



Friends of Tennessee Libraries newsletter

March 12, 2019

Special Legislative Issue

The Friends of Tennessee Libraries (FOTL)

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

Website: <http://www.friendstnlibraries.org> | Facebook Page <http://tinyurl.com/FOTLFacebook>

We invite legislators to visit the local libraries in your district;
Libraries are being used more than ever before and are
“a place of surprises, a place that preserves the chance for getting caught by surprise.”

Tennessee ranks as the 46th state in per capita local library funding at \$17.96

National average - \$35.19 | Highest - \$62.54 (Illinois)

In Tennessee library funding comes from 93% local funds; 5% state funds; 2% federal funds.



Public libraries are up to these core purposes:

- Encourage and build a love of reading
- Provide confidential and neutral access to information, ideas, and recreation
- Serve as a place for individual self-education
- Serve as the community's living / meeting room and safe place
- Help integrate technology into the lives of customers
- Preserve the culture and history of the community
- Stimulate the imagination

The INTERNET is the best library in the world,
but all its books are strewn all over the floor.
What the INTERNET needs is a good librarian, and
one can be found at the local public library.



Our Mission Statement

Founded in 1992, The **Friends of Tennessee Libraries (FOTL)** is a volunteer 501(c)(3) organization of individuals and organizations dedicated to supporting Tennessee Libraries and local Friends of Library groups through:

- Establishing and helping local community Friends of Library groups succeed;
- Communicating with libraries and trustees about the value of Friends;
- Serving members as a 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.

FOTL

FOCUS on revitalizing local groups and establishing new ones.

ONGOING communication through the FOTL newsletter, website, Facebook Page, member Listserv, and workshops.

TRAINING for improved local and state advocacy.

LINKING friends groups to improve public awareness of Tennessee libraries and services.

There are 146 Friends of the Library groups in Tennessee.

Working with local Friends groups around the state, FOTL builds a strong, supportive network of citizens promoting the value of libraries as institutions essential to democracy. The urgent need for the financial investment in our libraries continues to grow, and FOTL reinforces the front-line efforts of local Friends. FOTL does no fundraising in competition with local groups.

How do Friends help their Library?

They

- ✓ **Know their community's needs** and provide valuable feedback.
- ✓ **Plan activities** with library's director and trustees, asking "what can we do," not announcing "we will do this."
- ✓ **Raise money** for materials, equipment, and projects not able to be covered by the library's budget.
- ✓ **Sponsor cultural and educational programs** to enlighten and entertain.
- ✓ **Volunteer** to do special library tasks and projects.
- ✓ **Represent the library** to the community - raising public awareness, speaking to civic groups, attending council/commission meetings, and contacting government officials to tell about the library's financial needs.
- ✓ **Advocate for the library** by speaking out on local, state, and national issues that affect libraries.
- ✓ **Recognize exceptional performance** of library staff members.

Fellowship with other library Friends
Raise funds in support of the library
Intest in the community's future
Encourage gifts, endowments and memorials
Nurture knowledge of the library
Develop library services & special community programs
Stimulate public support

FRIENDS OF TENNESSEE LIBRARIES

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Website: www.friendstnlibraries.org | Facebook Page: <http://tinyurl.com/FOTLFacebook>

Membership Form: <http://www.friendstnlibraries.org/support-us/join/>

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