

FRIENDS OF WISCONSIN LIBRARIES' NEWSLETTER

Winter 2006

c/o David and Judy Beine, Co-Presidents 2005-

www.cheesestate.com/friends/

Greetings to our FRIENDS and Advocates throughout Wisconsin –

Since most of our Libraries' Friends are also readers, I hope you are enjoying this time of year when you can get settled in your easy chair before a warm fire and read a good book. Hopefully, you will also be involved in a fun-raising event or otherwise advocating for your library.

Library Legislative Day

On January 31, 2006, about 150-200 people from around the State of Wisconsin, Library and Department of Public Instruction professionals, library administration leaders and volunteers, trustees, advocates and friends gathered in Madison on an overcast but dry and mild winter day. We heard presentations from the Wisconsin Library Association's staff and State Senators Mark Pocan (D-Madison) and Joseph Leibham (R-Sheboygan). Both Senators are energetic, personable men who jointly sponsored SB 272 and 273. They expressed their appreciation for our taking the time to come to meet with our legislators. However, because the conceal carry bill was up for a vote that day any of us were not able to meet personally with our Senator and Assemblyman. We did meet with their staff members, who are knowledgeable and certainly sympathetic to our mission. We gave our Assemblyman, Jeff Stone, a Franklin Friends' membership envelope and he may recognize it as he was our printer. It is grass roots politics where we see our legislators at work delegating our tax dollars for all of the necessary work of keeping our services running in an orderly and helpful fashion. And, this includes our libraries! It is an experience that is worthwhile, try to join in with us next year.

Greetings from the Wisconsin Library Association

By President David Weinhold

I am encouraged by your interest in joining the Wisconsin Library Association and working with the statewide library community to improve library services in the state. I believe it is important to raise our voices within our communities and our state on behalf of libraries. I believe the Wisconsin Library Association offers a number of opportunities for the Friends of Wisconsin Libraries. You can share the resources of WLA. We have an Executive Director and an office staff that manages the day to day activities of the association. They take care of the membership lists, the mailings, the collection of the dues, the financial recordkeeping, printing and mailing the newsletters, a directory of members, etc. This allows the members to work on the various activities included in our strategic plan.

You can participate in the leadership of WLA. Members are eligible to serve on the WLTA Board and on key WLTA and WLA committees. These committees determine the Association's legislative agenda, the conference programs and activities, and the awards and honors we bestow on members.

You can be involved in the activities of WLA. Members can suggest programs for the annual Association Conference and the WAPL and WAAL division conferences. The conferences are great opportunities to learn new ideas about libraries, to share your stories in support of libraries, and to meet people who share your passion for libraries. There are opportunities to publish articles about Friends' activities in the division newsletters.

To welcome your participation in WLA, the WLA Board decided to allow the current FOWL members to become WLA members at no additional charge for one year. The Board established an introductory rate of \$20/member for 2007. Then in 2008, members would pay the regular dues for Students, Friends, and Trustees (currently \$32). The Board also decided to allow current FOWL members to pay a special conference registration rate of \$50 (instead of \$85) for the 2006 annual conference, November 1 to November 3 at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells. Also any Friend who pays the FOWL membership dues of \$7 prior to the conference would also be eligible for the special conference rate.

David Weinhold, President, Wisconsin Library Association
and Director Eastern Shores Library System, Voice 920-208-4900 x12 fax 920-208-4901

Friends of Wisconsin Libraries – Annual Meeting

When: Saturday, April 29, 2006, registration 8:30-9:00,
Conference starts at 9:00 a.m.

Where: Shorewood Public Library
Hosted by Friends of Shorewood Public Library
3920 North Murray Avenue, Shorewood, Wisconsin 53211

How Much: \$15.00 – payable to Friends of Shorewood Public Library,
Attn: Joe Krueger

This is merely a *HEADS-UP*. You can send your check along with your name, address and Library Friends' affiliation to Joe Krueger's attention. But, Shorewood Friends will be sending out a flyer in March or April.

ADVOCACY: The funding for a Public Library does not just lie with the elected officials. It belongs to the Friends' Organization. The Friends know the importance of the Public Library better than anyone else. We can go directly to the public to connect them to the library.
PROGRAM & ANNUAL MEETING



Co-Presidents' Statement - We encourage you to come to our ***Annual Meeting*** at the Shorewood Public Library on Saturday, April 29, 2006. We are in favor of joining forces with the Wisconsin Libraries Trustees & Advocates, who are a division of the Wisconsin Library Association. We believe we will have a much better run organization. We will be able to take advantage of the Trustees & Advocates' conferences, their communication network with like-minded members run by a professional staff managing our membership, dues and newsletters. **We, both Friends and Trustees – all advocates**, will have a means of interacting with one another by sharing information. We can participate in special projects and be welcomed to a committee, section or round table of our choice interest. Whether you want to increase your membership, learn new fundraising or start a foundation, the Trustees & Advocates Association can help. **We would like to become a strong arm, advocating for Wisconsin's public libraries.** The Association is "dedicated to promoting and ensuring outstanding library service through educational programs that develop excellence in trusteeship and actions that advocate access to information for all."

The State's New "BadgerNet" Telecommunications Network by Bob Bocher

The networking office in the state's Department of Administration has contracted with a partnership of telecommunication companies to implement the next generation of *BadgerNet*, the state's telecommunications network. AT&T (formerly SBC) is the lead company in this ambitious effort. The current BadgerNet network is based on technology used in the early 1990s. The new network is a result of a five-year planning process. One overall goal of the new BadgerNet is to provide a single statewide network for use by education, libraries and government agencies throughout Wisconsin and to address Governor Doyle's *Grow Wisconsin* initiative to help facilitate economic growth in the state.

Almost all publicly funded libraries in the state use the current BadgerNet network and will be using the new, upgraded BadgerNet too. This includes public libraries and libraries in the UW system, the technical college system and public schools. From February to August of this year all libraries in the state will be converted to the new network.

Public Libraries and BadgerNet

About 98% of the state's 387 public libraries use BadgerNet as their underlying network to facilitate Internet access and access to regional online catalogs. The Department of Public Instruction's Public Library Development Team has been working closely with all parties involved, including network staff in our 17 public library systems, on BadgerNet implementation issues. One of the key advantages of the new network will be to provide more capacity, known as "bandwidth," to help larger libraries that now experience slow Internet access at busy times during the day. This same advantage will also help many of our K-12 schools, which also have bandwidth problems.

Another state program, known as "TEACH" (Technology for Education Achievement) helps to subsidize the cost of the BadgerNet circuits for public libraries and K-12 schools. Most public libraries pay only \$100/month for their BadgerNet connection. The cost for these connections—without the state contract and TEACH—would often be over \$800 per month.

The new BadgerNet network will bring faster and more reliable Internet access to our public libraries at affordable costs. And telecommunication networks, like BadgerNet, provide a critical component in a library's ability to deliver networked services, like Web access to over 10,000 magazines and newspapers via BadgerLink. For more information, see the state Department of Administration's BadgerNet Website at <http://www.doa.state.wi.us/badgernet> or contact Bob Bocher.

Bob Bocher is the Technology Consultant on the Public Library Development Team in DPI's Division for Libraries, Technology, and Community Learning. He can be reached 608-266-2127 robert.bocher@dpi.state.wi.us. Bob co-founded the Friends of the Monona Public Library in 1982.

SUPPORT
Wisconsin Libraries
Keep Us All In A Better State

LIBRARIES WORKING TOGETHER WITH THE WLA'S FOUNDATION BOARD CAN RAISE THE PUBLIC'S AWARENESS! Wisconsin Library Association Foundation's ***Campaign for Wisconsin's Libraries***, is a centralized state-level campaign which will benefit all libraries, but especially those with limited promotional resources. The campaign will take advantage of any national level efforts to promote libraries that are in keeping with the purpose of Wisconsin's campaign. If all libraries, Friends groups, etc. each contribute the little they can afford, together we can 'speak' with a loud voice. Please give when asked but you don't have to wait to be asked. Volunteer to help raise dollars for this most valuable WLA project. Contact Heather Eldred at heldred@wvls.lib.wi.us (Board member WLA) or Rick Krumwiede at rick@mail.owls.lib.wi.us, (current WLA Chair) if you would like more information or if you would like to contribute. Further information about the ***Campaign for Wisconsin's Libraries*** can be found at <http://www.wisconsinlibraries.org/materials/libs/how.asp>

NEWS FROM OUR FRIENDS ACROSS THE STATE and beyond

Past projects of *The Friends of Chippewa Falls* organization include:

- Purchased hardware for the library's first electronic database.
- Volunteers helped with the library's conversion to the barcode system.
- Purchased a VCR and overhead projector for library use.
- Acquired other equipment and furniture for the library.
- Sponsored children's programs and summer reading club activities.
- Funded author lectures.
- Staffed the annual Crazy Daze booksale.
- Hosted an open house after the library was re-carpeted.

From the Friends' website - <http://www.chippewafallslibrary.org/friends.htm>

Friends of the West Allis Library West Allis, the City, is celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2006. Library Friends are planning to work with their City in the celebration and will include a Power Point presentation of their Friends' history and 20th anniversary.

Friends of the Merrill T.B. Scott Library Judy Weaver's Cover to Cover column (and library book club) talks about their rediscovery of Robert Frost's poetry – "he uses images centered in our material everyday lives to express metaphysical truths ... and emotions, hard-to-express, deep and universal poems." Judy also talks about a book *Desert Queen*, a biography of Gertrude Bell, by Janet Wallach. Gertrude Bell lived in Victorian London but traveled extensively, and was a mentor to T.E. "Lawrence of Arabia." This teaser is enough for me to track it down.

Merrill's newsletter also talks about a fundraising project by six Waupaca-area librarians and one assistant (Waupaca, Manawa, Weyauwega, Seymour and Marion) who banded together to produce "Desperate Librarians," a sexy but tasteful calendar they are selling to raise money for their libraries. If you want to purchase a calendar, send \$20.00 plus \$2.50 for shipping to Desperate Librarians, E6282 Slough Road, Weyauwega, WI 54983. If they aren't sold out, please bring a sample to our Friends' Annual Meeting. We'd like to take a peek.

Library Lines from Oshkosh – honors retiring director John Nichols, also WLA's 2005 Librarian of the Year, sponsored by DEMCO, a national library supply company. The Winnefox Library System has adopted a sister library system in Mississippi, the Harrison County Library System. Harrison County's libraries had several feet of water in their buildings, which gutted the first floors and they even lost windows on the second floors. Winneconne Friends sent the proceeds of their October book sale to Mississippi.

Friends of Tennessee Libraries – newsletter reports a popular "Cemetery Stroll" program complete with storytellers. Now, that would be fun – any similar programs in Wisconsin? One of the Tennessee Library Friends' leaders was eulogized, "With her insatiable quest for knowledge there was no job too big, nor mountain too high; Maryann would find a way to get over it, under it, or just plow right on through until the project was finished and finished properly." Maryann Bork remembered. Such a treasure, we wish we could all have one of her within our ranks.

Citizens for Maryland Libraries (CML) has categories of memberships \$15 for individuals, \$38 for Friends of Library Groups, \$75 for corporations/organizations, \$155 for benefactors and \$750 for life members. [Wisconsin's are a great bargain at \$100 for life members.]

Other newsletters received by your co-presidents, both hard copy and electronic, include:

Library Matters – Hedberg Public Library – highlights patrons' accessibility to Janesville's Past Through Library's Digital History Collection www.hedbergpubliclibrary.org

Fine Print – Jointly published by the Appleton Public Library, Friends of the Appleton Library and the Appleton Library Foundation – page long offerings for teens, programming at their own website <http://teen.apl.org/>

What's Happening @ Your Library – the L. E. Phillips Memorial Public Library of Eau Claire – lots of readers' book discussion groups and You Gotta Have Art – juried art show, an annual event.

Waukesha County Federated Library System has a Book Clubs web page

<http://www.wcfls.lib.wi.us/forstaff/bookclubs.htm>

Their press announcement: "In an effort to help library staffs easily locate useful resources when working with their library's book clubs and patrons who are involved in their own book clubs, the Waukesha County Federated Library System has completely revised our Book Clubs web page available on the WCFLS web site. This web page contains links to the different listings available for locating book club kits around the state, resources on how to run a book club, book discussion guides, and even a section listing audio author interviews. We also list WCFLS member libraries that have online book clubs and book clubs that are held at our member libraries. We thought this web page would be helpful to other libraries throughout our state. Feel free to browse!"

Muskego has a Murder by the Book Club and **Oconomowoc** has an Armchair Traveler Book Club.

Shullsburg Friends of the Library- have a New Patron program. A canvas book bag filled with goodies is presented to new library card applicants. It is a great way to introduce the Friends and the library to the new subscribers. Shullsburg also publishes their Friends' names and benefactors in their newsletter.

Minnesota Association of Library Friends – By Word of MALF – Lake Superior Salmon Classic Fishing Tournament and Raffle sponsored by the Friends of the Silver Bay Public Library – outlines nine months of preparation for two days of fishing – but the money raised and the fun had by all is worth it. Friends work in shifts to sell tickets, check each boat for tickets, launch boats and sell concessions.

Kenosha's newsletter can be found at <http://www.kenosha.lib.wi.us/Newsnotes/Winter06.pdf>

From Eastern Shores' The Library Connection –To add a new twist to some old tunes, take a look at the following website: <http://www.preschooleducation.com/sfriend.shtml>



Videotape on Forming Friends -- The January 1990 FOWL newsletter mentions a videotape about forming a Friends group – the name Mal Gross was connected with the mention. However, his telephone number is no longer in service. Does anyone know of Mal Gross' whereabouts? The videotape's whereabouts, existence? If so, please contact your co-presidents.

From the Archives– A group of like-minded people who were interested in furthering the work of public libraries met in the new library on the lakefront of Lake Geneva in 1963. The program for the 25th annual meeting of the Friends of Wisconsin Libraries, held in Lake Geneva, on Saturday, April 30, 1988, included past state presidents (not named), a visit from a VERY famous author (not known from program), and two guest speakers, Margaret McGowan, then Director of the Wauwatosa Public Library, and James Hazard, Professor of English at the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee. [If anyone can elaborate on this, please contact your co-president.]

FRIENDS OF WISCONSIN LIBRARIES Treasurer's Report (2/10/2006)

Balance on hand as of 10/24/05: \$876.13

INCOME:

Membership dues	\$190.00	
Sales	<u>\$ 2.50</u>	\$192.50

EXPENSES:

Mileage/meeting expenses	\$109.61	
Newsletters	\$ 41.35	
Misc.	<u>\$ 37.50</u>	\$188.46

Balance on hand as of 2/10/06: \$880.17

Around Valentine's Day each year Friends of Sussex' Library –the Pauline Haas Public Library -put out a Library Lover fact sheet next to a balloon bouquet. Another way to draw patrons' attention to the Friends' group, but also to become involved by contributing either their time, money, or gently used books, videos, DVDs and CDs. What a great idea!

Our hard working Treasurer submitted this short bio of herself, at your editor's request:

“In the late 1970s a group of interested citizens convinced the Village of Sussex Trustees to fund a library for our small community. While working to establish a Friends group, Denise Wenger, then President of FOWL, asked me to become involved with the state group. Since the early 1980s (exact year unknown) FOWL has taught me how important libraries are to Wisconsin residents and how Friends can help.

“My husband and I are the proud parents of two wonderful sons, two great daughters-in-law, and four adorable grandchildren. We all look forward to spending more time at our cabin in northern Wisconsin. For 25 years I worked for the Hamilton School District in Sussex. My degree in Home Economics (now Human Ecology) has enriched my life by requiring exposure to diverse subjects and areas of study. I enjoy life and anticipate learning so much more!”

Submitted by
Joanne Smith, Treasurer
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My thanks and appreciation to WLA President Weinhold, DPI Bob Bocher, Shorewood's Joe Krueger and our Treasurer Joanne Smith for your contributions this issue.

Your contributions, criticisms and praise are welcome.



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