



NEWSLETTER

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President's Message

Over the past three months the PCBL Board has worked diligently to get itself organized for the activities of the next two years. While our mission and goals remain the same, we have planned new strategies for meeting them. I want to highlight several of these strategies for the benefit of our members.

The workshop committee has designed an exciting Second Annual Friends Institute with some new twists (watch for it coming up on June 1), as well as investigating other statewide training opportunities for later in the year.

The Web Site is “under further development” with an eye to communicating fresh information, bringing new ideas and encouragement to local groups.

Increased membership equates to a heftier budget enabling us to provide more educational events, scholarships for training events and advocacy materials in support of libraries. To this end, the membership committee is reaching out in new ways to a wider audience of prospective members, as well as motivating “old” friends to return to the fold.s .

As we meet across the state, presidents and other representatives of local friends groups are being invited to join us and express their needs and ways in which we might help their efforts. This keeps us in touch with the grassroots and gives us direction in supporting and developing local strength. It is, after all, all about YOU and your local libraries.

A newly appointed Anniversary Committee is charged with rolling out a spectacular program to celebrate PCBL's 25th Birthday in 2003-04. You'll hear lots about this in the coming months.

Other new activities, in addition to some traditional ones, are underway, all aimed at achieving PCBL's mission. We can sum it up in a sentence: Pennsylvania Citizens work together to bring about better, stronger, livelier libraries for Pennsylvanians.....essential support for an essential service.

Thank you for choosing to join PCBL. And if you truly believe in libraries, don't clap....instead, recruit another friend to membership! See you at the library, Sara



FRIENDS INSTITUTE

The second annual Friends Institute is set for **Saturday, June 1st** at the Radisson Hotel in Monroeville, PA. Featured speaker is the new Executive Director of FOLUSA (Friends of Libraries, USA), Sally Gardner Reed. There will also be table talks giving practical tips on how to handle your funds, how to conduct a book sale and how to utilize promotional printed products to promote your library. There will also be opportunities to network with other

Friends from across the state. There is no registration fee, thanks to support from Commonwealth Libraries through LSTA federal funds.

Watch for a mailing to all PCBL members and Friends Presidents in April, 2002.

LOCAL LEGISLATIVE EVENTS

Many local libraries across the state have been hosting legislative breakfasts, luncheons or receptions for local and state officials as part of an advocacy program to make officials aware of library services and needs. The following remarks are excerpted from those made by PCBL Treasurer John Fordon at the Legislative Breakfast held at the Memorial Library of Nazareth and Vicinity in January, 2002:

“...There seems to be a growing tendency by many local municipal officials to treat libraries as if they were charities, considering the municipality’s support of them as if the money was a “contribution” instead of an obligation. This kind of thinking then goes even further by suggesting that support for the library be user-based...therefore if you don’t use the library, you shouldn’t have to have the burden of the library’s expenses.

...this kind of thinking is antithetical to everything that public libraries represent in America and needs to be challenged wherever and whenever it appears...libraries are the very foundation of what makes the American society such a great democracy: namely, that anyone regardless of race, creed or economic ability has all the rights of citizenship, including the ability to walk into a public library and partake of everything that it offers....I believe that libraries in America are as much a taxable civic responsibility to support as are fire departments, police departments and public schools.

...User fees would limit usage to only those who could afford it, and would lead to an elitist kind of “ownership” of this magnificent institution...As a retiree I know what a burden taxes can be, especially to families with limited income but whatever taxes you and I pay should be thought of as the price of our freedom. Nobody ever said that democracy was inexpensive.”

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE DAY

You are cordially invited to join the PaLA's delegation to Washington D.C. on **May 7th** as we talk with our Congressmen and Women about the importance of libraries in their communities. One of the major issues we need to again discuss is the reauthorization of LSTA, the major federal grant program for libraries. It must be reauthorized by September 30, 2002 to allow congress to continue to appropriate funds. The other important issue is the pending database protection bill which would allow a producer or publisher unprecedented control over uses of information, including down-stream, transformative use of facts, and government produced data contained in a database.

ALA will host a briefing day on May 6th which will provide in-depth information on these issues as well as others. If you plan to attend you are encouraged to contact your congressional representative soon to arrange an appointment for a visit on Tuesday, May 7th between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Whenever possible, coordinate your visit with others from your district. When your appointment is confirmed with the congressional office please let Barbara Casini or Debbie Malone know the name of the Congressman you will be visiting, the time of your appointment and who will be visiting with you. **Registration is necessary and is being handled through the PaLA Office.** Please contact the PaLA Offices at 1-800-622-3308 for registration forms. The registration fee is \$10.00 and should reach PaLA Offices by April 19th. Contact **Debbie Malone** at 610-282-1100, ext 1253 or e-mail at debbie.malone@desales.edu or **Barbara Casini** at 610-687-1124, or e-mail at casini@hslc.org for more information.

Delaware Valley Chapter of ACRL will organize car pools from the parking lot behind Boscov's in the Plymouth Meeting Mall on the morning of Monday May 6th and will return the early evening on Tuesday May 7th. For more information contact Debbie Malone.

CONGRATULATIONS

Former PCBL Board Member, **Nancy Lee Mack**, was recently honored by the Southeast Chapter of PaLA as the 2001 recipient of its Patricia A. Dobbin Memorial Award. Nancy is also well known as the official photographer at the PCBL and PaLA Conferences. Nancy coordinates the volunteer program and Friends of the Library at Montgomery County/Norristown Public Library. She is described as a person who knows how to find ways to get things done. PCBL adds its congratulations to Nancy for this honor!

Dillsburg Area Public Library was honored by AARP with its 2001 Excellence Award in recognition of its offerings for older adults from 1998-2001. The award inspired the Dillsburg Mayor to issue a proclamation setting January 26th as Dillsburg Area Library Day.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE ANNUAL PCBL AWARDS

Nominations are requested for the annual awards that will be presented at the PCBL Annual Luncheon and Meeting at the Hershey Motor Lodge in Hershey on Sunday, November 10, 2002
Award categories are:

Citizen of the Year (Barbara Bruno Award) - a citizen who has contributed the most to the improvement of Pennsylvania libraries.

Corporate Citizen of the Year - a business or company that has been supportive of a local library as well as the entire Pennsylvania library community.

Friends Group of the Year - a Friends group which has provided the greatest assistance to its library.

Friends Newsletter of the Year - the best Friends group newsletter.

Elected State Official of the Year - an official who has been a leader in promoting and supporting Pennsylvania's libraries.

Local Public Official of the Year - a local public official who has been supportive of their local library.

Library Public Relations Award - a library that has conducted an effective public relations campaign for a specific program or event that has resulted in significant community support.

Media Award of the Year - the best newspaper, radio, or TV editorial, article, or video in support of libraries

Lifetime Achievement Award - a citizen or group who has shown exceptional meritorious service to libraries.

Please be thinking about worthy candidates for these awards. More details will be in forthcoming mailings from PCBL

2002 PCBL MEETING DATES

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|-----------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| Executive Committee Meeting | April 26, 2002 | New Cumberland Public Library |
| PCBL Board Meeting | May 31, 2002 | Monroeville Public Library |
| Executive Committee Meeting | August 9, 2002 | Carlisle |
| PCBL Board Meeting | September 20, 2002 | Ephrata |
| Executive Committee Meeting | October 11, 2002 | Ligonier |
| PCBL Board Meeting | December 6, 2002 | Hershey |

RECENT NEW MEMBERS FOR 2002



James P. Stetina, Lancaster
Friends of the Citizens Library, Washington

We would like to welcome these new members and to thank all of you who have renewed already for 2002. A special thank you to those who have made extra contributions and to our Sponsors and Patrons. These additional monies prove especially helpful in our advocacy efforts.

2002 MEMBERSHIP

We would welcome your renewal for 2002. **Please note the year beside your name on the mailing label. If it is not "02" please renew your membership using the form below as soon as possible. We will be removing those not renewed from our Newsletter Mailing List as of our next Newsletter.**

Personal Member ___ Organization/Friends Group ___ New ___ Renew ___

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ E-Mail _____

Phone _____ (H)

_____ (W) _____ Fax _____

Personal \$20 ___ Group \$40 ___ Sustaining \$30 ___ Sponsor \$100+ ___ Patron \$500 ___

501(c)3 affiliate \$70 _____. Donation (\$_____) in excess of dues is tax deductible. Mail check

payable to:

PCBL

604 Hunt Club Drive, Greensburg, PA 15601. 501(3) members please note that the \$70 dues figure applies each year you remain an affiliate.