



FRIENDS OF LIBRARIES IN OKLAHOMA

Newsletter Vol. XXXX No. 3—Winter 2019

www.okfriends.net

Strengthening Libraries in Oklahoma through Friends of Libraries

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Attend FOLIO's Annual Meeting

FOLIO's Annual Meeting is Friday, March 15, at the Embassy Suites in Norman. Register now at <https://www.oklibs.org/page/OLA2019>. The cost of the meeting for Friends is \$60, which is the cost of the luncheon and hotel service charge. (Some Friends groups sponsor Friends representatives to attend.)

Exhibits are open all morning. The day's schedule includes:

11:15 a.m. “Does My Library Need an Endowment?” Do you have questions about what an endowment is and whether or not it's right for your library? Managers from the Oklahoma City Community Foundation (Joe Carter, Vice President, Development and Jennifer Meckling, Director, Charitable Organization Endowment Program) will explain endowments and answer questions. Julie Slupe (Library Director, Mustang Public Library), Amber E. Cole (Development Officer, Pioneer Library System and Foundation), and Gerry Hendon (FOLIO Assistant Treasurer and Past President) will share their endowment experiences.



Joe Carter



Jennifer Meckling

12:15 p.m. FOLIO Authors and Awards Luncheon Motivational speaker and award-winning author Alton Carter will be the featured speaker at the FOLIO Awards Luncheon. Best Friends, Friends of the



Alton Carter

Library Week, Hall of Fame, and Scholarship awards will be presented. Alton Carter is a former foster child and police officer. He was the first person in his family to graduate from high school and college. Now the director of youth ministries for the First United Methodist Church of Stillwater, OK, the Oklahoma State University alum has dedicated his life to working with young people. In April 2015, his debut book, *The Boy Who Carried Bricks*, was published. The next year, the nonfiction title won the 2016 Oklahoma Book Award. The book is a true recount of Carter's hard-scrabble life growing up on the plains and in the small towns of Oklahoma. He followed with *Aging Out*, how he faced his past and took the steps to live the life he always dreamed about. Carter has also authored two children's books, *The Boy Who Dreams Big* and *The Boy Who Dreamed Big*, and *The Boy Who Went to the Library*. Carter makes his home in central Oklahoma, with his wife, Kristin, and their five children.

1:30-2:40 p.m. FOLIO Annual Meeting Friends of libraries from around the state are invited to give brief reports of their activities and hear about FOLIO activities and services for Friends' support. FOLIO reports will include ambassadors, marketing, endowment, Literary Landmarks, budget, newsletter, etc.

2:45-3:45 p.m. Money \$mart Programming Are you looking for relevant programming ideas to assist your library? Hear about engaging, creative programs your library can have to promote financial literacy. Speakers include Heather Thompson and Laura Callaham, Business Outreach Specialists for Pioneer Library System, and Kristin Herr, Library Director, Lawton Public Library. Even on a shoestring budget your library can have great consumer money-saving programs. Free resources will be introduced as well as information about a statewide economic forum.



Heather Thompson



Laura Callaham



Kristin Herr

Bring Your Ideas

To Share

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From the President...



FOLIO is strengthening libraries through Friends. Our programs, newsletter, ambassadors, awards, programs, conference programs, Literary Landmarks, and scholarships are all to help Friends make their libraries stronger: Libraries + Friends = Strong Communities.

Plan to attend the FOLIO Annual Meeting on Friday, March 15. Registration is now open at <https://www.oklibs.org/page/OLA2019>. The Author and Awards luncheon will be very special, recognizing several of the fabulous Friends groups who have done outstanding work last year. Our scholarship recipients will also be recognized. See the conference article for more information.

Sharon Saulmon

FOLIO has met our challenge grant and contributed to our endowment. Your endowment contribution supports our scholarships and other FOLIO programs.

Thank you for your support!

The Financial Fitness programs are continuing this spring in fourteen libraries. If the workshops are in your community, please tell your friends and family about them. Find more information at <http://financial-fitness.oklibraries.org/>. The Wilma McDaniel Poetry Contest is being co-sponsored in Lincoln and Creek counties. The Poetry Reading will be at the Bristow Public Library on April 7 at 2:30 p.m.

You are needed to help keep your legislator informed about your library and library issues. The article on advocacy provides information on ways you can assist. You can make a difference!

Help keep FOLIO programs and awards flourishing. Join this great team of library Friends Helping Friends across the state strengthen libraries. Membership information is available at <http://www.okfriends.net/membership.html>.

For the latest information, trends, ideas, library quotes, and library jokes, FOLLOW us on Facebook – Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma (FOLIO).

The FOLIO Board met at the Belle Isle Library on January 25, 2019. Major actions included:

Celebrating our endowment contribution and meeting our challenge grant.

Fine-tuning our exhibit and programs for March 14-15 at the Norman Embassy Suites (The FOLIO Annual Meeting will be on Friday, March 15, but lots of other great preconferences and programs are planned.)

Overviewing the great FOLIO activities during the fall (Friends of Libraries Week, Ambassadors' activities, Endowment Committee, Membership Committee, etc.).

Learning about Oklahoma tribal libraries.

Approving the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten concept to apply for grants for local library programs.

Discussing ideas for continuing our 40th anniversary celebration.

Planning our next Board meeting on March 15 at the Embassy Suites in Norman. Local Friends representatives should plan to briefly share their projects.

Encouraging advocacy for libraries and library funding at the State Capitol is crucial this year.

Continued from Page 1

You are welcome to attend the Oklahoma Library Association on March 14, Thursday, as well. Friends may register for the day for \$60. Great programs on Thursday include: "Better Volunteers, Better Life," "Long Range Planning," "Moving Forward Together: Advocacy," "Strong Together" (ALA President), "Serving Users with Autism Spectrum Disorder," "Joining Forces to Make a Difference in the Community," "Give and Take Mentorship," and many others.

Preconferences are planned for Wednesday, March 13. "Optimizing Leadership Decision-Making," a full-day workshop, will be engaging and thought-provoking. Attendees will come away with a better appreciation for the role of fast and slow thinking in decision making, feeling empowered to analyze, discuss, debate, and give feedback to better the library. "Advocacy Bootcamp," a half-day workshop, urges attendees to re-think advocacy: to re-define the library community and expand the way we have been advocating for libraries.

Oklahoma Department of Libraries Director Susan McVey Resigned February 1

Susan McVey retired from the [Oklahoma Department of Libraries](#) on February 1, after 17 years as State Librarian and State Archivist.

Under McVey's leadership, the agency has used federal library funds to provide extensive online reference and information resources to all libraries and schools, and to improve information technology infrastructure in public libraries. Oklahoma was one of the first states to report that all public libraries offered wireless internet access for their communities.

McVey has been committed to helping all public libraries benefit from the federal E-Rate and Oklahoma Universal Services Fund so that they can continue to obtain the technology services that benefit their communities.



FOLIO Board of Directors presented a Resolution of Appreciation to Susan McVey at her retirement party on February 25. Pictured left to right: Sharon Douthitt, Wayne Hanway, Susan McVey, Lynn Murnane, Karen Neurohr, Jon Douthitt, Gerry Hendon, Laurie Sundborg.

Resolution of Appreciation to *Susan McVey*

WHEREAS, Susan McVey has been an extremely valuable member of the Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma (FOLIO) Advisory Board for many years, providing creative ideas, accurate information, advocacy advice and encouragement while supporting FOLIO's goal of strengthening libraries through Friends of Libraries, and

WHEREAS, she has served with distinction and has been instrumental in providing quality library service in various positions at the Oklahoma Department of Libraries for 32 years, and

WHEREAS, she has served as Oklahoma State Librarian for 17 years, has worked tirelessly to promote libraries and has led the further development of public libraries throughout the State of Oklahoma, even though challenges were presented, and

WHEREAS, she has shown great vision and much patience, embodied the highest standards of leadership, skillfully navigated the maze of state and library bureaucracies, and

WHEREAS, Ms. McVey, as a consummate professional and advocate, has worked tirelessly on library innovations for all types of libraries in Oklahoma, and

WHEREAS, she is an excellent collaborator, leading and developing enduring partnerships which resulted in creative FOLIO programs with many organizations including the American Library Association, Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, United for Libraries, Oklahoma Center for the Book, Oklahoma Library Association, Oklahoma Department of Libraries and Oklahoma Humanities, and

WHEREAS, throughout her career, Ms. McVey earned the utmost respect of leading policymakers and librarians across the nation, sharing her sense of humor, kindness, energy and graciousness and enriching those fortunate enough to know and work with her, and

WHEREAS, Ms. McVey's commitment to public service and leadership has resulted in the use of federal library funds to provide extensive online reference and information resources to all libraries and schools, to improve information technology infrastructure in public libraries, to encourage public libraries to offer wireless internet access for their communities, and to assist all public libraries to benefit from the federal E-Rate and Oklahoma Universal Services Fund so that they can continue to obtain the technology services that benefit their communities, and

WHEREAS, Ms. McVey's contributions as an intelligent, thoughtful, hard-working, kind, detail-oriented, dedicated, and generous person are unparalleled and will be greatly missed by the Oklahoma Librarians, Friends of Libraries and Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Board of the Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma, do hereby express our deepest appreciation for the outstanding contributions made by Ms. Susan McVey; and extend our best wishes for the future.

Adopted on this 25th day of January, 2019.

Sharon Saulmon
Sharon Saulmon, President
Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma

Meet Melody Kellogg your new State Librarian



Melody Kellogg, new director of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries (ODL), brings with her a three-decade long portfolio of public service in libraries, state government, local government, and the non-profit sector. She was hired by the ODL Board in December to succeed Susan McVey, who retired January 31 after 17 years as director. As the agency's chief officer, Kellogg will work with ODL staff and Oklahoma's library community to continue to build and improve library and information services for all Oklahomans.

ODL Board Chair Phil Moss said Kellogg's extensive experience in a variety of public service settings was instrumental in setting her apart during the interviewing process. "Melody brings a unique combination of backgrounds and skills to ODL," Moss said. "I think her work as a public servant at both the state and municipal levels will benefit the agency, and her various experiences in libraries are also noteworthy. Plus, she has a passion for libraries and the important services they provide to the state and its communities."

Kellogg's public service path began in 1985 when she began a 13-year tenure with the Main Street Program at the Oklahoma Department of Commerce. She was promoted to assistant director in 1988 and later led the program as its director. In 1999 she joined the City of Guthrie as special projects coordinator, kicking off a decade of local government experience. In 2002, the Guthrie City Manager asked Kellogg to be-

come director of the Guthrie Public Library. "I went into that position with the understanding that I would concurrently attain a master's degree in Library and Information Sciences," Kellogg said. "It was a challenge I was eager to take." She completed her degree through the University of Oklahoma in 2004 and served three more years at the library before becoming City Manager of Guthrie, directing a city workforce of 115, and developing and administering the municipality's \$18 million budget.

After a two-year stay at a non-profit church ministry where she served as assistant to the organization's director, she returned to libraries in 2011 when she was hired to manage the Edmond Branch Library for Oklahoma County's Metropolitan Library System. By 2015 she was serving as a Regional Director for Metropolitan, supervising three of the system's library branches. A year later other departments were added to her responsibilities, including a new call center and the team responsible for system-wide programming.

"Melody was always being tapped for leadership positions within her organizations," Moss said. "That speaks volumes."

Kellogg's leadership abilities have also been recognized and rewarded by her library colleagues in the state. She was elected president of the Oklahoma Library Association for 2016-2017 and represented the association and Oklahoma's libraries on the national level.

"My plan is to continue to expand upon the progress and service that has been established under Susan McVey," Kellogg said of her new role as State Librarian. "ODL has made great progress toward connectivity in our rural libraries, and the agency has led the way in the digitization of Oklahoma's state government records. I embrace those accomplishments as we look for new opportunities."

FOLIO Offers Award Opportunities, Staff Scholarships, and Friends Seed Grants

Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma is once again offering opportunities to **honor your group**, help **educate library support staff**, and **start or revitalize a local friends organization**. For more information, go to www.okfriends.net.

Honor the Work of Your Friends

Shine a light on the hard work and outstanding efforts of your library friends group. Not only can you receive recognition and a plaque, but you can add significant dollars to your treasury or to a special project. If your friends group's FOLIO dues are paid, your group may apply for one of two FOLIO Best Friends Awards: the **John Harkey Best Friends Award** recognizes a friends group in a city or town with a population of less than 10,000 with \$500 for first place, and the **Oklahoma Best Friends Award** recognizes a friends group in a city or town with a population in excess of 10,000 with \$500 for first place. **Applications for the award must be received by Friday, March 1, 2019.** Awards will be presented at the FOLIO Annual Luncheon and

Meeting on Friday, March 15 during the Oklahoma Library Association Conference at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Norman.

FOLIO Increases Support Staff Scholarships

FOLIO has announced an increase to \$600 per award for the **Support Staff Scholarships** to library staff members wishing to further their education. **The deadline for application is Friday, March 1, 2019.** The scholarships may be awarded to up to four applicants.

Start a Friends Group! Boost a Friends Group!

FOLIO Seed Grants can be a great help in getting a Friends group off the ground or helping a struggling group get back up and running. Currently, grants are awarded in the amount of \$425. **Applications to be considered at the next FOLIO board meeting must be received by Friday, March 1.**

Library Friends Are Advocates

What a great time to be a library advocate and Friend! Each of us can make a difference and have an impact in our local community policies, state laws and federal legislation.

This spring our main emphasis is on the state level, asking to restore some of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries' budget which has been drastically cut since the State Fiscal Year 2010. All of the increase will count towards the federal Maintenance of Effort and result in ODL receiving additional federal funds as well.

This may directly and positively impact funds available to your local public library. Your assistance can help.

State Funding is requested to restore the state aid grant funding to public libraries.

Literacy Funding is requested which will restore ODL's grants to literacy providers.

Staff Person Working with Public Libraries - A

Librarian III in the Office of Library Development will work directly with assigned municipal libraries and will serve as a lead officer on targeted federal grants.

Library Materials Budget increase to meet ODL's statutory mandates to serve as a library for state government and to support public libraries with interlibrary loans to serve customers.

The proposed legislation of interest will fluctuate. Bills currently being monitored include:

Public Libraries Advancement Act, shell bills

Proposed property tax exemptions

Guidelines on meeting room space

Social networking and social media policy

Oklahoma Sooner Choice Trust Act, requiring 3% employee contribution

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ola@amigos.org

Librarians and Friends will visit the State Capitol weekly during the legislative session (except spring break) and the week of OLA Conference

Kristin Herr, Co-Chair of the Oklahoma Library Association Legislative Committee gives these suggestions.

"Want to participate? It is as easy as picking a day and going! Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays are generally good days to visit. We have 'transform' cards to distribute. The latest updates will be available, and I will let you know if anyone else is planning on going that week and loop you in with our library liaisons. That way you can get any last minute updates as you visit." Want a buddy to go with you? Just let Kristin Herr know, and she will try to coordinate a partner. What about inviting other library supporters to come with you? Contact Ms. Herr at herr.kristin@gmail.com or at 580-699-0852.

Your voice at the Capitol will make a difference! Legislators would rather hear from the general public than from librarians.

Glenda Pitts Honored for 39 Years as the Shawnee Public Library Children's Librarian

The Friends of the Shawnee Library recently joined with the Pioneer Library System to honor Glenda Pitts for her 39 years of service as the Children's Librarian. A reception, with testimonials and refreshments, was followed by dedication of a collage of glazed tablets showing hands of the many children who were enrolled in last year's summer arts program, funded by the Shawnee Friends. The collage display in Ms. Pitts' honor was funded by the Wintco Sonic Group, represented by John Winterringer.



From left to right, John Winterringer, Branch Manager Peggy Cook, State Senator Ron Sharp, Glenda Pitts, Sue Winterringer, Past President of the Shawnee Friends, and State Representative Dell Kerbs stand in front of the tablet collage honoring Ms. Pitts in the Children's area of the Shawnee Library.

Westville Friends Celebrate 50 Years



The Friends of John F. Henderson Public Library hosted a 50th anniversary celebration on November 17, 2018. A packed house enjoyed refreshments and a presentation by Luke Williams on the long history of libraries in Westville and the John F. Henderson Public Library. The Goingsnake District Historical Association presented the Friends with a generous donation.

John F. Henderson Public Library in Westville, Oklahoma, opened on November 17, 1968 as a gift from Bessie Henderson to the town of Westville in memory of her late husband John F. Henderson. The Library became a member of the Eastern Oklahoma District Library System soon after.

Meeker Friends Stay Busy

The Meeker Friends of the Library met on January 7. Officers for 2019 are Cletta Kinnear-President, Nancy Weaver-Vice President, Donna Weber-Treasurer, Elizabeth Callahan-Secretary and Bev Hall-Parliamentarian.

The cookbook will be sent to the publisher soon. When the cookbook is released for sale, the Friends will host a community tasting party using some of the recipes from the new cookbook. Another event will be the Annual Bean Supper on April 5th.

The summer reading program, **Space: A Universe of Stories**, will take place on Wednesday afternoons in June and will feature a special guest each week. **Space** will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Apollo Moon Landing.

New books DVDs and audio books are constantly being purchased. The ebook program, Overdrive, has been successful and will continue to be a service for the Meeker Community.

Friends of the Donald W. Reynolds Community Center and Library Serve Those in Need in Durant

Friends of the Donald W. Reynolds Community Center and Library in Durant rallied during 2018 to support our innovative and progressive director, Robbee Tonubbee, in offering at least a minimum of services to the homeless population. Like many towns in Oklahoma that have grown faster than their infrastructure can support, Durant now has growing pains that include completely inadequate provisions for people in transit between jobs, with jobs that don't pay enough to cover rent, or are between places to shelter.

The Friends began contributing free coats and food to place on a help-yourself counter in the Library's Bookista Café. Further, the Friends have written editorials and opinion pieces published in the local newspaper that reinforce Director Tonubbee's philosophy that the Community Center aspect of our mission includes the whole community. Of course, our efforts fall far short of providing a homeless shelter and counseling, but we feel we are paving the way for a kinder, more productive way of dealing with this particular growth problem.

One of our speaking points to promote this project is to ask the question; "Have you ever been just two or three paychecks away from losing your home?" We also tell people that we do not see the difference between providing services for the homeless and running a very successful program to help veterans claim benefits, to help seniors and others file tax returns, to offer a free lunch to children in our summer reading program, to offer after-school supervised play to "latch-key" children, to offer tutoring services for non-English speakers, and any of other services provided.

If your library or community center experiences homeless-related challenges, the Friends can help!



On Jan. 24, a certificate and a \$200 check were presented to the Friends of Elk City Library. They were the winners of the FOLIO National Friends of the Library Week Award for a Friends group in a town over 10,000 population. Pictured, from left to right, are FOLIO board members Michele Ramsdell and Judy Haught, and Linda Stineman, President, Elk City Friends.



You can assist FOLIO when you shop Amazon online. FOLIO will receive 0.5 percent of eligible sales. Tens of millions of products on AmazonSmile are eligible for donations.

- Simply go to www.smile.amazon.com when you want to begin shopping.
- Select FOLIO as your charitable organization.
- Shop as you normally would.

Yes! I want to join FOLIO and be a Friend of Libraries in Oklahoma.

Your membership dues and donations are the primary source of funds to support FOLIO's mission. New members are always welcome.

Basic dues are as follows:

- \$20 Individual Membership
- \$25 Friends Group Membership
- \$30 Library Membership
- \$50 Corporate Membership

Contributions above the minimum dues further support FOLIO's mission, are greatly appreciated, and are tax deductible as a charitable contribution.

Name: _____
(Name of Individual, Friends group, Library or Corporate Business)

Address: _____

City: _____ **Zip:** _____

Email: _____

Dues Enclosed: _____

Gift Donation enclosed: _____

Gift to Endowment: _____

FOLIO—We are Friends helping Friends!

*Mail to FOLIO Treasurer
P.O. Box 702585, Tulsa, OK 74170*

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!!

Need Help? Need Advice? Call your FOLIO Ambassador

FOLIO Outreach Ambassadors are ready and willing to talk or consult with your Friends' group or your officers. We want to help you be successful and strengthen your library. Let us know how we can assist you.

Ambassadors are available for each quadrant of the State.



Northeast

- Jon and Sharon Douthitt
douthittsharon60@gmail.com

Northwest

- Karen Neurohr
karen.neurohr@okstate.edu

Southeast

- Wayne Hanway
whanway8@gmail.com

Southwest

- Judy Haught
haughtjc@gmail.com
- Carla Garrison





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Stilwell Friends Raise Funds for New Library Shelving

The Stilwell Public Library Friends (SPLFS) rejoiced when they saw the children's wing completed in 2017, but they didn't stop there. The beautiful new wing needed shelving, and the old, unsafe metal shelves, found elsewhere in the Stilwell Public Library, were long overdue for replacement. They immediately got to work and started raising money to meet this great need.

The book sale and yard sale crews went into action and raised funds to purchase new shelves. Money was still needed, so SPLFS turned to their community supporters, including Cherokee Nation, Ozarks Go, and Schwan's Food Company. Beautiful, safe wooden shelves now grace the library, thanks to the hard work, determination, and help from SPLFS and those who stand beside them to serve our library patrons and our Adair County community.

By Regina McLemore



Cherokee Nation officials presented a five thousand dollar check to SPLFS for library shelving. Pictured left to right: Tommy Wildcat, Cherokee musician; Caleb Duncan, Cherokee Nation Councilman; Donna Boecker, SPLFS Vice President; Chuck Hoskins, Jr., Cherokee Nation Secretary of State, and Frankie Hargis, Cherokee Nation Registrar.

Wilma McDaniel Poetry Contest

The Wilma Elizabeth McDaniel Poetry Contest will be this spring in Lincoln and Creek counties. The anonymous donor has funded cash prizes again this year. This is a great project led by Dr. Karen Neurohr. You are invited to attend the Poetry Reading by the winners on Sunday, April 7, at 2:30 p.m. at the Bristow Public Library.