



2015-2016 Annual Report



Our Vision

To help and support local Friends groups integrate their library thoroughly into the life and work of their community.

Our Mission

The Friends of Tennessee Libraries (FOTL) is a volunteer organization of individuals and organizations 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 communication network and clearinghouse for information;
- Advocating for library funding and legislative support on a local, state, and national basis.

We promote libraries and their Friends.

We support libraries and their Friends.

We advocate funding for libraries on a local, state, and national basis.

Board meetings are scheduled for the 3rd Friday of **June, Sept, and Mar** and the 1st Friday of **Dec**
June 19, September 18, December 4, and March 18, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM (CST)

FOTL Web Site: <http://www.friendstnlibraries.org>

FOTL Facebook Page: <http://tinyurl.com/FOTLFacebook>

FOTL OFFICERS

President

Don Reynolds

<don.reynolds2030@gmail.com>

President-Elect

William Sundquist

<WSundquist@wgpaver.com>

Past President

Susie Ries

<susiewries@gmail.com>

Secretary

Dwight Shepherd

<dewhitesheep@hotmail.com>

Interim Treasurer

Connie Albrecht

<connie.albrecht@yahoo.com>

Newsletter Editor

Martha Gill

<marthagill491@gmail.com>

Meeting on June 19, 2015 for a **Strategic Tune-up**, the FOTL Board reviewed our Vision, Mission, and a list of Possible Activities to fulfill our purpose of helping and supporting local Friends groups. The meeting resulted in identifying 37 prioritized activities for 2015-16 (3 of which had already been completed). Four working committees were formed: Executive, Events, Membership, and Communications. Here is the report of that 2015-16 possible activities work plan.



Come join FOTL:




<http://www.friendstnlibraries.org/support-us/membership-2/>

ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR

1.  Continued to work cooperatively with our partners:



THE TENNESSEE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
 TENNESSEE STATE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES
 UNITED FOR LIBRARIES: ASSOCIATION OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES, ADVOCATES,
 FRIENDS AND FOUNDATIONS. A DIVISION OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
 ALA CENTER FOR THE FUTURE OF LIBRARIES
 THE GOVERNOR'S BOOKS FROM BIRTH FOUNDATION / IMAGINATION LIBRARY
 PICTURE BOOK MONTH
 TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
 TENNESSEE FARM BUREAU

2.  Met with Regional Directors on June 11th.
- Review FOTL programs and resources.
 - Should FOTL do an in-service for local library directors about having a Friends group?
 - How could FOTL best meet with Friends group representatives and representatives from libraries without Friends group within each Region?
 - Value of regional vs. divisional responsibilities.
 - What other resources would be helpful?
- Held workshops for Holston River Region (Nov) for Friends and Red River Region (Apr) for library staff.
3.  Encouraged the Secretary of State's Communications Office to distribute library press releases to the four library Listservs: FOTL, TASL, TLA, Tn-Libraries, TENN-SHARE
4.  TSLA prepared a spreadsheet of names and full contact information of Friends Groups in local libraries.

PRIORITY ①


- ① 5. ___ **Hold meeting for Division Representatives in each Grand Division.**
 - Review FOTL programs and resources.
 - Discuss possible in-service about having a Friends group for local library directors.
 - Discuss possible meeting with Friends group representatives and representatives from libraries without Friends group within each Region.
 - Discuss value of regional vs. divisional responsibilities.
 - What other resources would be helpful?
 - Determine how Representatives can participate.
 - Update **Welcome to the... Friends of Tennessee Libraries** and **Why Join FOTL?** handouts for distribution at Regional In-services and TSLA Trustee Workshops. Post on web site.
- ① 6. ___ **Plan and host a meeting with Friends group representatives and representatives from libraries without Friends group in each Region.**
- ① 7. **Applied to Governor Haslam for a Proclamation for Tennessee Friends of Libraries Week, October 18-24.** <http://www.friendstnlibraries.org/wp-content/uploads/Procamationcolor.pdf>
- ① 8. **Solicited applications to award the Friend of the Year Award presented at TLA Annual Meeting to Julie D. Webb of Knoxville.**
- ① 9. **Solicited applications to award 3 grants of \$300 each at April FOTL Annual Meeting.**
 - Advocacy Grant - Putnam County Library Friends, Cookeville
 - Fundraising Grant - Friends of the Jefferson City Library
 - Membership Grant - Niota Friends of the Public Library
- ① 10. **Solicited applications to award 4 Recognition Certificates of \$100 each at April FOTL Annual Meeting.**
 - Knox County Public Library Foundation
 - Denise Robertson - Blount County Friends of the Library
 - Mary Ellen Smethells - Webb School
 - Bernice Wells - Kodak Branch of Sevier County Public Library System
- ① 11. **Published *newsletter* in: Summer; Fall; Winter; Spring.**
- ① 12. **Added posts to our [Facebook Page](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Friends-of-Tennessee-Libraries/78895803726?fref=ts) daily.**
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Friends-of-Tennessee-Libraries/78895803726?fref=ts>
- ① 13. **Distributed email of newsletter to state legislators, national Congressional delegation, and members who requested.**
- ① 14. **The President wrote membership invitation letter to non-member groups and a thank you membership renewal letter to member groups.**
- ① 15. ___ **Send a Membership Certificate to each FOTL Group Members.**
"Our Friends Are FOTL Friends"
- ① 16. **Support the Tennessee State Library Standard from *Tennessee Standards for Non-Metropolitan Public Libraries (2014)* under Community Relations that, 6. "Each Library has a Friends of the Library group. (p.30)**
<http://www.tennessee.gov/tsla/lps/Library%20Standards%20for%20Non-Metropolitan%20Libraries.pdf>
- ① 17. **Planned and held an Annual Meeting, April 23rd in Clarksville.**
Presented the 2nd "Friend of Tennessee Libraries" Award to former Secretary of State **Riley C. Darnell.**

PRIORITY ②

- ② 18. ___ **Publish a *Tool Kit for Library Friends Group Programs.***
- ② 19. ___ **Promote Statement about Tennesseans Deserve library services.**

- ②0.  **Planned program for TLA Trustees/Friends April 8th lunch in Kingsport.**
Presented “A Friend of Libraries Recognition” to **Food City** in appreciation for support of community public library services through the Food Club cereal box promotion, “Read any Good Books Lately?”





PRIORITY ③

- ③21.  **Supported the Governor’s Books from Birth Foundation / Imagination Library.**
<http://www.governorsfoundation.org>
Supported and promoted Imagination Week, September 13-19, 2015.
We continue to oppose post office shredding of undeliverable Imagination Library books in local communities. Promoted **Parent Tips for Reading Aloud** posted on web site.
<http://tinyurl.com/ParentsReadingAloud>






- ③22.  **Sent representative to May 2-3, 2016 Library Legislative Day in Washington, D.C.**





PRIORITY ④

- ④23.  **Held Board Meetings on Jun 19, Sept 18, Dec 4, and Mar 18.**
Posted **Board Meeting agendas and minutes** on web site as they happen.
- ④24.  **Held March & December Quarterly Board Meetings via conference call:**
Using the TSLA conference call bridge.
- ④25.  **Supported the Tennessee 3-Star Community Program.**
“A public library is a vital part of a well-rounded program of community life ...
<http://tn.gov/e cd/threestar/> <http://www.tn.gov/ECD/threestar/pdf/ThreeStarProgramOverview.pdf>
- ④26.  **Supported and promoted National Library Week (April 10-16)
and Children’s Book Week (May 9-15).**

PRIORITY ⑤

- ⑤27.  **Completed and promoted the *Ethical Dozen Statement for Friends*.**
- ⑤28.  **Completed a *Procedures Manual* of our FOTL activities.**
- ⑤29. ___ **Transfer Membership, Benefactor, and Grant Applications and Evaluations to PDF ACROBAT.**
- ⑤30. ___ **Publish “100 Ways to Use Your Library” list to encourage local libraries to post regularly on their Facebook Pages.**
- ⑤31.  **Supported and promoted Tennessee Ag Literacy Week, November 15-21.**
Did not complete program materials to help local public libraries.

PRIORITY ⑥

- ⑥32.  **President represented FOTL at Tennessee Library Association Board meetings.**
- ⑥33.  **Published info about activities through FRIENDS eNOTES as needed on Member Listserv.**
- ⑥34.  **Supported and promoted the Southern Festival of Books, October 9-11.**
<http://www.humanitiestennessee.org/programs/southern-festival-books-celebration-written-word>
- ⑥35.  **Supported and promoted National Ag Week in Tennessee, March 13-19 including National Ag Day, March 16, <http://www.agday.org/> **Did not complete** program materials to help local libraries.**

PRIORITY ⑦

- ⑦36.  **As the first library-related partner of the national Picture Book Month program, supported and promoted Picture Book Month in November. <http://picturebookmonth.com>**

PRIORITY ⑧

- ⑧37. ___ **Develop a Library Write Up Program to encourage library marketing.**