



A Newsletter from FRIENDS OF THE BOWLUS, INC.

205 E. MADISON AVENUE, IOLA, KS 66749

Summer 2018 Issue

It's that time of year again! The Friends of the Bowlus, Inc.'s annual membership drive is in full-swing. For those of you who aren't familiar with the Friends organization, we are a 501(c)3 not-for-profit whose mission is simple:

To support the bricks and mortar and operations of the Bowlus Fine Arts & Cultural Center.

We know that you appreciate what the Bowlus Fine Arts & Cultural Center has to offer our community through your past membership with the Friends, attendance at Bowlus events, and other support that you have shown in recent years. We THANK YOU and would like to officially INVITE YOU to join us in becoming a Friend of the Bowlus for the 2018-2019 membership year! Annual membership fees are only \$35 for an individual or household membership and \$50 for a business membership.

Your annual membership fee helps pay for the day-to-day operations of the not-for-profit organization while any additional gifts are tax-deductible and are either invested or put straight to work on the latest projects supporting the Bowlus. The east addition and fine arts plaza has been completed almost entirely with donations from individuals and businesses just like yours. Additional funds are still needed to complete the landscaping, install a musical instrument garden, and other aesthetic amenities. The Friends will also be building our account to support future projects yet to be determined.

Being a Friend of the Bowlus entitles you to a number of member benefits, including:

- An invitation to the Friends Annual Dinner & Meeting
Save the Date for Saturday, August 11, 2018
- Invitations to other special events scheduled throughout the year
- Priority seating for Bowlus Cultural Attraction Series events, and
Tickets for a single show - or for the entire season - will go on sale to Friends of the Bowlus Members ONLY the night of the Annual Dinner (August 11). This gives our Friends the opportunity to select the best seats in the house weeks before they go on sale to the public.
- Recognition of your support in publications and online.
Your name will be listed in all Bowlus Cultural Attraction Series event programs and on our website, showing our community your support for the Friends' mission.



The Friends of the Bowlus manages memberships on an annual basis covering July 1 - June 30. Already a member? Members must renew annually. There are two ways you can join the Friends of the Bowlus and RSVP for the annual meeting.

(1) Return the enclosed form with your check via mail, or

(2) visit our website at www.BowlusCenter.org/Friends to join the organization, make a donation, and RSVP to the annual meeting and dinner using your credit or debit card.

Please help us in our mission of maintaining the Bowlus as a state-of-the art facility for future generations to enjoy.

**Join the Friends of the Bowlus today and enjoy the many benefits of
supporting the arts in our community!**

2017-2018 FRIENDS OF THE BOWLUS, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Diana Asher, President
Karen Works, Vice-President
Rita Berntsen, Secretary/Treasurer

Jan Knewtson, Past President
Ken McGuffin, Member-at-Large
Shelby Bauer, General Board

Bret Heim, General Board
Stephanie Larson, General Board
Ken McWhirter, General Board

Gary Parker, General Board
Mary Ann Regehr, General Board
Ken Shetlar, General Board

Tom Strickler, General Board
Paula Sutherland, General Board
Van Thompson, General Board

FUNDRAISING NEVER ENDS



* NOTICE *

Gifts designated to the fine arts plaza project must be received by December 31, 2018 in order to be recognized on permanent displays.

Thank you to all members and supporters of the Friends of the Bowlus! We are finishing up the largest and most expensive project ever undertaken by the organization. The new east addition and fine arts plaza is finally a reality!

This beautiful and much needed addition is not only a valuable and visibly striking enhancement to the Bowlus, but also a gift to the community by providing handicapped accessible parking, an elevator, and other features that allow improved accessibility for the elderly and others who have difficulty walking far distances or climbing stairs. We sincerely hope the residents of Allen County and all Bowlus patrons will appreciate this new addition as it was designed and built with you in mind.

Fundraising never stops as the recurring needs of the center will continue to be our focus in the years ahead. The list of everything the Friends has accomplished through the generosity of members and supporters is very impressive but there is still so much more to be done.

We need your continued support as the recent project has taken a large share of our available money and we know needs will arise that will require financial help from the Friends. Thanks to all who have donated generously throughout the years to keep the Bowlus such a wonderful facility. Please consider a pledge or gift today to help us build up our financial reserves so the Friends can continue to be a major source of funding for future repairs and improvements.

Respectfully and with many thanks,

Your Friends of the Bowlus Fundraising Committee,
Ken McGuffin, Tom Strickler, and Gary Parker

The Friends of the Bowlus, Inc. Board of Directors has recently worked to update the organization's mission statement. The goal was to make it clear, specific (without being TOO specific), and easy to remember! I think we can all remember this one!

To support the bricks and mortar and operations of the Bowlus Fine Arts & Cultural Center.



FRIENDS OF THE BOWLUS FINANCE REPORT



As of May 31, 2017 (Just for fun!):

Cash Balance (CNB&T) = \$257,451.28

General Investment Account = \$457,279.50

Helen Gilpin Gift = \$191,216.37

Lynn Family Gift* = \$239,459.73

As of May 31, 2018:

Cash Balance (CNB&T) = \$83,550.50

General Investment Account = \$0.00

Helen Gilpin Gift = \$0.00

Lynn Family Gift* = \$104,197.67

*A gift of \$100,000 received from Mickey Lynn is permanently endowed with only the interest and dividend earnings being available for payment on project related expenses.

Between June 1 - June 15, \$4,000 was transferred from the Lynn Family Gift to the Cash (CNB&T) account and additional gifts of \$1,030 were received and deposited.

Checks were written in the amount of \$21,735.68.

PROJECT NEARLY COMPLETE

Sunny spring days brought a flurry of activity to the Bowlus. Here the EFIS receives yet another layer. The office girls loved the beautiful blue color, but it was soon painted with its final sophisticated hue.



Jeff Jordan and Susan Raines survey the south "business" end of the addition which includes the loading dock, an outdoor storage area, mailbox, and dumpster. The decorative wall (which is nearly identical to the design of the former portico wall) screens the view from the east entry doors.



Any volunteers to help wash windows? The floor-to-ceiling glass in the new entry brings in much-needed light and a warm glow to the rehearsal halls and offices in the east wing.



Forms were built for the unique sidewalk layout prior to pouring the concrete. This was the first time that we could really get a feel for the scale and design of the plaza area.



The accessible parking spaces and circle drive with easy no-stairs access to the east lobby will be a huge asset for many Bowlus patrons. The generous paved area provides a space for outdoor gathering and may someday include a few tables and chairs for an outdoor eating space.

TLC Garden Center has been working hard to get the irrigation system installed, dirt moved, trees planted, and sod laid before the grand opening event at the end of the month.



Above shows the elevator which can be accessed from the east lobby. The elevator will move between three building levels.



At left is our new view from the original entryway looking east toward the corner of Buckeye St. & Madison Ave. From our new vantage point we can see our wonderful neighbors which include the Lola Public Library, First Presbyterian Church, and Wesley United Methodist Church. We hope you have enjoyed watching our project just as much as we have.

GOODBYES & HELLOS



The Friends of the Bowlus board wants to thank Susan Raines and Traci Plumlee, for their tireless efforts to help our members throughout the years. Susan and Traci have been the face of the Friends. They have been there to answer members' questions, advise the board on the needs of the building and equipment, provide accurate financial information, recognize and receive gifts and contributions, and assure that the organizational goals were met. Susan and Traci were an awesome team and their smiles and expertise will be greatly missed! On behalf of all of the Friends of Bowlus, a huge THANK YOU!

Congratulations to Susan on her retirement!

Susan McCrate Raines is retiring on June 30, 2018. Susan has a heartfelt true love of the Bowlus Fine Arts Center. She has shown her love by her dedication for 25 years. Susan has served as Executive Director for 14 years. She was a teacher for USD 257 for 11 years, with classrooms in the Bowlus Fine Arts Center. Busy with other Bowlus activities during the work week, Susan often worked on Friends of the Bowlus activities on Sunday afternoons or late into the evenings.

Consistent with her love of the Bowlus, Susan advised the Friends board about equipment updates and facility renovation needs; the membership drive; annual dinners and pre-show events; the financial reports; the honoring of donors; and much, much more.

Susan had a vision for making the Bowlus more accessible to the patrons. In 2014, she began guiding and advising the Friends board to move towards using our financial gifts to add the elevator, the drop off area for those who had difficulty entering the building, and the loading dock for a safe unloading of show equipment. Assisted by the board, Susan's vision included an area that would be multi-functional for outdoor arts activities and consistent with the mission of the Bowlus. Under Susan's direction, the new Bowlus Fine Arts Plaza is now a beautiful tribute to those who gave generously so that all persons, young and old, could enjoy the Bowlus Fine Arts & Cultural Center for many years to come!

The Friends of the Bowlus members wish Susan only the best in the next chapter of her life.

May it continue to be filled with love of the arts.



GRAND OPENING
Friday, June 29
5:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Ribbon Cutting * Tours * Local Talent

with featured
performance by



Trust the magic of new beginnings . . .

ANNUAL MEETING + DINNER

Saturday, August 11, 2018
6:00 p.m.

\$25 per person

6:00 p.m. Gathering
6:30 p.m. Business Meeting
7:00 p.m. Dinner

RSVP by July 30

Please mail the enclosed form with payment
or register online at
www.bowluscenter.org/friends

**BOWLUS FINE ARTS & CULTURAL CENTER
LARGE REHEARSAL HALL**

Enter via the new east addition.