



FLS **Regional Workshops**

FLS has developed two in-person workshops that Friends organizations, libraries, or library systems can sponsor in their region.



A member of NYLA's Friends of Libraries Section will travel to your training site to present these programs. Both workshops are for Friends or community volunteers, library trustees, and interested staff. If you want to create a Friends of the Library, or grow an established group, to assist with ongoing volunteer and financial support for your community library, these sessions are for you.

The workshops can be hosted by an individual library, Friends of the Library group, or library system that is a member of NYLA and FLS. Sessions can be co-hosted with a regional Friends support group (see membership criteria on the other side of this flyer).

Workshop Descriptions

Each workshop is two-hours long and includes the presentation, a question and answer segment, and sharing among the participants. Attendance should be limited to 50 people. The sponsor may offer seats to other interested staff or volunteers in the region. FLS is willing to provide assistance in promoting the workshop statewide. Participants are encouraged to bring Friends membership brochures, newsletters, and program fliers about their library's activities to share.

Getting Started: Creating and Supporting a Friends Group for Your Library

Is your library thinking about starting a Friends of the Library group and you are unsure where to begin? Does your system want to encourage member libraries to establish Friends groups to expand their advocacy base? Learn the benefits of gathering community volunteers to support your library's programs and services. We'll utilize a checklist to develop your group: recruiting helpers for a steering committee, determining the Friends' mission, expanding membership, and growing the leadership to maintain an active organization.

Keep It Growing! Strengthening Your Friends of the Library Group

Continuing to develop your library's Friends group is vital to sustaining the organization long-term. Get tips on membership recruitment and volunteer engagement. Networking within your community and constantly sharing your message will revitalize your core supporters and help to maintain the group's crucial advocacy work for the library.

~ turn over for more details ~

Membership criteria and financial arrangements for hosting a workshop

- ✓ For those libraries without a formal Friends group or just starting a group: The sponsoring library needs to join NYLA and select FLS as its primary Section. FLS recommends that the library give one of its associate memberships to the chair of its Friends steering committee, once the committee has been established.
- ✓ For an established Friends group: The Friends of the Library group needs to join NYLA/FLS as an organizational member (\$50) and register all of its **elected officers** as non-voting members of NYLA.
- ✓ For library systems: The system needs to be an organizational member of NYLA and add FLS as an additional Section.
- ✓ Reimbursement for round-trip mileage and overnight accommodations (if needed) are requested for the volunteer trainer. In addition, a fee of \$50 is paid by the sponsor to FLS/NYLA (an invoice will be provided). The cost of reproducing handouts is the responsibility of the host organization or FLS will provide handouts for \$1 per participant.

Not yet a Member of NYLA and FLS? Find details at www.nyla.org under the Membership tab.

FLS requests that whenever possible the workshop be offered free of charge to the participants.

Note: Workshops are not offered through the NYLA Continuing Education Committee. Continuing Education Unit (CEU) credits from the New York Library Association cannot be awarded for attendance.

Please contact Lisa C. Wemett to schedule either of these workshops: lisawemett@frontiernet.net or by mail at 16 Drumlin Drive, Macedon, New York 14502.

Additional information can be found at www.NYLA.org/Friends > Events.

Evaluations and Recommendations

We appreciate these comments from volunteers and staff who have attended the workshops:

- Very detailed and informative presentation. I learned a lot that I didn't know before!
- Thank you! This was great. The fact that this workshop exists means my NYLA dues were worth it.
- I can't begin to tell you how much the presentation inspired me. Our Friends group has been facing some (seemingly) insurmountable hurdles; your talk was just what I needed to re-stoke my commitment to keeping the group afloat. My appreciation is heartfelt and boundless. I plan to meet with our Library Director and then to propose a concrete plan to the Friends to help us move forward. Please accept my thanks for your time and the patient—and FUN—explanation you provided.
- Thank you for a well outlined program.
- Great roundtable discussions and sharing.
- Wish I had been here 2 years ago.
- Terrific – lots of good information.

Brian M. Hildreth, Executive Director of the Southern Tier Library System, endorses "Getting Started" as *"...a great program for public libraries wanting to start, run, and sustain a Friends group. FLS offers insight for libraries that have a Friends group, but are looking for new ideas; or for libraries that need to build something from the ground up. Definitely worth attending."*

Presentations given across New York State:

Getting Started

- ★ Southern Tier Library System
- ★ Friends of the Plattsburgh Public Library
- ★ Ramapo Catskill Library System
- ★ Pioneer Library System
- ★ Central NY Library Resources Council

Keep It Growing

- ★ Mid-Hudson Library System
- ★ Friends of the Orchard Park Public Library
- ★ Friends of the Victor Farmington Library
- ★ North Country Library System
- ★ Friends of the Webster Public Library