

PCBL *news*

Pennsylvania Citizens for Better Libraries

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Upcoming Dates:

**October 19-22, 2025: Erie,
Bayfront Convention Center**
PaLA Annual Conference

November 12, 2025:
**PaLA Headquarters,
Mechanicsburg**
PCBL Board Meeting

March 7, 2026:
**Friends & Trustees Virtual
Institute, 9:15 a.m. - 2:15 p.m.**

A Message from the President



As I write this, the first signs of fall are already here—leaves are beginning to turn, mornings and evenings carry a chill, and the sun is setting just about the time I finish supper. One highlight for me every fall is the annual Pennsylvania Library Association Conference, which will take place this year at the Bayfront Convention Center in Erie from October 19-22. Once again, PCBL will be exhibiting at the conference and

presenting several programs about PCBL and the important work of Library Friends. I'd like to extend a heartfelt thank-you to the many Friends groups who generously helped underwrite the refreshment breaks for attendees. Your support is deeply appreciated!

This year's conference coincides with another special occasion: National Friends of Libraries Week, observed during the third week of October. United for Libraries—the American Library Association division that supports Friends, Foundations, and Trustees—has chosen the theme "Drawn to Your Library." The theme echoes the summer's "Color Our World" programming, reminding us of the many ways libraries enrich and brighten our communities.

Many Friends groups across Pennsylvania will use this week to spotlight their contributions in making libraries vibrant and welcoming. Each of us also has a personal story of how we were first "drawn" to the library community. At PCBL, we'll be celebrating National Friends of Libraries Week at the conference, and I hope you'll stop by our booth in the Exhibit Hall to share your story with us.

If you can't attend in person, I'd still love to hear from you. We're creating a message board to collect and display stories from across the Commonwealth. Please email yours to dsticha@centrecountylibrary.org and tell us how you were drawn to the library—and how your Friends group helps make your corner of Pennsylvania a brighter, more colorful place.

-Denise Sticha, PCBL President

Friends Groups of the Year Announced

PCBL has named **Arthur's Friends/Hufnagel Public Library of Glen Rock** and **Friends of the East Penn's Valley Library** as 2025 Library Friends Groups of the Year.

Arthur's Friends was nominated by Kathy Heisler of the Hufnagel Public Library of Glen Rock for their intensive efforts to raise funds needed to restore their beloved library after a water leak, subsequent mold, and then asbestos that was discovered during the clean-up process. Arthur's Friends moved furniture and books to areas of the library not affected by the flooding, then got busy with an all-out effort to raise the \$140,000 they would need to make their library usable again. In her nomination, Kathy wrote, "In a small town like Glen Rock, our Library is the center of town. People depend on us for more than just books." As of July 10, 2025, Arthur's Friends had raised \$130,000 towards their goal of \$140,000. The Library is still closed, but very close to achieving its fundraising goal so that repairs can be completed and this vital community asset can reopen.

Brady A. Clemens and Denise Sticha nominated the Friends of the East Penns Valley Library for keeping their library open through fundraising and a 100-percent volunteer staff after being closed by the Centre County Library System in 2012. Without the volunteer efforts of the Friends of East Penns Valley Library, residents of eastern Centre County would have no physical access to a library. Open 15 hours a week, the East Penns Valley Library is located in the former East Penns Valley Elementary School, now the Millheim Borough Building. In his nomination, Brady A. Clemens wrote, "While simply running the library is a job all by itself, the Friends don't merely stop at circulating and fundraising. The Friends sponsor a number of programs throughout the year." (*continued page 3*)

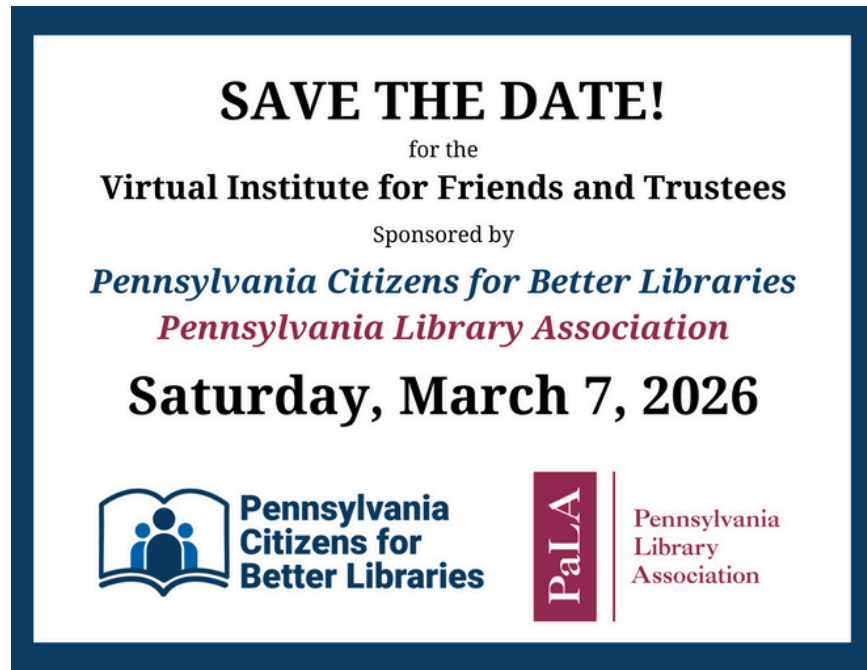


Denise Sticha, President of PCBL with the Friends of the East Penn's Valley Library. Shown are members Betsy Forsythe, Ruth Henry, Mary Anne Knapp, Lisa Shaffer, and Lisa Rivera.



Friends Group of the Year continued...

The work of all Friends of the Library and Friends of the Library groups is greatly appreciated, and PCBL is especially honored to be able to recognize Arthur's Friends and Friends of the East Penns Valley Library for going above and beyond for their libraries. For over 25 years, the Board of PCBL has called for nominations in various categories to recognize and call attention to people and organizations that have made significant contributions to libraries across the Commonwealth.



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.



2025 Pennsylvania Library Association Conference
Bayfront Convention Center in Erie
October 19-22, 2025 (*Exhibit days October 20 & 21*)

PCBL will be at the PaLA annual conference this October. Come and visit us!

We will have a booth in the Exhibitor's Hall on Monday and Tuesday at **Booth #54**.

PCBL is presenting a program on Sunday:

Session Title: Make New Friends - But Keep the Old. Retention and Recruitment to Keep Friends Strong.

Session Date: Sun., 10/19/2025

Time: 2:15:00 PM - 3:15:00 PM

Speakers: Denise Sticha, President, Pennsylvania Citizens for Better Libraries, Executive Director, Centre County Library and Historical Museum

Susan Tracy, Vice-President, PCBL, President, Friends of the Mt. Lebanon Library Friends.

Did you know that PCBL offers four grants for first-time conference goers to attend this important event?

We are pleased to announce the winners of these grants:

- Andrea Haas, Assistant Director, Sinking Spring Public Library
- Andrey Romanov, MSLS Student, Pennsylvania Western University - Clarion
- Katelyn Struthers, Director, Lakeview Area Public Library
- Joan Yamrick, Interlibrary Loan Specialist, Misericordia University

Please join us in congratulating the winners and welcoming them to their first PaLA conference experience!

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, System Administrator, Wayne Library Alliance

Secretary: Marcia Wilson, Friends of the Littlestown Library

Jessica Brangiel, Electronic Resources Management Librarian, Swarthmore College

Jairee Counterman, Advancement, Cumberland County Library System & Foundation

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

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

PCBL EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Sue Miller, MSLS, Independent Librarian in reference and research