

Reception scheduled Nov. 20 in McFarland

## Francis Cherney to receive 2014 'Cornerstone Award'

Since 1969 Francis Cherney has been working on behalf of public libraries in Wood County, and on Nov. 20, 2014, he will be recognized for his countless efforts as the recipient of the South Central Library System (SCLS) Foundation Cornerstone Award.

"This is the Foundation's sixth annual award to honor people who have made significant contributions to the improvement of library service in their own communities, throughout the South Central Library System, and statewide," said Janet Pugh, foundation board president and member of the SCLS Board of Trustees. "I've known and worked with Francis for years, and this is a fitting tribute to a selfless supporter of public libraries."

The award is given to an individual or individuals who have had a significant and long-term impact on enhancing public libraries in South Central Wisconsin and represent the values and mission of the SCLS Foundation. This year's fundraising award reception will be held from 5:30-7 p.m. at the 5100 Bar, 5100 Erling Avenue in McFarland (www.5100bar.com).

Francis began his public service

in 1969 when he started a six-year stint as the town clerk. It was during this time that he started on the Wood County Library Board, serving ever since. He later became a member of the Wisconsin Valley Library System board, and served there until Wood County joined the South Central Library System. He has served as a member of the South Central Library System



Francis Cherney

Board since that time.

In addition to this library service, former Gov. Jim Doyle appointed Francis to the Council on Libraries and Network Development (COL-AND). "My experience with libraries through the years has helped me as I serve on this board," Francis said. "I enjoyed serving for about two years as president of the SCLS Board, and lobbying in Washington, DC, was a learning experience as we tried to get our message out."

Francis was a frequent participant in National Library Legislative Day in Washington, DC, as a member

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## Celebrate Cornerstone Award with us

by Janet Pugh, President  
SCLS Foundation Board

The August primary elections are over, and we are now headed into the "real" electioneering season. Campaigning has become a fact of everyday, every month, every year, life...it never ends, it just begins again and again. This rumination has led me to consider how we ask for money for the SCLS Foundation, something we mainly do only once a year.

On Nov. 20 we will be holding the SCLS Foundation Reception, a chance to honor people who have contributed time and energy not only to their local public library, but to the cause of public libraries everywhere. This year we honor Francis Cherney, a library trustee from Wood County and a long-



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# Cornerstone Award reception—from page 1

of the South Central Board. He has also been very involved in the Wood County Farm Bureau Board, and visited Washington, DC, several times to lobby on behalf of Wisconsin's dairy farmers.

After high school Francis worked on the family farm for several years, was drafted into the army and spent several years in Germany, then returned home to work on the two family dairy farms, managing them after his father's death, then farming one of them on his own after getting married. "My goal was to milk cows until I was 80," Francis said. "Well, I

did that, in fact more than an extra year now, so, I have to look for a new goal!"

Francis and his wife Bev have one son and two daughters, five granddaughters, and a new great-grandson.

According to Pugh, this sixth annual Cornerstone Award Reception continues a fundraising tradition that has raised more than \$60,000 for the foundation in five years.

This year's event will also offer a new twist—three new awards to recognize the amazing work public libraries do every day while serving

their communities. The awards are (see related article below):

Super Awesome Library Award  
Program Wizard Award  
What a Great Idea Award

"This sixth annual Cornerstone Award fundraising reception is a great opportunity to shine the spotlight on someone who has given so much of himself to public libraries," Pugh said. "It's also a great way to raise money for the Foundation, which in turn makes funds available for projects that benefit all member public libraries."

The Foundation contributed \$6,188 this year to purchase ebook titles for Wisconsin's Digital Library (OverDrive collection), thereby reducing library costs, and will contribute another \$5,000 in 2015. An additional \$3,975 has been dedicated to the purchase of technology and materials for a traveling makerspace kit being developed by the SCLS Innovation Subcommittee (see article on page 4).

## Celebrate—from page 1

time member of the SCLS Board of Trustees. The reception is a time to meet friends and celebrate libraries, but it is also the time when we ask for your support for the SCLS Foundation so that proceeds from the fund can benefit all South Central libraries.

This year we will recognize not only the work of a long-time library supporter, but also present awards to libraries that are doing things a bit differently (see article on page 3). The new awards are:

- **Super Awesome Library Award**
- **Program Wizard Award**
- **What a Great Idea Award**

You can nominate a library for any one of these new awards by visiting [www.sclsfoundation.org/cornerstone/awards.html](http://www.sclsfoundation.org/cornerstone/awards.html) and clicking on the link to the appropriate online nomination form.

Now you may wonder how the SCLS Foundation works when we are raising money like this. The Foundation has a two-fold purpose. One, to be an umbrella foundation for SCLS libraries that would like to invest their own money in an investment fund that will realize a larger return and provides a charitable donation opportunity. Second, the System itself is part of the Foundation and raises money to be able to use the proceeds to underwrite programs or materials for use by the entire system. This is the part of the SCLS Foundation for which we are raising money with the Foundation Reception.

So, please put the date of the Reception on your calendar, and consider giving a donation to the SCLS Foundation. Of course, you are always welcome to send a donation at any time...just like the political campaigns...but we are asking only once...now.

I hope we will see a lot of you at the reception and learn more about how your library is great.

## Foundation contributors

These people have donated to the SCLS Foundation since March 1, 2014. The category in which each is listed represents their total Foundation contribution to date.

### Friends – \$249 - \$100

Alliant Energy matching gift program  
Margery Katz (in memory of Barbara Bliss)

The SCLS Foundation also received a \$2,000 grant from the Magic Pebble Foundation, and the Lester Public Library of Arpin joined with an initial investment of \$10,000.

# SCLS Foundation announces new library awards

Libraries do amazing things as they work to meet the needs and wants of the residents they serve, and in 2014 the South Central Library System Foundation is introducing three new awards to recognize those innovative efforts.

Join us on Thursday, Nov. 20, to find out which libraries will be the recipients of these new awards, which will be presented as part of the 2014 Cornerstone Award fundraising reception from 5:30-7 p.m. at the 5100 Bar, 5100 Erling Avenue in McFarland ([www.5100bar.com](http://www.5100bar.com)).



## SCLS Foundation Member Libraries

- Adams County Library
- Angie W. Cox Public Library (Pardeeville)
- Black Earth Public Library
- Brodhead Memorial Public Library
- Friends of the Cambridge Community Library
- Columbus Public Library
- Cottage Grove Community Library
- Friends of McFarland Library
- Jane Morgan Memorial Library (Cambria)
- LaValle Public Library
- Lester Public Library of Arpin
- Lodi Woman's Club Public Library
- Marshfield Public Library Foundation
- Mazomanie Free Library
- Monroe Public Library
- Reedsburg Public Library
- SCLS Foundation
- Wyocena Public Library

The new awards include:

- **Super Awesome Library Award**—For the library that was overall awesome in 2014. Maybe they handled a tough situation with grace. Or took a new approach. Or found a lot of money under a rock and did something really cool with it. Or got a lot of local support and kudos because they play well with others. Or are just plain super awesome every day.
- **Program Wizard Award**—For a super creative, innovative and fun library program created by library staff. In the library or out. For babies or seniors or anyone in

between. A one-off or a regular series. If Dumbledore thinks it's worthy of Wizard status, nominate it!

- **What a Great Idea Award**—Have you ever heard yourself say "Wow! What a Great Idea" to a fellow library nerd? Then nominate that great idea for a Great Idea Award.

To nominate a library for one of these awards (or multiple awards), visit [www.sclsfoundation.org/cornerstone/](http://www.sclsfoundation.org/cornerstone/). All awards will be announced during the 2014 Cornerstone Award fundraising reception, Nov. 20 at the 5100 Bar in McFarland.

## Mindstorms—from page 4

ages to share and learn.

This year's planned purchase is a continuation of the Foundation's goal of making investment proceeds available to benefit member libraries. For the past two years, and again in 2015, the foundation has made money available to purchase ebook titles for the OverDrive collection (Wisconsin's Digital Library at <http://dbooks.wplc.info>).

However, the Foundation Board decided that it wanted to do something in addition to that, so members approached the SCLS Innovation Subcommittee for ideas about how to use the funds, and that body (made up of member library representatives and SCLS staff) recommended the Lego Mindstorms project.

Each of the kits can build five different robots, and Innovation Subcommittee member felt that 10 kits was an ideal number that will allow for creative programming in all participating libraries. SCLS will include a laptop computer with the kit, and students can also use smartphones or tablets to download and use a Mindstorms App with the robots.

## Foundation supports purchase of materials for traveling makerspace

Makerspaces in libraries are gaining in popularity across the country, and a recent commitment of the SCLS Foundation Board to contribute \$3,975 will soon benefit libraries across the South Central Library System.

Makerspaces are most often thought of as a dedicated space within a library for activities that involve creating something. It might be something as high-tech as a 3D printer that lets people bring their designs to life, or it might be instruction about sewing, quilt making, beer brewing, gardening, or any number of crafts or hobbies.

Unfortunately, most public libraries don't have the option of devoting permanent space to such a use, and that is where a new traveling "makerspace kit" will come into play. The \$3,975 will be used to purchase 10 Lego Mindstorm kits that will be available to all member libraries. Leftover funds will be set aside to purchase replacement parts when needed.



Combining the versatility of the LEGO building system with advanced technology, older children and younger teens can create and command Robots that walk, talk, think and do anything they can imagine. Step-by-step 3D building instructions allow for the creation of five

different robots—TRACK3R, R3PTAR, SPIK3R, EV3RSTORM and GRIPP3R—which are then brought to life with an easy, intuitive and icon-based programming interface. These robotic kits combine the fun of building with Legos while learning about science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

The Lego Mindstorms website is a resource to ask questions, get ideas, and compete in online challenges. It is a fully moderated community that is a safe, fun environment for robotic builders and programmers of all

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