



Among Michigan Friends

INFORMATION • SUPPORT • ADVOCACY

Volume 17, Issue # 1 September 2009

www.foml.org

Message from the President

Charles Hanson,
Kettering University

The recent turmoil created by the State's fiscal crisis and the Governor's Executive Order concerning proposed changes in the Library of Michigan structure and services has made all library supporters (Friends) keenly aware of the vulnerable nature of libraries and their services. (See Pages 2 and 3 for more on this topic.)

A friend remarked to me that the situation seemed comparable to "barbarians at the gate," ready to take away and destroy vital information services and the life blood of communities at a time when all Michigan communities need library services as never before.

I have been asked what position the Friends of Michigan Libraries has taken with regard to the Governor's Executive Order and any other actions that affect Michigan library services. The FOML Board has approved support for the plan of action of the Michigan Library Association (MLA) and the library cooperatives (who face substantial loss of state aid) as they confront the

(continued on Page 2)

Adopt a Garden: The Friends' Role in Greening Libraries

Green is the color of the day, and more and more of Michigan's public libraries are taking the environment into consideration in everything they do—and not just when building a new facility or remodeling an old one. By recycling countless used books, whether it involves making them available for resale or disposing of them properly, Friends are already at the forefront of this effort. But what other kinds of initiatives can Friends participate in to make the facilities they support more sensitive to environmental concerns? Please join FOML at the Pittsfield Branch of the Ann Arbor District Library for some insights into the role that Friends can play in "greening" their libraries.

First up in the morning is a keynote address featuring Jeff Williams and Jacob Corvidae of Detroit-based WARM Training Center, a nonprofit organization founded in 1981. WARM Training Center offers education, training, and technical assistance to help promote resource-efficient, affordable, and healthy communities by developing green practices in businesses and homes. Next on the agenda is Josie Parker, director of the Ann Arbor Public Library, whose talk will focus on her system's eco-friendly practices and building projects.

After the lunch break and tours of the facility, the afternoon session will begin with a presentation on a subject of vital interest to virtually all Friends groups—volunteer recruitment and retention. Sharing her insights on this topic is Tamara Rummel, the executive director of the Huron Valley Area Service Center of the American Cancer Society.

"Table Talks" and Then Some Later in the Afternoon

Rounding out the day will be not one, but two chances for Friends in attendance to network with each other and with the FOML board. "Table Talks"—FOML's casual, fast-paced, and informative small-group discussions—will expand on the speakers' themes by focusing on volunteers and volunteerism and "greening" your library. Then FOML will ask *you* to help shape the next workshop by participating in a special brainstorming session. Don't miss this chance to have a hand in setting the agenda for Ypsilanti in February 2010. We want to know what's on your mind and how FOML can help!

**This Friends Linking Friends Workshop will be held on
Thursday, October 29, 2009,
from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.**

See page 9 for registration and travel information.

Calendar	What's Inside
□ Friends Linking Friends Workshop February 10, 2010 Ypsilanti District Library	Dark Days Ahead for Libraries?...2
□ Deadline for applying for a grant from FOML (see page 7)—now up to \$400! September 30, 2009	Guest Commentary.....3
□ Friends Linking Friends Workshop Spring 2010 Exact Date and Location TBA (see next issue of <i>Among Michigan Friends</i> for more information)	News Around the State.....4
	Grant News.....7
	Membership or Renewal Application.....8
	Workshop Travel Information and Registration.....9

Dark Days Ahead for Michigan's Libraries?

Governor Granholm Issues Executive Order Eliminating HAL and Reorganizing the Library of Michigan; Other Funding Cuts Threaten Vital Services

*Debbie Straub
Cascade Branch, Kent District
Library*

Brother, can you spare a dime?
How about roughly \$2 billion, the estimated budget deficit in the State of Michigan? (A number that's climbing every day due to shortfalls in estimated revenue.)

The tough economic times have once again forced some major belt-tightening in state government, and one of the items on the chopping block is the entire Department of History, Arts, and Libraries (HAL).

Established in 2001 by then-Governor John Engler, HAL merged the responsibilities of the Library of Michigan, Mackinac Island State Park Commission, the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, the Michigan Office of Film and Television Services, the Michigan Historical Commission, and the Michigan

Historical Center into one department.

But in a money-saving move, Governor Jennifer Granholm issued an executive order on July 13 of this year to eliminate HAL and reorganize the Library of Michigan, transferring most of its collection, its staff, and its board of trustees to the Department of Education as of October 1, 2009. Additional cuts are expected to occur after this plan is implemented.

Genealogists were among the first to spring into action against the governor's executive order. They turned out by the hundreds at a "Hands Around the Library" rally in Lansing on August 5 to protest the dismantling of the Library of Michigan, considered one of the best genealogical libraries in the United States.

Protesters argued that such a valuable collection of newspapers, government

documents, manuscripts, diaries, and numerous other kinds of records—sembled and organized over decades and including many items contributed by genealogists themselves—should not be broken up and scattered among a wide variety of unspecified separate government departments and outside groups.

As one genealogist at the rally told a reporter for the *Lansing State Journal*, "So many resources are here under one roof. The next closest (genealogical) library is in Fort Wayne. That's where my dollars will go (if the order is implemented)."

While not at all pleased by the governor's executive order, librarians across the state have been even more concerned about a proposed 25 percent cut in library funding under

(continued on Page 6)

Message from the President *continued*

issues and attempt to offer viable alternatives and solutions.

Information about MLA's proposal and other materials relating to the dialogue taking place at this time can be found on the FOML website (www.foml.org) under the "blog link."

Most important, Michigan Friends groups need to continue to demonstrate their active support of their respective libraries and to speak loudly and clearly to politicians who will ultimately decide the outcome. We face a potential access-to-information crisis in Michigan if future political

decisions have a destructive impact on statewide library services.



Welcome to Our Blog

On a more positive note, we're pleased to announce that the Friends of Michigan Libraries now have a blog!

You can access it through the FOML website (www.foml.org) by clicking on "blog" in the header.

Or go directly to the blog at <http://foml.org/blogfoml/> to keep up with relevant news and information that affect libraries throughout the state of Michigan.

We're currently posting on the budget crisis and what steps the Michigan Library Association and others are taking to focus attention on the devastating impact of the proposed cuts.

Be sure to keep up with all the latest developments by visiting the FOML blog today, and don't forget to come back regularly for updates.

"Saving Our Past from Politicians"

Michigan Radio's Political Analyst Jack Lessenberry Weighs in on the Governor's Plans for HAL and the Library of Michigan

On July 29 of this year, political analyst Jack Lessenberry delivered the following commentary on Michigan Radio in response to Governor Jennifer Granholm's executive order to eliminate the Department of History, Arts, and Libraries and reorganize the Library of Michigan. As Lessenberry explains, this particular effort to trim the state's formidable budget deficit is not at all in the best interest of its citizens.

Reprinted in Among Michigan Friends by permission of Jack Lessenberry.

When you ask classical scholars what part of the ancient world they most wish hadn't been lost, the answer is almost always the same: The ancient library of Alexandria, which contained hundreds of thousands of literary and scientific works now lost to us forever.

Nobody is quite sure who destroyed the library or burned the books. But everyone does agree that civilization lost a priceless part of its heritage when that happened.

Our state has its own great library too, the Library of Michigan in Lansing, which has been around, in one form or another, since before we became a state. It contains 5.6 million priceless books, documents and records, all in a wonderful building in Lansing.

Any citizen can use the library and check out material from it. Additionally, thanks to federal

matching funds, the state library system is able to subscribe to online databases that allow Michigan residents to access a vast array of resources from across the world.

But Governor Jennifer Granholm wants to end all of this and deprive Michigan residents of this invaluable resource. She has issued an executive order transferring control of the library to the Department of Education. And that's not just a meaningless bureaucratic procedure. Along with it comes dramatic cuts, and a real chance that the library's extensive collections will be scattered.

James Seidl, who directs a consortium of 49 libraries in southern Michigan was deeply appalled. "Distributing or removing these collections destroys 180 years of collecting, cataloging and preserving materials," he told the *Toledo Blade* last week.

Destroying our heritage for a pittance is crazy.

In fact, the administration has been talking about converting the library building into some vague, yet to be formed entity called the Michigan Center for Innovation and Reinvention. I can hardly wait.

Nor does the governor's assault on history and the arts stop there. The library is a casualty of her shortsighted decision to abolish the

Department of History, Arts and Libraries.

What that would probably do is end all arts grants funding in the state, which means we would lose matching federal funds as well. The state librarian would be fired. The popular *Michigan History* magazine would stop publishing. The library would also stop allowing patrons to check out books, which, as respected Lansing columnist Susan Demas noted ironically, is sort of why libraries exist.

The real irony is that Granholm was originally elected with enthusiastic support from the arts community. They despised her predecessor, John Engler, even though he was the guy who created the department she wants to abolish.

Now I know what you are thinking. The state is running a massive budget deficit and cuts have to be made. Well, I couldn't agree more. The deficit is something like \$2 billion dollars.

But do you know how much abolishing the entire Department of History, Arts and Libraries would save? A mere two million. That's one one-thousandth of what's needed to close the gap. They could save more by postponing office building renovations.

There is, however, a way out. The legislature could reject this executive order and find the savings elsewhere.

Destroying our heritage for a pittance is crazy. Which is something even a modern-day barbarian should know.

Best Practices from Your Colleagues



News Around the State

FRIENDS OF
MICHIGAN
LIBRARIES
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*Don't see news about your Friends group here? It might be because we haven't received a copy of your newsletter! If you publish a newsletter—or if your library publishes one containing information about the Friends—please send it to FOML, c/o Debbie Straub, 9700 Grand River Dr. SE, Lowell, MI 49331. **You can also send your newsletter or individual news items via e-mail to newslettereditor@foml.org.** On behalf of FOML and Friends everywhere, thanks for sharing!*

Fenton

The **Friends of the Fenton Library** celebrated Library Lovers Month in February 2009 with a special program entitled, "Libraries Love Novel Lovers!" The event featured several local notables and community leaders giving "mini-booktalks" on their favorite reads, followed by a raffle for a large gift basket, two stacks of gift books, and a bookstore gift certificate. The program proved to be so enjoyable that the Friends decided on the spot to hold the second annual "Libraries Love Novel Lovers!" program in February 2010.

Stephenson

The **Friends of the Menominee County Library** sponsor an annual Reading Challenge open to all patrons 18 years of age or older who are no longer in high school and who have a valid library card. The challenge? Read 100 books in one year! Contestants must check out at least half of their books from the library and regularly complete and turn in record sheets noting the titles and authors of every book they've read as well as include a few brief comments on each one. Local merchants and individuals donate prizes for a drawing held at the end of the challenge, which begins on October 1 of one year and concludes on October 1 of the next year. Each person who has read 100 books has one chance to win a prize, with an additional chance given for each 25 books a person reads beyond the initial 100-book level. (Each reader is allowed only one prize, however.)

Muskegon

Thanks to the generous support of the **Friends of the Hackley Public Library**, the stained glass windows that have graced the elegant Romanesque-style structure since it was built in 1890 were fully restored to their former glory. The Friends had been working since 1995 to raise most of the funds needed for the project, estimated to cost around \$140,000. Craftsmen from a special Virginia-based glass restoration firm had to remove the windows and take them back to their workshop for a thorough cleaning, complete re-leading, and repair of broken glass.

Sterling Heights

With help from their Friends, the Sterling Heights Public Library has launched a Mom's Book Club for stay-at-home and part-time working mothers. The group meets monthly on Monday mornings, and kids are welcome—toys and games are available elsewhere in the room to keep the little ones occupied while the book discussion takes place. The **Friends of the Sterling Heights Public Library** purchase extra copies of the books on the schedule

to make sure they're available to everyone who's interested in attending.

From the **Friends of the Cascade Library** and several other Friends groups across the state comes word of an especially timely program idea. Escanaba-based filmmaker, songwriter, and author Bill Jamerson presents an entertaining and educational look back at the Depression-era public works project known as the Civilian Conservation Corps. Combining storytelling, original songs, and old photos and films, Jamerson pays tribute to the so-called "Dollar-a-Day Boys"—teens from underprivileged backgrounds who were put to work building national parks, constructing roads, fighting forest fires, and planting trees. The money they earned helped put food on the table for their families back home, and the experiences they shared at the military-style camps often served as turning points in their lives. Jamerson also does programs on such "Michigan-centric" topics as lumberjacks, iron and copper miners, ski jumpers, and life in the Upper Peninsula. For more information, go to www.williamjamerson.com, e-mail jamerson@gmail.com directly at wjamerson@gmail.com, or call him at (906) 420-3100.

Grand Rapids

And from out of state...

The **Friends of the Union County Library** in Blairsville, Georgia, hold a book exchange during their annual membership luncheon. At this popular event, attendees bring a favorite new or gently used book, which is placed on a table for browsing. Those who arrive early are given a number that entitles them to first choice of the books.

Out of State

The **Rhode Island Coalition of Library Advocates** recently sponsored a student essay contest entitled "My Library of the Future." Open to students from grades 6 through 12, its goal was to inspire children to think about what role libraries will play in years to come (especially as resources for both school and public libraries continue to diminish) and to help them recognize the importance of libraries.

An especially tasty fundraiser takes place in Franklin, Wisconsin, every November in support of the local library. Dubbed "Divas and Divine Desserts," the event is held by the **Friends of the Franklin Public Library** and features professional singers who belt out Broadway tunes while attendees sample a variety of fancy treats prepared under the direction of a culinary artist. The Friends help make the desserts and also assist in setting up before the program, serving, and cleaning up after the program. Tickets sell for \$12 by advance purchase or \$15 at the door.

Many Friends groups hold art auction fundraisers. But the **Friends of the Waccamaw Library** in Pawleys Island, South Carolina, recently decided to turn tradition on its head and freshen up an event that had grown a little stale. Instead of soliciting local artists to submit their works for a juried competition, they asked members of the community to donate one of their personally owned pieces of art to be auctioned. The event was billed as "Art with a History," and donors were encouraged to pass along a little bit of information or a story to accompany their donated art.

Dark Days Ahead *continued*

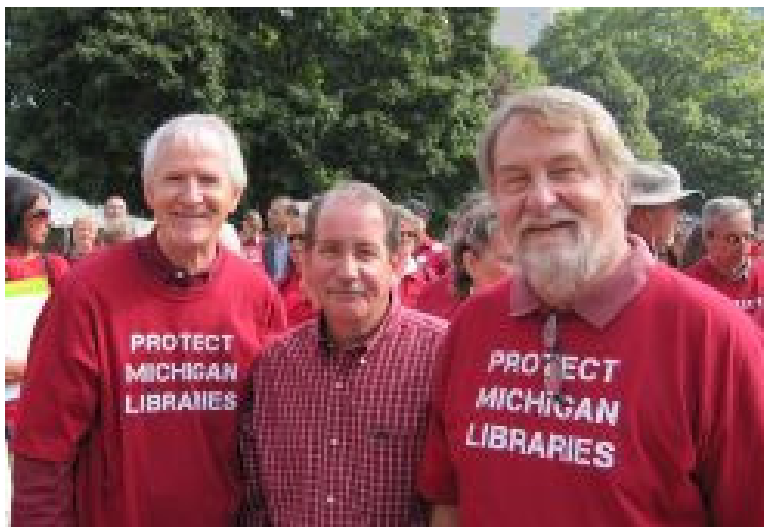
consideration in the state Senate. Reducing the governor's proposed \$10 million budget for libraries to \$7.5 million would threaten a number of vital services, according to the Michigan Library Association (MLA). Chief among those services are the ones connected to the Michigan Electronic Library, or MeL. The resources that MeL provides are available 24/7 to all Michigan residents without charge and can be accessed via computer from home, work, school, or any other place with a web connection.

MeL informational databases, for instance, give users access to electronic books, reference resources, and full-text articles from newspapers, popular magazines, and academic journals. The cost of duplicating this service in each and every public and academic library that now taps into MeL would easily run into the millions; many smaller facilities in particular would be unable to shoulder the expense and could no longer offer their patrons access to such databases.

Another MeL service that would be profoundly affected is the statewide MeLCat search and

delivery system. MeLCat is a comprehensive catalog listing books, music, audio books, movies, etc., in the collections of libraries all over the state. A patron who searches MeLCat from anywhere in Michigan can request any listed item and have it delivered free of charge to their local library in 2-3 days.

Colleges and universities have come to rely on MeLCat to make additional materials easily available to their students. Individuals have been able to count on the convenience and reliability of MeLCat to obtain a



FOML was well represented at the September 10 "Protect Michigan Libraries" rally at the Capitol in Lansing. Left to right, President Charles Hanson, Trustee Paul Snyder, and Advisor Roger Mendel.

book they want to read that's sitting on a library shelf several hundred miles from their home.

(To watch a YouTube video clip about MeL produced by WXYZ-TV

in Detroit, please visit <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rIr4VHAwCQ>.)

As of press time, the MLA is continuing to work with the governor and state legislature to address the issue of appropriate funding for Michigan public library services. Acknowledging the necessity of some cuts, the MLA has dropped its opposition to eliminating the Department of History, Arts and Libraries, which is expected to save \$2 million. But it is working hard to save the Library of Michigan, and it is fighting vigorously to maintain full funding for MeL and MeLCat at \$10 million.

Meanwhile, there are rumors circulating that the state legislature is considering even deeper cuts to state aid to libraries than the ones previously reported, perhaps totaling as much as \$3.5 million.

What can *you* do to let representatives in Lansing know how you feel about supporting libraries? For a quick and easy way to write to your legislator, plus locate information on the Michigan Library

Association's ongoing efforts to organize a grassroots campaign to preserve funding for the state's libraries, please visit their special advocacy website at <http://www.milibrariesforthefuture.org>.

I think the health of our civilization, the depth of our awareness about the underpinnings of our culture, and our concern for the future can all be tested by how well we support our libraries.

— Carl Sagan

Could *Your* Group Use Some Free Money?

Apply Now for an FOML Grant and Receive Up to \$400

Just when you need it most, FOML stands ready to help! Deserving Friends organizations can now apply for up to \$400 in grant money to use for projects aimed at getting your group noticed.

Now FOML will offer grants of up to \$400 twice a year to Friends groups whose applications meet the necessary criteria and the deadline requirement. (See below for details.) The grants are intended to help new or revived Friends organizations in their efforts to become more effective. This typically includes developing materials that explain who the Friends are and what they do.

Past recipients have used their grant money to design and print brochures, create new logos, purchase banners to display at Friends events, underwrite mailings to potential members, design and distribute bookmarks, pay for newspaper advertisements, launch newsletters, and fund membership drives. Our goal is to help you thrive and grow to become vital members of your community. The possibilities for outreach are limited only by your imagination!



Hassle-Free Application Process

Applying for your FOML grant is easy. There are two different ways to obtain the necessary form: you can download it from the FOML website (www.foml.org), or you can request a copy by mail by contacting Betty Newton, FOML Grants Coordinator, 31272 Kendall, Livonia, MI 48154.

Once you have filled out your grant application, submit it along with a brief explanation of how you intend to make use of any money you might receive. Be sure to keep in mind that the purpose of an FOML grant is to assist new or revived Friends groups become more effective.

Also, please note that applicants must agree to join FOML prior to receiving the grant if selected and to report on their grant-related activities periodically following receipt of a grant. (*Please see next page for a membership application form, or go to www.foml.org to download one.*)

Applications received by September 30 will be considered for the fall grant cycle, and those received by March 31 will be considered for the spring cycle.

So what are you waiting for? Don't delay—get that application in *today!*

Plan Now for National Friends of Libraries Week

October 18-24, 2009

Did you know that Friends of the Library groups have our very own national week of celebration? Well, we do!

The tradition began in 2006 under the auspices of the Friends of Libraries USA (FOLUSA). Earlier this year, FOLUSA merged with the Association for Library Trustees and Advocates (ALTA) to

become the Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations (ALTAFF), and now ALTAFF is coordinating the fourth annual event.

This is an excellent time to promote your organization in the community and encourage people to join up and get involved. It also offers an opportunity for your

library, the board of trustees, and patrons to recognize the Friends for their support for the library.

For ideas on how to celebrate National Friends of Libraries Week this October, visit ALTAFF on the web at <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/altaff/altaff/folweek/index.cfm>.

WANTED:

NEWSLETTERS!!!

If your Friends group publishes a newsletter—or if your library publishes one containing information about the Friends—please send it to FOML, c/o Dr. Charles Hanson, Kettering University Library, 1700 West University Ave., Flint, MI 48504-4898. **You can also send your newsletter or individual news items via e-mail to newslettereditor@foml.org.** Thanks for sharing!

Get Your Copy of the FOML Manual Today!

The latest edition of the FOML manual, *A Manual for Michigan Friends: A Guide to Creating and Nurturing an Effective Friends of the Library Organization*, is a must-have for every Friends group in search of information on how to operate successfully. The contents have been updated and clarified throughout.

Among the new or expanded chapters are "Getting and Keeping Friends," "Bookstores, Gift Shops and Cafes," "Book Sales" (including a new section on Internet selling), "Communications," and "Marketing and Public Relations" (including new information on preparing media releases).

The manual is priced at \$15.00 plus \$5.00 for mailing for a total of \$20.00.

To get your copy, visit www.foml.org to download an order form and send a check made payable to Friends of Michigan Libraries to:

FOML
c/o Dr. Charles Hanson
Kettering University Library
1700 West University Ave.
Flint, MI 48504-4898

Or, to save on mailing costs, simply purchase a copy at our next workshop.

Either way, your Friends group will reap the benefits of this invaluable resource!

Join or Renew Today!



Membership or Renewal Application

- YES!** We want to JOIN Friends of Michigan Libraries
- YES!** We want to RENEW our membership

Contact Person's Name

Contact Person's Phone Number and E-mail Address

Contact Person's Street Address

City/State

Zip

Library Name

Library phone number

Membership Fees (please check one; all are tax deductible)

- Individual \$ 10.00
- Friends Group \$ 25.00
- Patron \$ 100.00
- Benefactor \$ 500.00
- Corporate Sponsor \$ 1,000.00

Make checks payable to: **Friends of Michigan Libraries**

Send completed application form and check to:

FOML
c/o Dr. Charles Hanson
Kettering University Library
1700 West University Ave.
Flint, MI 48504-4898



Friends Linking Friends Workshop Travel Information and Registration

**Adopt a Garden:
The Friends' Role in Greening Libraries**
Thursday, October 29, 2009, 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

(Please see page 1 for program information)

Ann Arbor District Library—Pittsfield Branch

2359 Oak Valley Dr.
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

<http://www.aadl.org>

Telephone (734) 327-4200

Travel Information

The Pittsfield Branch of the Ann Arbor District Library is located in Pittsfield Township adjacent to the Ann Arbor Ice Cube arena.

For specific directions to the library from your location, please consult www.mapquest.com.

Parking

There is limited parking available at the library itself. Additional parking is available at the ice arena next door.

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Friends Linking Friends Workshop Program Registration
Thursday, October 29, 2009, 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.
Ann Arbor District Library—Pittsfield Branch
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Registration Deadline: October 23, 2009
Registration includes lunch catered by Afternoon Delight.

Make checks payable to: Friends of Michigan Libraries (FOML)

Send your check and the completed registration form below to:

FOML
c/o Carol Perrin
12319 SW Torch Lake Dr.
Rapid City, MI 49676
Questions? Telephone: (231) 322-6122; e-mail: carolper@charter.net

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Library Affiliation _____

Number Attending _____ x \$20.00. Total Amount Enclosed = _____

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Friends of Michigan Libraries
c/o Dr. Charles Hanson
Kettering University Library
1700 West University Ave.
Flint, MI 48504

TO: Friends of the Library

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The mission of the Friends of Michigan Libraries (FOML) is to support Friends working on behalf of Michigan libraries, to serve as an information resource for Friends groups, and to be advocates for libraries at the state level.

Among Michigan Friends is published three times a year as part of membership in the Friends of Michigan Libraries. FOML would like to thank Gale/Cengage Learning for its support in helping to print and mail copies of this newsletter.

Editorial contributions to the publication are welcome and should be sent to:

Debbie Straub, FOML
 9700 Grand River Dr. SE
 Lowell, MI 49331
 E-mail: newslettereditor@foml.org

**WE NEED YOUR
 E-MAIL ADDRESS!!!**



The FOML organization is moving forward with the process of adding electronic records of FOML memberships and future electronic delivery of the FOML newsletter. In order to accomplish this, we need your individual or Friends Group e-mail address.

**Please send
 your e-mail address
 with the subject
 FOML EMAIL to
 Idifilip@kettering.edu.**

Thanks for your help!