

# Hernando County Library Advisory Committee

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## ***Annual Report – 2010***

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*Prepared by Sharon Neville, President*

### Purpose and Mission

The purpose of the Library Advisory Committee is to advise the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) on the development and implementation of sound programs for the Hernando County Public Library System and to assist in providing a feasible, adequate public library system.

Our mission is to review and recommend policies, procedures, and initiatives of the Library Services Manager and staff in order to promote and foster broad-based citizen use of library facilities, participation in library services and programs, and access to library materials. The Library Advisory Committee is the people's voice on matters pertaining to the Hernando County Public Library System.

### Committee Membership and Meetings

Members of the 2010 Library Advisory Committee included:

Sharon Neville, President	Betty Jean Culliton
Peter Limberis, Vice President	Randi Redmon, Alternate
Janet Dunleavy	
Tommy Breedlove	

The Library Advisory Committee held monthly meetings in the meeting room at the Frederick Eugene Lykes Jr. Memorial County Library in Brooksville, Florida. Routine committee business was conducted, public input received, recommendations made and ideas shared. Reports and updates were given by Library Administration on operational, financial, and statistical issues concerning the Hernando County Public Library System.

### Highlights of Committee Activities and Accomplishments:

- Completed annual review and approval of Committee Goals and Objectives.
- Attended the Library's Volunteer Recognition event.
- Conducted interviews for vacant Committee positions.
- Responded to patron inquiries.
- Held Election of Officers.

### Library Highlights and News:

- The Friends of the Library funded the annual library program costs and expenses. More than 380 programs were offered bringing an attendance count of 14,350. The Friends donated a value of \$7,884 to the Library for programming and operational expenses.
- Recipient of State Aid to Libraries Grant funding. State Aid has contributed greatly to maintaining important resources and services at the library, particularly in the wave of the current nationwide budget constraints.
- The Library faced major challenges this year with the resignation of approximately four (4) key personnel, including the Library Services Manager, Branch Librarian, Collection Management Librarian, and a Reference Librarian.

● More than \$6,249 in donations were given to the Library. Funds included \$5,539 from the Friends of the Library and \$710 from patron donations.

#### Budget & Financial Issues

Reports were given by Library Administration, updating the Committee on the latest budget developments. The economic struggle and loss of county revenue continue to impact the library system. Discussed ideas and possible solutions to address the projected budget revenue shortfall.

The Library continues making adjustments to reduce costs and further improve efficiency by consolidating, reducing, and making eliminations when possible, and is in constant pursuit of seeking ways to improve and simplify the processes. Despite the economic decline, 93,000 card holders visited the library 465,000 times annually, provided nearly 284,000 informational and referral responses, and checked out 666,000 materials. Staff continues to strive to provide the best possible service with a reduced staff.

The State Aid to Libraries Grant funding and the support by the Friends of the Library and the community have given us a new and overwhelming sense of gratitude during this burdensome financial crisis.

#### Concluding Comments

The Board of County Commissioners carry a heavy responsibility to make decisions that are best for the community as a whole and the decision making becomes more difficult when compounded with continued budget cuts during treacherous economic times, such as these. We remain confident that, during their deliberations, the BOCC considers the unprecedented value libraries have within the community and that they will strive to preserve them for the patrons who make over one-half million visits to the library annually. In this digital age, libraries are heavily relied upon because of the available technology, as we see by the multitude of patrons who utilized the public Internet and wireless connection during their visits this year. Citizens increasingly rely on public libraries as the basis for their source of information, education, entertainment, and enjoyment.

It has been a privilege and a pleasure to serve on the Library Advisory Committee and we are appreciative to the Board of County Commissioners for granting us the opportunity to be advocates for library services in our community.