



Early June 2026

A Message from Interim Executive Director Andrea Heisel

Hello Friends,

There are many things I want to tell you, and I will start with a huge thank you. Thank you for all your support of our libraries and staff. Thank you for showing up to our meetings and forums and asking questions, making statements, and talking with our Board and with me. In the Friends meetings I have attended so far, I have heard your frustration and I am listening. In the weeks and months ahead, you will be seeing changes in how Timberland operates and how we work together with you to support your library and our library district, and some of those changes have already begun.

I know you are all eager for information on what is happening and what may be changing. Here are my priorities, given to me by the Board, and the progress that has been made to date:

- Immediate plan for restructuring of admin and rollback of some administrative salaries. Progress: draft proposal submitted to Board, distributed leadership with one person from each department at the leadership table. Salary reviews completed, finalizing changes to be presented.
- Assisting Board of Trustees with independent assessments (workplace and financial). Progress: Two Ad Hoc Board committees formed, information gathering and RFP (Request for Proposal) for consultant work in process.
- Engagement with our communities, staff, and stakeholders. Progress: Board has been meeting weekly with staff; I have been meeting with departments and branch staff in groups or individually (so far, met with Olympia Branch staff and following departments: Collection Services, Finance, Facilities, Creative Services – have also attended Friends Forums in Lewis and Thurston Counties, I have Friends of the Library meetings scheduled for Hoodspoint, Aberdeen, Ilwaco/Ocean Park scheduled at this time. I expect these to take us through the summer months to complete.
- Documenting decisions that are made and preparing for the next Executive Director. Progress: In process.
- Assisting Ad Hoc committee for Levy Lid Lift. Progress: In process. Scheduled meeting with Fort Vancouver Regional Library Levy Lid

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A Message from Andrea Heisel, continued

Lift lead, Executive Director Jennifer Gilltrop on Monday 6/8.

There is much, much more happening at the same time including review of policies, procedures, and finances. If you would like to schedule a time for me to meet with your Friends group, please reach out (email: ahheisel@trl.org) and we will get that scheduled. Once again, thank you for supporting our libraries. I look forward to working collaboratively with all of you as we move forward.

Sincerely,
Andrea



FRIENDS SPOTLIGHT: Library Love Gala

Centralia and Chehalis Friends Raise over \$13K for Libraries!

On May 16, the Centralia and Chehalis Friends of the Library groups hosted their first ever Library Love Gala, a fundraising event that was a resounding success and raised over \$13,000 to be split between both libraries. “This event was a powerful reminder that our communities deeply value and believe in our public libraries,” said Hallie Ralls, President of the Centralia Friends group.

Hosted at the historic Chehalis Theater, the evening brought together library supporters, local businesses, civic leaders, and community members in celebration of the essential role libraries play

throughout Lewis County. Guests enjoyed live music, a silent auction, and an enthusiastic Dessert Dash featuring local bakers.

“The Library Love Gala is just one example of how fortunate we are to have dedicated Friends groups supporting our libraries,” said Regional Manager Muriel Wheatley. “I am incredibly grateful to the Friends of the Centralia and Chehalis Timberland Libraries for their ongoing support, partnership, and belief in the power of libraries to bring people together and make a difference.”

IN THE WORKS



Quick Updates on FOL Related Projects

TRL Friends Policy and Procedures: Currently in the process of being reviewed and updated to better reflect the many positive ways Friends support TRL. Stay tuned!

TRL Friends of the Library Handbook: A brand-new guide to help Friends groups with fundraising, advocacy and more. Coming later this year!

LET'S CHAT!

During June, there will be several zoom drop in hours scheduled for Friends members to chat with Lily Grant, the Special Projects Coordinator at TRL. This is a chance to ask questions, share feedback, network with other FOL groups, brainstorm ideas, or just get to know one another. Hope to see you there!

Invites have been sent to all Friends we have an email address for. Didn't receive an invite but want to come? Please contact Lily at lgrant@trl.org for a zoom link. All Friends members are welcome!



CALL OUT FOR NEWS

Has your Friends group had a successful sale or other fundraising event recently? Sponsored a great library program? Just want to share what makes your local library special? Let us know!

We would love to highlight your Friends group in an upcoming newsletter. Contact Lily Grant at lgrant@trl.org or (360) 704-4533



QUESTIONS?

Contact Lily Grant, Special Projects Coordinator at lgrant@trl.org or (360) 704-4533

Timberland Regional **LIBRARY**