bend Library

Friends of Topeka Shawnee County Library

Friends of the Basehor Library

Friends of Bradford Memorial Library

Friends of Whitewater Memorial Library

Friends of the Belleville Library

Friends of the Fredonia Library

Friends of Plains Community Library

KLAEF Raffle



Give the KLAEF fund a boost at KLA by bidding on this beautiful autumn quilt (shown in progress) donated by FoKL. Your donation to Kansas Library Association Education Foundation provides scholarships, grants, and education for members of KLA.

Friends News Shorts

- **Winfield Public Library** honored its Friends, volunteers, and supporters at their second annual Friends of WPL Appreciation Tea on October 19. The event kicks off National Friends of Libraries week.
- **Friends of the Mulvane Public Library** are holding a T-Shirt fundraiser during the month of October. The shirts come in a choice of two reading/library themed designs.
- **Friends of the Linwood Community Library** are hosting a raffle for a king-sized quilt. The project will support the Linwood Quilter's Club and the Library.
- The **Abilene Public Library** thanked their Friends of the Library for their generosity in providing a number of new games for their Children's Library collection.
- Fifty-five friends and patrons of the **Meriden - Ozawkie Public Library** donated to the Library building fund through their Dillons Community Rewards card.
- The **Pratt Public Library** hosted a Fall Festival FUNdraiser on October 14th. It was an all-day event with games and activities for all ages.

News from Friends of the Wichita Public Library

Library Branch Remodels: So far this year, the Wichita Public Library has completed four branch remodels — Westlink, Rockwell, Maya Angelou, and Alford. The FWPL has hosted pop-up sales at each grand opening event to sell merchandise (tote bags, yard signs and t-shirts) to support library programming.

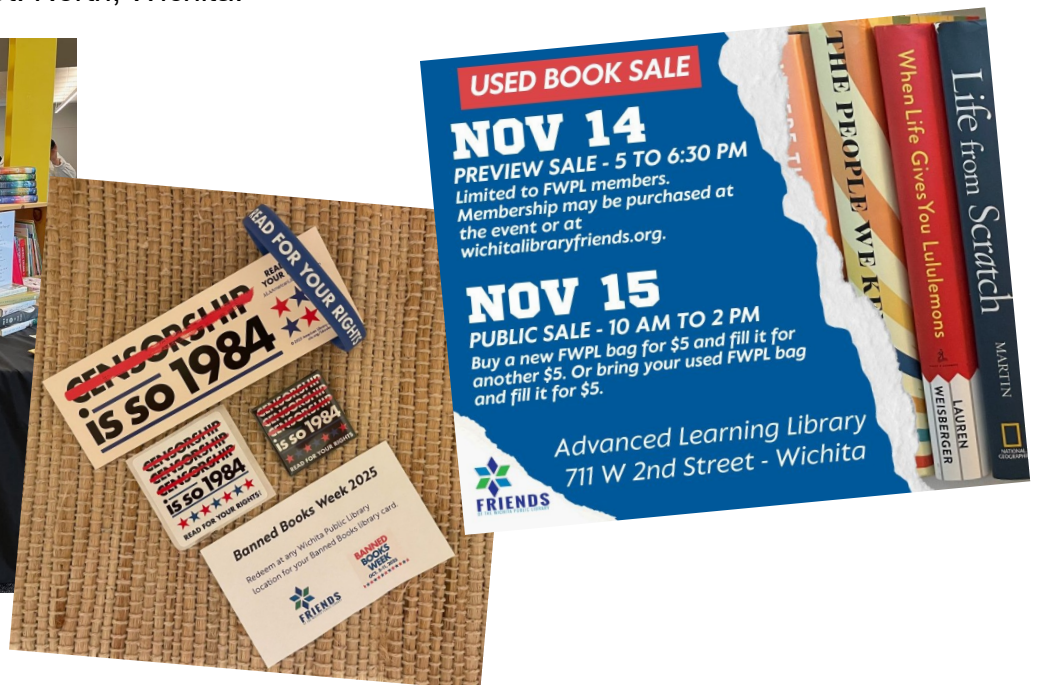
Membership Changes Announced: It has been more than a decade since FWPL membership levels were adjusted. The new levels are effective November 1 and provide more budget flexibility for patrons. Membership investments range from \$15-\$150 per year and still include popular benefits like coupons to the Friends Used Bookstore and preview access to Friends Book Sales.

Bookworm	Avid Reader	Bibliophile	Library Champion
			
\$15	\$35	\$75	\$150

- \$15 helps add three new board books to the library collection
- \$35 covers the cost of a *Book a Librarian* appointment for research or technology help
- \$75 provides an e-book for one year
- \$150 funds a Book Bus stop at a school, park, or community site

Banned Book Week: During National Banned Book Week, FWPL sold merchandise at all library locations to support the 2025 theme, ***Censorship is so 1984***. For \$19.84, library patrons could purchase a bag of merchandise that included a wristband, bookmark, sticker, button and a coupon to redeem for a new library card. The merchandise helped promote five special banned books events that were hosted by the Library during the week. More than 70 merchandise bags have been sold and sales will continue through the end of the month.

Book Sale: The last used book sale of the year will be held November 14 & 15 at the Advanced Learning Library, 711 W 2nd St. North, Wichita.



Contact us!

Friends of Kansas Libraries • c/o NEKLS • 4317 W 6th Street • Lawrence, KS 66049
friendsokansaslibraries@gmail.com Copyright 2025 Friends of Kansas Libraries. All rights reserved.