

PCBL *news*

Pennsylvania Citizens for Better Libraries

In This Issue

Become a Board Member
Page 2

Friend/Friends Group of the Year Awards
Page 3

Scholarship Winners
Page 3

Pass-through Checks
Page 4

Membership Info
Page 5

Upcoming Dates:

March 15, 2025:
Friends & Trustees Virtual Institute, 9:15 a.m. - 2:15 p.m.

April 6-12, 2025:
National Library Week

May 14, 2025:
PCBL Board Meeting, 10:30 a.m.

A Message from the President



As I write this message from my Library office in Centre County, the sun is shining, and temperatures are in the high 40s. But I have lived in Pennsylvania my entire life, so I know this little reprieve will soon give way to a more seasonal wintry mix. Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow, so it's safe to say winter has a few

more weeks to wreak its havoc. It's always challenging, therefore, to try and schedule events during the winter months, including scheduling meetings. The Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Citizens for Better Libraries held its first meeting of the year in mid-January, during the "polar vortex" of single-digit temperatures. Still, the sun was shining, the roads were clear, and we were an intrepid group of people! Fortunately, we can access virtual meeting technology through our meeting host – the Pennsylvania Library Association. This technology allows board members who are unable to attend in person to join a virtual meeting. It's a great tool that helps us recruit and retain members on our Board.

Our Board currently has nine members with wide geographic representation across the Commonwealth. Our bylaws allow us to have up to 21 board members, with one-third of our Board representing local Friends groups. These men and women meet four or five times yearly to conduct the organization's business. And what is that business?

- An important activity for the Board is **supporting the work of local Friends groups**. We currently have 113 Affiliate Friends who use PCBL for filing the annual 990 with the IRS. Affiliate Friends pay \$150 for those services. We also serve as a pass-through for our affiliate members, who receive donations through stocks, required minimum distributions, bequests, and other investment opportunities.
- Through the membership dues of our affiliate, institutional, and personal members, PCBL **supports the advocacy efforts of the Pennsylvania Library Association through an annual grant**. This grant helps the association reach out to our elected officials regarding the importance of library funding. Our board members also provide information to local Friends groups to ask them to advocate for library funding on the local level.
- PCBL's relationship with the Pennsylvania Library Association runs deep. In addition to hosting our **board meetings, PaLA partners with PCBL to sponsor a Friends & Trustees Institute**. This year, the virtual event will be held on Saturday, March 15. The 5-hour program has several breakout sessions of specific interest to Friends.
- Membership dues also provide several **scholarships to first-time attendees of the annual PaLA Conference**. PCBL is a regular exhibitor at the conference and supports it by sponsoring a lunch in the conference exhibit hall.
- Additionally, we sponsor two **annual awards**: the *Friends Group of the Year* and the *Friend of the Year*. These awards recognize the impressive contributions local Friends make to ensuring libraries across the Commonwealth are vibrant, dynamic, and welcoming places.

The PCBL Board of Directors would like to grow our Board this year to keep our momentum strong! If you are interested in learning more about PCBL and how you can be a part of it, I would love to talk to you! You can reach me at dsticha@centrecountylibrary.org or 814-355-1516 x1008.

-Denise Sticha, PCBL President

Become a PCBL Board Member

Pennsylvania Citizens for Better Libraries (PCBL), our state's network of library friends working to achieve and maintain dedicated funding for public libraries and free access to library services for all, is seeking volunteers to join its dynamic board of directors. More information can be found at www.pcbllpa.org.

Board members serve for three years and are actively involved in organizational governance. The Board meets five times a year, frequently at the Pennsylvania Library Association headquarters in Mechanicsburg, PA, with a virtual option available.

The board needs various skills and library experience from library staff and friends group members. At least one-third of board members are friends group, affiliate members.

[Click here to apply](#). Questions? Email pcbllpa@gmail.com or call 800-870-3858.

It's Award Season!

It's the time of the year when PCBL accepts applications for the Friend of the Year and the Friends Group of the Year. More information will be posted on this soon.

Award Categories are:

Friend of the Year. Award given to a citizen who has made an outstanding contribution to the improvement of a local library, group of libraries, or libraries in general throughout the State during the past two years. The Friend must be a member of a Friends Group belonging to PCBL or an individual member of PCBL

Friends Group of the Year. Award given to a Friends group that has provided significant assistance to its library. Assistance may be monetary contributions, assistance in raising funds, promoting the library and its services, or providing an advocacy effort on behalf of the library. The Friends Group must be a member of PCBL.

Scholarship Winners

Hear what three of our scholarship winners have to say about attending the Conference last year:



Maggie Maloney

"Overall, it was a very educational experience and I'm delighted to have had the opportunity to experience all four days of the convention. I brought back knowledge that will help me become a better librarian and better serve my community." -Julia Brennan

"I am so incredibly grateful to have been given this opportunity to better myself personally and professionally....I work in a small branch library so while most of my job is children's programming, I also have to be comfortable filling most other library roles." - Maggie Maloney

"The Pennsylvania Library Association 2024 Conference was my first ever conference and I felt so honored to attend! I was surrounded by people who felt the same way I did - libraries are essential and necessary and we as library workers are essential and necessary!" -Erin Thompson



Erin Thompson with Mychal Threats



April 6 - 12, 2025, is National Library Week.
The theme is "Drawn to the Library."

Change In Processing Pass-Through Donations for 2025

You might have seen a rise in patrons wanting to donate to your Friends group through an online donation website, such as Benevity, Vanguard, Schwab Charitable, and various other platforms. These and other donations or grants are made out to PCBL since we hold the 501c3 status. We receive the funds and write a check to your Friends group. We call these “**pass-throughs**”. In 2015, we had a total of five pass-throughs. Last year, the total was 60.

As you can see, we are now processing 12 times the number of pass-throughs per year than nine years ago. Checks and postage have increased considerably in those nine years, so the PCBL board felt that this was the proper time to process these pass-throughs on a quarterly basis.

This means if we receive a donation for your Friends group in January, you will not receive the check until April. We will continue to provide information on who made the donations and how many are on each check.

This increase in online donations isn't surprising since your local friend group's EIN number will come up as PCBL. Most online donation websites and granting organizations use the IRS or Guidestar EIN lookup for confirmation, which shows PCBL as the EIN holder. You might have read in a previous newsletter that we are working with many of the donation/granting platforms to ensure that PCBL receives the donation information and can easily cash the check, write another to your local Friends groups, and save the time and possibilities of them getting lost in the mail. As you can see by the numbers above, that has worked!

If your Friends group is awaiting a special grant and/or donation for a specific purpose that is time-sensitive and you need the funds sooner than quarterly, please email pcblpa@gmail.com or call us at 800-870-3858 to let us know. The first quarterly combined passthrough checks for 2025 will come out just after April 1st.

Please let us know if you have any questions by email or phone.

Membership Fees & Application

We'd love to have you join us! To become a member, download the membership application and submit it to the address on the form.

Individual Membership

- Benefactor: \$1,000
- Patron: \$500
- Sponsor: \$125
- Sustaining: \$60
- Personal: \$25

Organizational Membership

- Patron: \$500
- Corporate: \$250
- Sponsor: \$125
- Friends Group: \$50

Affiliate Membership

- 501c3 Affiliate: \$150
- Affiliate membership requires approval from the PCBL Board after a series of paperwork is completed.



Contact Us:

pcblpa.org

pcblpa@gmail.com

800-870-3858

PCBL BOARD MEMBERS

President: Denise S. Sticha, Executive Director, Centre County Library and Historical Museum

Vice President: Susan Tracey, President of the Mt. Lebanon Public Library Friends

Treasurer: Brandt A. Ensor, Assistant Executive Director, Adams County Library System

Secretary: Marcia Wilson, Friends of the Littlestown Library

Jessica Brangiel, Swarthmore College, Electronic Resources Management Librarian

Jairee Counterman, Advancement, Cumberland County Library System & Foundation

Deborah J. Dorshimer, Friends of the Upper Darby Township Public Libraries

Judy Schwambach, Board Member, Muhlenberg Community Library

Stephanie Thompson, Education Librarian/Assistant Professor, Millersville University & Friends of the Lancaster Public Library

PCBL EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Sue Miller, MSLS, Independent Librarian in reference, research, and information