

PCBL *news*

Pennsylvania Citizens for Better Libraries

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Upcoming Dates:

March 13, 2024:

PCBL Board Meeting

March 23, 2024:

Library Friends & Trustees Institute

May 15, 2024:

PCBL Board Meeting

A Message from the President



Pennsylvania Citizens for Better Libraries, also known as PCBL, has a rich and storied history supporting libraries across the Commonwealth. Established in 1979 as an independent organization committed to advancing libraries and library services, PCBL has accomplished much over the years.

We are grateful to our founding members for their vision and to the many leaders who followed them for sustaining and expanding our mission. In celebrating our organization's 25th anniversary in 2004, Sally Oates, PCBL's President then, remarked, "Our belief in public libraries as the keystone to democracy has never been more important." This rings true today 20 years later. So many public and school libraries are facing unprecedented challenges.

As a Board member and current President of PCBL, I am often asked, "Why should I become a member?" And my response is always, "Why wouldn't you want to?" Here is an organization whose mission is to:

- Stimulate public and governmental awareness of the value of libraries as essential community services
- Facilitate and nurture library Friends and volunteer support groups
- Promote public interest and support for library funding, free usage, and legislative advocacy; and

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- Work in partnership with the Pennsylvania Library Association, the Governor's Advisory Council on Library Development, the Office of Commonwealth Libraries, and the American Library Association's United for Libraries.

While we have much to be proud of, a great deal of work remains to be done. Through their dues, our members provide revenue to support the advocacy work of the Pennsylvania Library Association, provide scholarships for library staff to attend professional development opportunities, and help local Friends groups connect with each other. This year, we are excited to bring back the tradition of our annual Friends Institute in collaboration with PaLA. We are offering a virtual experience this year, and it promises to be an informative event. If you haven't registered yet – take a look at the schedule. I hope we "see" many of you there.

-Denise Sticha, PCBL President

2024 Library Friends & Trustees Institute

Pennsylvania Citizens for Better Libraries & the Pennsylvania Library Association are sponsoring a Virtual Institute for Library Friends & Trustees on Saturday, March 23, 2024. The sessions will be presented live & entirely online from 9:15 a.m. - 2:15 p.m. with content recorded for extended access through June 23, 2024. This is an exciting new opportunity for library Friends groups and library board members to learn and engage together. Anyone who is involved in library governance and operations, library fundraising or advocacy can benefit.

To register, go to <https://www.palibraries.org/page/2024FriendsTrusteesInst>

Members of Pennsylvania Library Association or Pennsylvania Citizens for Better Libraries receive a membership discount. If you aren't sure of your PCBL membership status, contact us at pcblpa@gmail.org.



2023 Tax Forms Due

2023 Affiliate Member Tax Packets were mailed to all PCBL affiliates to be completed and returned. Forms can also be found on our website at <https://pcblpa.org>. Affiliate tax forms for 2023 are due on or before March 1 to maintain the \$125 membership fee. Those returned after March 1 but on or before April 1 will have an increased membership rate of \$175. Those received after April 1 will not be included in our group return. This is to ensure that our group return, which includes all of our affiliates, is returned on time.

Sample Forms for Friends Groups

United for Libraries, a division of the American Library Association, offers free **Organizational Tools for Friends Groups**. Included are tools for creating or amending:

Bylaws
Mission Statements
Understanding Roles
Policies
MOUs

Other free toolkits and helpful tools are also available on this website.

United for Libraries
Association of Library Trustees,
Advocates, Friends and Foundations 

Request a Speaker

Both Education and Advocacy are important to PCBL. Request a Board Member to come to visit your group to advise, encourage, support, train, or just plain listen to your needs!

Our Board Members will share experiences to help your Friends group, discuss ideas, or offer advice.

For more information, go to www.pcblpa.org

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: \$125
- Affiliate membership requires approval from the PCBL Board after a series of paperwork is completed. For more information, click [here](#).



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

Jairee Counterman, Advancement, Cumberland County Library System & Foundation

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

Nancy Hallowell, President of the Friends of Upper Darby Public Libraries; retired director, Upper Darby Public Libraries

Judy Schwambach, Friends of the 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