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.

How do Friends help their Library?
Folks in local communities join together as Friends of the Library to support, improve, and promote their public libraries as an essential institution of a democratic society.

Friends of the Library is a group of individuals who are willing to volunteer their time, talents, and efforts to promote and support the library’s goals and objectives in whatever way will be helpful. Library Friends are organized to help support the work of the library, not to engage in the work and responsibilities of the library board members or the library staff. Friends of the Library cooperate with both, but do not interfere with either.

As libraries meet citizen demands for new technologies and formats, Friends are even more crucial to the success of the library. Their support helps expand the library’s effectiveness in the community.

Friends volunteer in a variety of ways to help provide high-quality services by raising funds and promoting library use, existing only to be of service to their library.

In Tennessee, not all libraries have a Friends Group. For those who do, Library Friends are the volunteer champions of the library. Friends
✓ Know their community’s needs and provide valuable feedback.
✓ Plan activities with library director and trustees, asking “what can we do,” instead of announcing “we will do this.”
✓ Raise money for materials, equipment, and projects not able to be covered by library's operating 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 communicate 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.

Governor Bill Haslam has proclaimed October 21-27, 2018 Friends of Libraries Week in Tennessee

Friends groups support Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library program in every Tennessee county.
11 Friends/Foundation library groups and 4 local libraries are the sponsoring organization for their county’s Imagination Library program, which provides free books to children from birth to age 5.

FOTL 2018-19 OFFICERS

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**Why We Have Friends Of Tennessee Libraries (FOTL)**

Friends of Tennessee Libraries is dedicated to supporting and strengthening library services and programs throughout the state. Support can come through strengthening advocacy, efforts, promoting literacy programs, increasing library awareness, providing support and encouragement for local groups, and organizing awards programs.

Specific reasons for forming our statewide organization include:

- To **ADVOCATE** Friends of Library groups in all types of libraries within local communities.
- To **ENCOURAGE** the exchange of ideas and information among Friends groups within the state.
- To **EMPHASIZE** the role of Friends of Library groups for legislative action and financial support.
- To **GENERATE** and support initiatives for improved library service.
- To **IDENTIFY** and develop new non-professional leadership within the state.
- To **PROMOTE** wider knowledge of libraries’s functions, needs, resources, and services.
- To **PUBLISH** and distribute resource material for use by local Friends.
- To **PUBLICIZE** and reward outstanding Friends groups, projects, and programs.
- To **INCREASE** the general public’s awareness of the important role of Friends and the services they perform for the library.
- To **FACILITATE** achieving national objectives in support of library services.
- To **STRENGTHEN** the total state library program through the participation of Friends along with trustees in the state library professional meetings.
- To **ADVANCE** activities specifically for Friends groups that will provide support for library development and enhance citizen advocacy wherever appropriate.

All Tennessee residents are invited to join the Friends of Tennessee Libraries, to participate in Friends activities, and to unite in support of our state’s libraries.

Website: [www.friendstnlibraries.org](http://www.friendstnlibraries.org)  I  Facebook Page: [http://tinyurl.com/FOTLFacebook](http://tinyurl.com/FOTLFacebook)


**Sample ByLaws of Tennessee Friends Groups**  [http://tinyurl.com/ByLawsOfTennFriends](http://tinyurl.com/ByLawsOfTennFriends)


**AND OTHER RESOURCES**
Friends Responsibilities in Local Library


OVERVIEW
Friends of the Library is a group of individuals who value public library services to the community and are willing to volunteer their time, talents, and efforts to promote and support the library’s goals and objectives in whatever way will be helpful. Library Friends are organized to help support the work of the library, not to engage in the work and responsibilities of the library board members or the library staff. Friends of the Library cooperate with both, but do not interfere with either. Generally the Friends areas of focus are: fundraising, advocacy, and volunteer work.

PLANNING
Keep informed of the library’s plans, progress, and problems; be willing to assist in carrying out objectives and implementing community analysis surveys and questionnaires.
Serve as advocates for local, state, and national library issues; represent the library program to legislators.

POLICY
Adopt constitution and bylaws that include clear statements of the supportive role of the Friends Group.
Arrange to have a representative from the Friends group attend board meetings to promote mutual understanding and aid in cooperation.
Support the policies of the library as adopted by the library board; offer assistance in communicating policies to citizens of the community. Conduct all activities ethically, using the Friends of Tennessee Libraries Ethical Dozen for Friends of the Library http://tinyurl.com/FriendsEthicalDozen.
Serve as additional “connecting link” in interpreting the library and community to each other; conduct fundraising and book events endorsed by the library director and board.

FINANCE
Conduct fund-raising that complements the library’s mission and provides funding for special library projects to meet needs as expressed by the library director and/or board.
At the request of the library director, use individual and collective influence to assist the library board and director in getting desired financial support from local, state, and national sources.
Contribute funds for books, training, materials, services, equipment, etc. to supplement what cannot be provided by the budget with regard to the expressed needs given to them by the library director and/or board.

PERSONNEL
Provide reliable volunteer help for projects when requested by library director.

COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT
Endorse and support the Library Bill of Rights, the Freedom to Read Statement, and the Freedom to View Statement of the American Library Association https://tinyurl.com/RightsReadView.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES
Guard against infringement of trustee’s or director’s role in connection with the operation of the library. Assist in ways compatible with the scope of Friends role and as requested by the director or library board.
Be alert to recognize ways the Friends could be helpful and receptive to suggestions from the director and/or board. Be enthusiastic and resourceful in carrying out what ever projects are undertaken and/or projects proposed by the director or library board.
Make continuous effort to maintain good communication with library board and director.
Offer suggestions for the library’s marketing and public relations program. Promote the library to the public, following the direction of the library’s marketing plan.
# 2018 Honor Roll of Tennessee Friends of Library Groups

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<td>1.</td>
<td>Friends of the <strong>Art Circle</strong> Public Library, <strong>Crossville</strong></td>
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<td>Lewis County Friends of the Library, Hohenwald</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td><strong>Benton</strong> County Friends of the Library, Camden</td>
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<td>Friends of Linebaugh Public Library, Murfreesboro (Rutherford)</td>
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<td><strong>Blount</strong> County Friends of the Library, Maryville</td>
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<td>Friends of the Library <strong>McMinn</strong> County, Athens</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>Friends of the <strong>C.E. Weldon</strong> Public Library, Martin (Weakley)</td>
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<td><strong>McNairy</strong> County Friends of the Libraries, Selmer</td>
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<td>Friends of the <strong>Chattanooga</strong> Public Library (Hamilton)</td>
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<td>Friends of <strong>Memphis</strong> Public Library (Shelby)</td>
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<td>Friends of the <strong>Cheatham</strong> County Public Libraries</td>
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<td>Friends of the <strong>Chester</strong> County Library, Henderson</td>
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<td>Friends of the <strong>Morristown-Hamblen</strong> Library</td>
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<td><strong>Claiborne</strong> County Library Friends, Tazewell</td>
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<td>Friends of <strong>Collierville Burch</strong> Library (Shelby)</td>
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<td><strong>Putnam</strong> County Library Friends, Cookeville</td>
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<td>Friends of the <strong>Crockett</strong> Memorial Library, Alamo</td>
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<td>Friends of <strong>Signal Mountain</strong> Public Library (Hamilton)</td>
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<td><strong>Tennessee Library Association</strong></td>
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<td>Friends of the <strong>Jackson-Madison</strong> County Library</td>
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<td>Friends of <strong>Thomas</strong> Memorial Branch Library, <strong>Bluff City</strong> (Sullivan)</td>
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**FRIENDS OF TENNESSEE LIBRARIES**

4109 Forest Glen Drive    Knoxville, Tennessee 37919

Website: [www.friendstnlibraries.org](http://www.friendstnlibraries.org)    Facebook Page: [http://tinyurl.com/FOTLFacebook](http://tinyurl.com/FOTLFacebook)

Membership Form: [http://www.friendstnlibraries.org/support-us/join/](http://www.friendstnlibraries.org/support-us/join/)

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