



FRIENDS OF THE ELKHART PUBLIC LIBRARY

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Friends of the Elkhart Public Library Newsletter Spring 2019

- Spring has finally come to Michiana. We have had it with Polar Vortex weather around here! Time to ditch the coats and hats and enjoy the sights and sounds of Spring.
- Our annual meeting was held on March 20, 2019. We have a new President of the Board. Ken Clayborn decided that three years was about the right amount of time to be in the position and asked that he not be considered for the position for a fourth term. We welcome a well known “person about town”, Doug Mulvaney, to the position. He was unanimously elected at the Annual Meeting. We all look forward to working with Doug. Our other officers were all re-elected; so now our officers are as follows: Doug Mulvaney-President. Libby Eisele-Vice-President. Gayle Windsor-Treasurer and Teryl Yoder-Secretary.
- We had a guest speaker at our Annual Meeting. We welcomed Tara White to address the membership. Tara White is the Director of Literacy for Elkhart Community Schools. She agreed to come and discuss the close collaboration between her program and the Elkhart Public Library. She emphasized how important Public Library programs are for summer reading programs. She gave the example of the Eric Litwin visit last summer when he sang and read for the children from his “Pete the Cat” books. The Library and the Friends of the Elkhart Public Library were proud sponsors of this event and will continue that sponsorship this year. She also emphasized how important Library employees, like Chuck Pieri, are to the programs at the schools. Chuck is the Branch Children’s Librarian. He works with teachers in the schools to help guide them in the selection of books which may be appropriate for the “reading aloud” projects. He also visits schools and reads aloud. In addition, he sings and plays his guitar for the children.



Tara White and Ken Clayborn Show off the “I Love Libraries” License Plate Holders from ALA



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- Additional items from the annual meeting included the election of two new board members. Jeri Stahr and Doug Mulvaney bring our board to 13 members.
- At the April board meeting the board voted to approve a \$3,000 grant request to co-sponsor the Library's effort to bring NASA astronaut Leland Melvin to the Lerner on May 15th. His visit will help kick off this year's Summer Reading Program. Additional sponsors include the Library, the Community Foundation of Elkhart and the Elkhart Education foundation. Mr. Melvin was once a professional football player but he also excelled in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) subjects. He has a Masters Degree in Material Science and initially worked at NASA in the Langley Research Center on non destructive testing methods. In 1996, he co-designed and monitored construction of an optical non-destructive evaluation facility capable of producing in-line fiber optic sensors. He will speak to Elkhart Community School children from 4th through 6th grade about his experiences in the astronaut training program.



Leland Melvin

- The Friends of The Elkhart Public Library monthly book sales continue on the first Saturday of each month from 9:00 am until 1:00 pm (except July-we are closed for summer vacations). The schedule for the rest of the year is as follows: May 4th, June 1st, August 3rd, September 7th, October 5th, November 2nd and December 7th. Please visit us in the basement at the Main Library. If you haven't been down to the Friends' book sale area you'll be surprised at the variety of books we have and at the number of books! We recently started a special section highlighting books about life in Indiana. There are histories and books by Indiana authors such as Booth Tarkington and Gene Stratton Porter.
- The Friends of the Elkhart Public Library have been working with local schools and elder care facilities to provide "age appropriate" books to supplement their libraries. Jeri Stahr and Ken Clayborn have been leading this effort and, since starting the program in February, we have hosted visitors from Monger School, Elkhart Memorial, Hubbard Hill Assisted Living and Eastlake Terrace Assisted Living among others. Church Community Services has also expressed interest.