



*Libraries offer services that are essential to the well-being of our communities.*

## Benefits of Belonging to CML

### Individual members receive:

- The knowledge that they are making their library better
- The opportunity to sign-up for informative alerts about issues vital to their library
- Support in contacting elected officials about library issues; as well as, an opportunity to advocate in Annapolis
- A subscription to a semi-annual newsletter, The Citizen, which features news and activities occurring in libraries across the state
- The opportunity to serve on CML committees and the CML Board of Directors
- Membership discounts for CML Events, Maryland Library Association (MLA) events and Maryland Association of Non-Profit Organizations (MANO) programs
- Eligibility to apply for CML scholarships to attend educational programs sponsored by MANO and the ALA National Legislative Day in Washington, D.C.
- An invitation to the Maryland Library Community's Legislative Reception held in Annapolis each year *(Members who join at the Supporter and higher levels only)*

### Organization members receive:

- Eligibility to apply for the competitive Mary Lou Dewey grant, which provides funds to develop projects/programs to get citizens involved with their libraries
- The opportunity to post local organization's activities on the Events calendar on the CML website
- Membership discounts on the purchase of CML "I Love my Library" materials

### Corporate members receive:

- Recognition in the semi-annual newsletter, The Citizen

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

[www.citizensformarylandlibraries.org](http://www.citizensformarylandlibraries.org)

Join online or use  
enclosed membership form



**@citizens for Maryland Libraries**  
Supporting Maryland's Libraries since 1982

P.O. Box 10838  
Silver Spring, MD  
20914

# Join CML

Citizens for  
Maryland Libraries



Advocate • Support • Belong

## WHO WE ARE

Founded in 1982 and incorporated in 1984, Citizens for Maryland Libraries (CML) is the major voice of citizen advocates who support libraries, librarians and the services they provide across the state of Maryland. CML is a non profit organization made up of a strong statewide network of individuals and organizations — people who value Maryland libraries. CML's mission is to monitor local, state and federal legislation and support legislation that provides quality library services in Maryland libraries. CML also educates library supporters to effectively advocate for Maryland libraries.



## WHY WE ADVOCATE FOR LIBRARIES

We want to enable all communities in Maryland to have well-funded libraries that can provide services that allow libraries to continue to fulfill these and other roles:

### Libraries are the Hub of the Community

“No more just a place to find books, today’s library is a place that extends far beyond its physical walls with the addition of digital information and access. Particularly in small towns, the library is often the hub of the community, providing a place for residents to meet, as well as, to learn.”

*Champlain Business Journal,  
“Libraries Anchor Small Communities”*

### Libraries are a Door to the World

“Libraries allow children to ask questions about the world and find the answers. And the wonderful thing is that once a child learns to use a library, the doors to learning are always open.”

*Former First Lady Laura Bush*

“When I was young, we couldn’t afford much. But my library card was my key to the world.”

*Actor John Goodman*

### Libraries are the Great Equalizer

“Low-income families are less likely to read books, go to the library, museum or theater; take music lessons; or do organized sports activities. Yet these experiences make a pivotal difference in school performance, with a visit to the library being the most discriminating factor of all.”

Recently released 27 year study by Johns Hopkins

“Libraries are playing a new role helping people find work. They are becoming a lifeline in communities across the country, but now they are beginning to face challenges of their own.”

*The Today Show, NBC*



## WHAT WE DO FOR LIBRARIES

Citizens for Maryland Libraries (CML) is dedicated to ensuring the best possible library service for all the people of Maryland. Hence, it:

- Studies library issues and develops positions on relevant major library policy debates



- Educates and informs its members to testify at legislative hearings in support of libraries and to campaign for increased funding for libraries at all levels of government.
- Honors longtime library staff and advocates with its annual Satterthwaite award, and library technology innovators with the McCarn award.
- Maintains a website on the Internet: [www.citizensformarylandlibraries.org](http://www.citizensformarylandlibraries.org) with access to library statistics, lists of Friends groups, information on upcoming CML activities and information on legislation which affects libraries.
- Finances the Mary Lou Dewey Advocacy grant for projects that encourage citizens to use and support Maryland libraries
- Collaborates with the College of Information Studies at the University of Maryland in presenting the James Partridge Award to an outstanding African American information professional