



1. Be Supportive of your Library Director

Book challenges, material challenges, and programming challenges are stressful for a library director. They are having to navigate questioned administration policies around collections and internal communications with their library Trustees or boards, while managing public-facing responses and a myriad of other administrative tasks. Make sure that your library director knows that the Friends of the Library are there to inspire and encourage, and to be a proactive resource in helping them to cope with the tribulations around these events.

2. Be Present, Speak Up

The love and passion a Friend member has for the library can be a powerful voice of support. Attending board meetings where these issues are being discussed and reviewed and adding moral support for the library director and the board members are essential. Augmenting and amplifying your support for the policies of the library as a voice in these meetings to highlight confidence in your library's director and the board is important. Writing opinion letters to the editor of your local newspaper supporting the library, the library director, their skills and expertise as librarians, and your own beliefs around censorship and material/program challenges serve as a strong voice of reason to the community.

3. Be the Supporter and Friend You Are

Library staff is at the front lines of these challenges. The pressures of their day-to-day job married with having to deal with new situations involving questions on library collections, programs, and policies have been trying especially during the pandemic. Look to see how the Friends members can acknowledge the staff's efforts and give encouragement. See what the Friends group can do to



If not, consider amending current guidelines or establishing a specific fund to accommodate these unforeseen issues. In all cases, it is advisable to consult your Friends group's attorney if there's



Resources like this are made available through the support of United for Libraries membership and donations to United for Libraries. For information about membership, visit www.ala.org/united/membership; to donate, visit www.ala.org/united/donate.

Compiled by the United for Libraries Intellectual Freedom Task Force; last revision 4/12/2022.