

PCBL *news*

Pennsylvania Citizens for Better Libraries

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Upcoming Dates:

October 6 - 9, 2024:
Pennsylvania Library Association Annual Conference in Harrisburg

November 13, 2024:
PCBL Board Meeting

A Message from the President



As the current President of Pennsylvania Citizens for Better Libraries, it was my privilege this summer to present our annual awards. At the June meeting of the Pittston Memorial Library Board, I presented **Lois Ostrowski** with the **2024 Friend of the Year** award. Lois has been an active

member of the Pittston Memorial Library and the Luzerne County Library System Board and a driving force for the Friends of the Pittston Memorial Library. Her tireless efforts over decades of service have brought thousands of dollars to the library to help with capital improvements, programs, and library collections. Later, in July, I attended a special celebration of the **Friends of the Bradford County Library** to present the group with PCBL's **Friends Group of the Year Award**. These Friends embarked on a community-wide public awareness campaign to inform county residents of library funding issues. As part of my road trip to these beautiful libraries, I made presentations, visited with staff, and learned about their programs and services. Because it was during the summer months, both libraries were festively decorated and busy with summer reading/learning programs. I can definitely confirm that "Adventure Begins at Your Library."

And, as summer winds down, our next adventure takes place at the Pennsylvania Library Association's (PaLA) annual conference. The conference is in Harrisburg this year, and

PCBL will again be one of the conference exhibitors. We also present a session on laws and regulations about small games of chance. In addition to exhibiting and delivering sessions, PCBL provided scholarship funds to send four first-time library staff to the conference. Advocacy issues at the local, county, and state levels are important for library Friends groups, and we hope that many of our Friends who are close to the Harrisburg area will attend the PaLA press conference in Rotunda on Wednesday, October 9th. Conference attendees are encouraged to meet with their state-elected representatives on Wednesday. As a Friend, I know your voice is important to our officials. Our state officials need to hear from you about the work our libraries do in our communities and how state funding is critical. They also need to hear about the work you, as a Friend, do to support your local library. If you can't make it to Harrisburg, certainly you can find a few minutes to call or write your local state senator and representative. Share your library story and your vision for the library in the years to come. Encourage them to increase library funding to make that vision possible.

One final suggestion: if you can come to Harrisburg for the conference or on a road trip adventure, I encourage you to visit the newly remodeled State Library. The facility has been closed for the past four years for extensive renovations and restoration work. Every Pennsylvanian should be proud of this beautiful facility and its resources. The Office of Commonwealth Libraries is hosting an opportunity for conference attendees to tour the State Library and learn about its unique collections and services. The event will be on Monday, October 7th from 6-8.

-Denise Sticha, PCBL President



*PCBL President Denise Sticha
with Lois Ostrowski, the 2024
PCBL Friend of the Year*

Come visit us at
the PaLA conference
in Harrisburg!

We will be at booth #7 in the Exhibit Hall on
Monday, 10/7, 12:30 - 5:30 pm
Tuesday, 10/8, 9:30 am - 2:30 pm

Check out our Exhibitor Showcase session: ***Do
We Need Small Games of Chance Permits for
That?***

Tuesday, 10/8, from 10:10-10:55 am

We hope to see you there!

By the Numbers

Findings from the 990 tax filing

As you know, each year, we collect your local Friends' group income and expense information as well as bank balances to report on our group 990 form with the federal government. This is one of the perks of being an affiliate member of PCBL. What we have never shared before are some of the totals. I always find them very interesting, and they show how much your local Friends groups do collectively for libraries in Pennsylvania. Here are some of the numbers from our 2023 tax return.

- 115 Friends of the Library Groups:
 - Raised \$859,877 in contributions and grants.
 - Raised \$1,076,628 in fundraising proceeds.
 - With interest in all added in, a total of \$1,963,954 in income!
- Expenses of \$1,872,433, including operating expenses. Of that is \$1,076,091 directly to your local libraries.
- Hold assets of \$3,475,266 to help your local libraries thrive.
- The largest single donation to one of our Friends of the Library Groups in 2023 was \$28,320 from the Armstrong County Community Foundation in Kittanning.

-Brandt Ensor, PCBL Treasurer

Save the Date!

2025 Library Friends & Trustees Institute

Pennsylvania Citizens for Better Libraries & the Pennsylvania Library Association will sponsor their second Virtual Institute for Library Friends & Trustees on Saturday, March 15, 2025. The sessions will be presented live & entirely online. This is an exciting 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. Here are some comments from the 2024 Institute:

- *"Thank you all - this year's Trustee Institute Invigorated and renewed my strength and zest for Libraries at a time when I desperately needed it!! Thank YOU!!!" - Connie C.*
- *"Totally worth it!" -anonymous*
- *"As a new Board member, I found the experience invaluable." -Patricia E.*

March 15, 2025



Pennsylvania
Library
Association



Pennsylvania
Citizens for
Better Libraries

Donation Checks

Why are donations to your Friends group made payable to PCBL?

We are often asked why checks from granting organizations or online giving platforms are written out to Pennsylvania Citizens for Better Libraries.

Since your local Friends groups are affiliate members of PCBL, you fall under our tax-exempt umbrella and 501c3 status. That is the big perk of being a member of PCBL. In the eyes of the IRS, though, if you search your local Friends group's EIN in any non-profit database, including the [IRS Master File](#) where all EINs are listed, your local Friends group's name will come up as Pennsylvania Citizens for Better Libraries, since PCBL is the 501c3 title holder for all of our affiliate Friends groups.

What makes this more of an issue today than it has been is the tremendous flourishing of online giving and philanthropy and the use of technology to make it all easier for donors.

For example, you donate to your local Friends group through your work, using an online company such as Benevity, which your work has contracted with to serve as the broker of your workplace giving. Benevity, Vanguard, Frontstream, and similar platforms make it easy for large employers to tackle workplace giving. You have the funds taken out of your paycheck, and Benevity collects the payments from your employer and sends the checks monthly or quarterly to the non-profit. When they run the EIN Number of your Friends group, they see it coming up as Pennsylvania Citizens for Better Libraries. They then process the check and mail it out. We provide a free pass-through service so that you can submit your check to our Pittsburgh PO Box, and we will cut you a check written to your local Friends group. Clunky, yes, but the industry has been running this way for ten to fifteen years.

We have set up direct deposit with Benevity, Frontstream, and Vanguard. Some tweaks are still being worked out on the last two, but it has improved the timeliness of getting your donations to you. I hope you feel that way when the check arrives at your local address. So, if you get a paper check written out from anyone to PCBL at your local address, please send it to the PO Box in Pittsburgh, and we will get it turned around for you as quickly as possible. Feel free to [email PCBL](#) with questions about this important issue.

-Brandt Ensor, PCBL Treasurer

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.



Contact Us:

pcblpa.org

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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 Countermand, 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, 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