

friends of kansas LIBRARIES

Assist - Support - Educate

FoKL POINT Newsletter — September 2026

Intellectual Freedom - Library Advocacy and Support for Friends Groups **First Friday with Friends** **Friday, October 2 at 9AM**

While Friends of the Library groups aren't on the front line when challenges to intellectual freedom arise, as a part of the library team it's important to stay informed and know how you can advocate for and support your library and its workers.

Join FoKL for a timely conversation with Lacie Griffin, Collection Development Manager at Johnson County Library on October 2 at 9am. Lacie will share practical ways Friends groups can support libraries in Kansas and provide information about different legislation happening on the national and state levels.

Lacie is Chair of KLA's Intellectual Freedom Committee, whose charge is to advocate for intellectual freedom as a fundamental right for all Kansans, to educate whole communities about the roles of libraries in a free society, to support library workers and boards experiencing challenges, and to monitor censorship and threats to intellectual freedom in Kansas.

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88484969231>



FoKL Dues Year-End Offer

After 23 years with no change in our membership dues, some categories will increase \$5.00 starting January 1, 2027. Take advantage of our **2027 Membership Offer** to join or renew now and receive 15 months of FoKL membership at the 2026 annual dues rate. Visit our website to print a membership form or renew online at fokl.net. Your dues support FoKL's challenge grants, recognition awards, advocacy, and outreach projects. Thank you for being a Friend!

Membership Type	2027 (through December 31, 2026)	2027 (starting January 1, 2027)
Individual	\$15	\$20
Friends Group	\$25	\$30
Library or Organization	\$35	\$40
Best Friend	\$50	\$50
Book Worm	\$100	\$100
Carnegie Circle	\$250	NA
Award Sponsor	NA	\$200

Fundraising for Friends Groups First Friday Recap

September's First Friday presentation was full of ideas and best practices for successful fundraising and membership recruitment for local Friends groups. Many thanks to Robyn Kollar, Northeast Kansas Library System consultant, for sharing tips from her past experiences and from interviews with current Kansas Friends groups. You can view the video recording, or just the audio recording, by visiting the [First Friday event page](#) at [folk.net](#). Here are just some of the tips she shared:

- Make membership information visible in your library. Set up a membership information table or display near the library entrance.
- Include a return envelope in annual membership renewal mailings to increase response rates.
- Send a follow-up email to summer reading participants inviting them to join the Friends.
- Capture email contact information for visitors at your events through sign-up sheets or QR codes.
- Use a personal ask to recruit new members, especially outside the current age demographic.
- Offer preview nights for Friends members for book sales. Allow "join at the door" for book sale shoppers.
- Consider offering online membership renewal and payment options via the library's website.
- Be sure to send acknowledgement letters to event sponsors and larger donors.
- Consider using eBay for online used book sales.
- For fundraising, lead with a heartfelt, personal pitch about why the library is important. Speaking from the heart about why the library matters to you will make a greater impact.
- Robyn advised that while IRS rules can change annually, it's important for library Friends groups to follow proper tax compliance practices to maintain their 501c3 status. Sounds like a good topic for a future First Friday!



NATIONAL **Friends** OF **Libraries** WEEK

OCTOBER 18-24, 2026

AN INITIATIVE OF UNITED FOR LIBRARIES

As your Friends group prepares for National Friends of the Library Week from **October 18–24, 2026**, check out the excellent resources provided by United for Libraries (a division of ALA) to help your group plan activities for this special week. [Click this link](#) for a wealth of ideas and free downloadable materials, including:

- webinars
- sample news releases, proclamations, and letters to the editor
- social media campaign ideas and graphics

Have a great week! Help FoKL follow and share your October celebrations by tagging us @FoKL!

Library Leadership Group (LLG) Membership Drive

LLG is the Teen Friends of the Library Group at the Hamilton County Library that assists with youth programs at the library, plans and promotes Teen Social Events at the library, and volunteers for community service efforts in the town of Syracuse.

Director Amy Brucker says, "This year we are hoping to start a LLG Scholarship, funded partially by membership dues and matched by the library. Last year members volunteered an impressive 215 hours at library programs, and that was on top of the community service they did through the group. If all membership forms and dues are paid by next week, the group will be the largest in its 15 years, with close to 50 members."

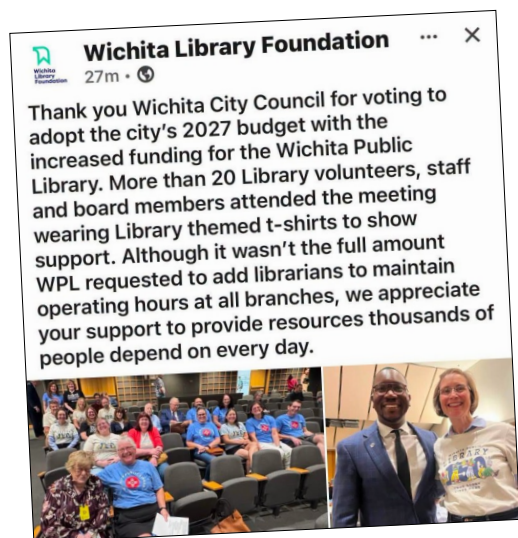


Wichita Friends Advocate for Funding

The Friends of the Wichita Public Library collaborated with the Wichita Public Library and the Wichita Public Library Foundation to advocate for adequate funding for the library in next year's city budget. The Friends wrote and called city council members, brought postcards to events for attendees to contact the council, and used their newsletters and social media to educate and encourage their members to voice how important the library is to them.

The night the city council voted on the budget, the Friends Board attended the public meeting along with Foundation and other Library advocates to show visual support, as well as to speak during the opportunities for public comment.

Wichita Friends board member Susie Scott says, "We are already brainstorming how to improve the number next year."



Stop by our table and visit
with FoKL at . . .

Kansas Book Festival,
September 26, 9-4
Washburn University



KLA Conference,
October 29 in the
vendor hall



Fall Book Sale

October 1-4, 2026

Thursday, 1pm-7pm
**Members Only*

Friday, 9am-5pm

Saturday, 9am-5pm

Sunday, 1pm-4pm
Fill a Friends tote bag \$5

Children's Books:
50¢-\$1

Adult & Teen Books:
Hardcover \$2,
Softcover \$1,
Paperback 50¢



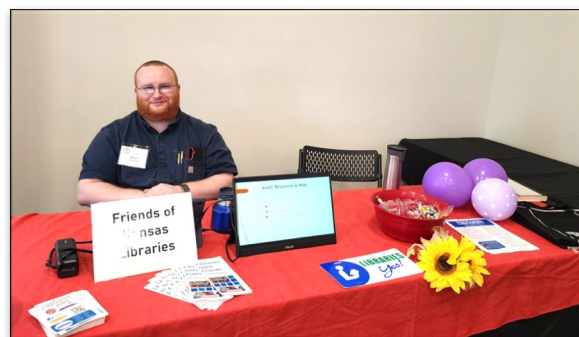
DVDs &
Music CDs: \$1

Audiobooks &
Video Games: \$2

Puzzles &
Graphic Novels: \$3

BASEHOR COMMUNITY LIBRARY, 1400 158TH STREET
**Join at the door*

FoKL on the Road



FoKL Board members Dalton Tornado and Cheryl Sylvester attended the SEKLS Annual Meeting in Chanute on August 28. They spoke with library directors and trustees about the benefits of having a Friends group, and provided information about FoKL's award and grant programs and the support FoKL can provide to new and existing groups through our start-up grants and advisory services.

Contact us!

Friends of Kansas Libraries
c/o NEKLS
4317 W 6th Street
Lawrence, KS 66049

friendsofkansaslibraries@gmail.com

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