



# Trustee Update

## Library News You Can Use

*July 1 is approval deadline*

### State budget library items explained

On Feb. 17 Gov. Jim Doyle proposed a budget bill for the next biennium. Several library-related items are included:

- ✓ Minimal public library system funding increases (approximately 1.5% for 2010 and 3% for 2011.)
- ✓ BadgerLink funding sufficient to allow for maintenance of the current BadgerLink resources. BadgerLink makes an array of online information resources available to Wisconsin residents. Ask your library about these databases if you're not familiar with them!
- ✓ Funding for special library contracts that help extend the services local libraries can provide: the Wisconsin Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (WRLBPH), the Milwaukee Public Library, Wisconsin Library Services (WiLS), and the Cooperative Children's Book Center (CCBC). The amount is sufficient to maintain the current level of service.
- ✓ Minimal increase in NFB-NEWSLINE funding to support

newspapers accessible by telephone for blind and physically handicapped people.

Public hearings were held statewide in March and April, and now the Legislature will review and act upon the governor's budget. Final legislative approval should occur before the start of the next biennium on July 1, 2009.

The items listed above can change before the final budget is approved. Stay informed about the status of library-related budget provisions, and contact your legislator as appropriate.

Online Update ([http://scls.typepad.com/online\\_update/](http://scls.typepad.com/online_update/)) will continue to carry updates on the status of the Biennial Budget. The Wisconsin Library Association (WLA) website ([www.wla.lib.wi.us/legis/advocacy.htm](http://www.wla.lib.wi.us/legis/advocacy.htm)) also provides several documents to help explain the state budget process:

- ✓ timeline;
- ✓ how the budget gets passed; and
- ✓ timeline flow chart.

*—please see State Budget on page 2*

### LSTA grants will support workers

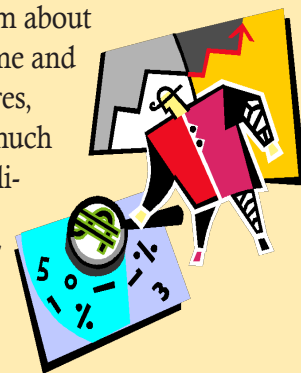
A new, noncompetitive LSTA grant category focusing on job searching, training and support has been created for Wisconsin public library systems for 2009. SCLS staff are still talking and planning how we will spend our allocation, but some of the possibilities include: an online toolkit (job search resources, changing careers, updating skills, negotiating unemployment services, etc.), training sessions on resume writing, updating computer skills and job searching, subscribing to a database of computer tutorials, and creating a bibliography of core materials for a job/career center.

Your library will hear more about this project as it continues to take shape. ❖

### Begin building support for your budget request

Yes, it's budget time again. Or, as you know, it's always budget time!

But during the spring and summer, your library is working in earnest to prepare its budget, and the budget request to your municipality. As you do so, this is an important time to begin to build local support for the budget. Invite interested people in, tell them about your income and expenditures, and how much busier the library is because of the slow economy.



You may also want to explain how the library helps people look for jobs, write resumes, apply for scholarships, and all the other ways you help during the economic downturn.

When the time comes for consideration of the budget, these people will be able to say: "Yes, the library may be asking for a larger percentage increase than X department, but that percentage of the library budget is much less than the same percentage of the X department! It's a valuable investment in the future of the community, and the future of our children, and I'm willing to pay for it with my taxes!" ❖

Sept. 24, 2009, event at Lake Windsor Golf Club

# See You at System Celebration!

System Celebration, SCLS's annual thank you to the staff, trustees, and mayors/village presidents of SCLS member libraries for their support and efforts throughout the year, will be held on Thursday, Sept. 24, at Windsor Golf Club near Madison.

There will be a social hour with entertainment from 6-7 p.m., dinner from 7-8 p.m., and awards from 8-8:30 p.m.

Nominations will be accepted online until June 15 for the following awards: Library of the Year, Public Official, Spe-

cial Award, Partnership Award, and Chester Pismo Snavely Award for a Nifty Activity.

For more information, or to submit a nomination for one of the awards, visit [www.scls.info/about/systemceleb](http://www.scls.info/about/systemceleb). ❖



## SCLS staff contacts:

If you have questions about preparing library budgets, contact Cheryl Becker at (608) 246-7973 or [cbecker@scls.lib.wi.us](mailto:cbecker@scls.lib.wi.us). Questions about the new LSTA grant should be directed to Stef Morrill at (608) 245-5799 or [smorrill@scls.lib.wi.us](mailto:smorrill@scls.lib.wi.us). If you have questions about the state budget, or marketing, advocacy and funding, contact Mark Ibach at (608) 246-5612 or [mibach@scls.lib.wi.us](mailto:mibach@scls.lib.wi.us). ❖

## State budget—*from page 1*

Library programs in the state budget moved closer to passage April 29 after the state legislature's Joint Finance Committee voted on several Department of Public Instruction items, including public library system aids and library service contracts.

The Governor's budget bill (AB 75) proposes using the Universal Services Fund as a source of revenue for library systems, BadgerLink, the special contracts, and Newsline for the Blind. This funding shift remains intact coming out of the Joint Finance Committee. ❖

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South Central Library System  
5250 E. Terrace Drive, Suite A-2  
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