



Trustee Update

Library News You Can Use

2014 ‘Cornerstone Award’ reception is Nov. 20 in McFarland

Countless people come together in meaningful ways to contribute to the success of local public libraries, and on Thursday, Nov. 20, there is an annual opportunity to celebrate.

The sixth annual South Central Library System (SCLS) Foundation Cornerstone Award reception will be held from 5:30-7 p.m. at the 5100 Bar, 5100 Erling Avenue in McFarland (www.5100bar.com). It is free and open to anyone

This year’s recipient of the Cornerstone Award is Francis Cherney, who has served libraries as a member of the Wood County Library Board, the SCLS Board of Trustees, and the Council on Libraries and Network Development (COLAND). You can make a contribution to honor Francis at www.sclsfoundation.org.

In addition to the presentation of the Cornerstone Award, 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. Award nominations can be made by trustees, library customers, staff from other libraries, or from the libraries themselves. The awards and descriptions are listed below. To make an online nomination, visit www.sclsfoundation.org/cornerstone/awards.html. All nominations must be submitted by 5 p.m. Monday, Oct. 27, 2014.

✓ **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 re-

ally 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.

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 was allocated for the purchase of 10 Lego Mindstorm robotic kits (and other equipment) recommended by the Library Innovation Subcommittee. These kits will be available for loan to member libraries. Read more about this project at http://scls.typepad.com/online_update/2014/08/ou1216.html#makerspace. ❖

Cornerstone Award Reception
Nov. 20, 2014
5100 Bar, McFarland, WI

Videos available of 2014 Trustee Training Week programs

Wisconsin Trustee Training Week was a series of webinars that provided Wisconsin public library trustees with new ideas and tools to support the libraries they serve.

In case you missed the live broadcasts, the recordings and slides can be accessed through the SCLS Continuing Education web page at <http://scls.typepad.com/programs/2014/08/trustee-training-week.html>.

This is a great way to capture the experience if you were unable to participate in August. ❖

Trustee Update publication dates change

Since its inception in 2007, Trustee Update has been published four times each year. However, because of staffing changes here at the South Central Library System, that will change in 2015. The new publication dates for Trustee Update will be March, July and November. ❖

10 things every library trustee should do

#10—Give a speech about your library. Rotary Clubs, PTAs, and other groups are always looking for programs, and the world won't know what your library has to offer unless you tell them.

#9—Visit another library and steal a good idea.

#8—Don't ever stop learning. It's hard enough to keep up even when you work at it. Seek out learning opportunities that will help make you a better trustee.

#7—Be ACTIVE! Being a trustee means more than just going to the board meetings every month. Write a letter to the governor about state aid. Advocate for your library at budget hearings. Take the editor of your local paper to lunch.

#6—Spend your money wisely. Don't hoard it. Your funding bodies didn't give you tax money so that you could put it in the bank. They are buying a service from you.

#5—Never forget that it's the public's library, not the board's or the staff's. On the other hand, remember that the library is governed by the library board, not by the town board and not by the Friends of the Library.

#4—Pay your staff a decent wage. They work hard, sometimes in less than ideal conditions. Generally, library pay rates are below standards, even for the local economy.

#3—Have a plan for your library. If you don't know where you're going, it doesn't matter which road you take. But it can be a long trip with an unsatisfactory ending.

#2—Embrace change. Welcome it. Create it. Accept it. Make it work for the library.

#1—Have FUN! As trustee of a library, you should love what you're doing, and it should be obvious to others.

SCLS staff contacts:

For more information about Wisconsin library law, trustee responsibilities, or library administration, or if you have questions about library advocacy, marketing, or just printing *Trustee Essentials*, please contact Mark Ibach, SCLS Consulting Services Coordinator, at (608) 246-5612 or mibach@scls.info. ❖

More information to support the work of trustees is available on the SCLS website at www.scls.info/management/trustees/. ❖

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