



Trustee Update

Library News You Can Use

2015 Cornerstone Award Reception is Nov. 19 in Portage

Plans are underway for the 2015 SCLS Foundation Cornerstone Award Reception, to be held Nov. 19 in Portage. This year’s Cornerstone Award Recipient is Patricia Townsend, who has served libraries as a member of the Adams County Library Board and Friends of the Library, and the SCLS Board of Trustees. You can make a contribution to honor Pat at www.sclsfoundation.org.



The Campaign to Enhance Public Libraries

The seventh annual Cornerstone Award reception will be held from 5-7 p.m. at 205 Vino, 205 DeWitt St., Portage. There is no cost to attend, and there will be free refreshments and a cash bar. The 2014 event raised nearly \$13,000 for the SCLS Foundation.

In addition to the Cornerstone Award presentation, the SCLS Foundation Board will present three awards to member libraries in recognition of the amazing work public libraries do every day while serving their communities. The awards and descriptions are listed below.

- ✓ **Super Awesome Library Award**—For the library that was overall awesome in 2015. 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!
- ✓ **Giddy Up Partner Award**—For those strong community partnerships that add value to the library and the community as a whole. It takes two, baby! Or three... or four. Nominate the library and its partner(s) and describe the amazing stuff they’re doing together. ❖

DLT has excellent resources for library trustees

The Public Library Development Team (PLD) of the Division for Libraries and Technology (DLT) (http://pld.dpi.wi.gov/pld_trustee) has excellent online resources of value to Wisconsin public library trustees, as well as tools that can be used to support trustee training and trustee continuing education.

One of the most useful resources for trustees is Trustee Essentials: A Handbook for Wisconsin Public Library Trustees (http://pld.dpi.wi.gov/pld_handbook). This handbook (2015 update) comprises 27 “Trustee Essentials,” each covering an issue of importance to library board members. Additional “Trustee Tools” provide important reference information. You can download a PDF or view online.

The tasks involved in being a library trustee are varied, and they are explained in more detail in Trustee Essentials. One of the most important things to remember, though, is that a library trustee is part of a decision making team: the library board. Chapter 43 of Wisconsin State Statutes sets the framework for libraries in Wisconsin, but it is Trustee Essentials that provides step-by-step guidance for library trustees. There are chapters that explain who runs the library, how to hire and evaluate a director, developing a library budget, managing the library’s money, developing essential library policies, and much more.



PLD also answers frequently asked questions on public library administration and governance (http://pld.dpi.wi.gov/pld_trusteefaq). This is an excellent initial resource to help find the answers to important questions. ❖

Public library trustee ethics statement from ALA

Public library trustees are accountable for the resources of the library and ensuring that the library provides the best possible service to its community. A document from the American Library Association (ALA) is an excellent reminder of this responsibility

The ALA statement reads: Every Trustee makes a personal commitment to contribute the time and energy to faithfully carry out his/her duties and responsibilities effectively and with absolute truth, honor and integrity. Some of the statements are:

- ✓ Trustees shall comply with all the laws, rules and regulations that apply to them and to their library.
- ✓ Trustees, in fulfilling their responsibilities, shall not be

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 printing *Trustee Essentials*, please contact Mark Ibach, SCLS Consulting Services Coordinator, at (608) 246-5612 or mibach@scls.info. ❖

swayed by partisan interests, public pressure or fear of criticism.

- ✓ Trustees shall not engage in discrimination of any kind and shall uphold library patrons' rights to privacy in the use of library resources.

You can download the full pdf version (that trustees can sign) at www.ala.org/united/sites/ala.org.united/files/content/trustees/orgtools/Ethics%20Statement.pdf. ❖

'Trustee Training Week' webinar videos available online

If you were unable to attend any of the "Trustee Training Week" webinars (Aug. 17-21), or if you want to review what you learned, each of the sessions is available to view online at www.wistrusteetraining.com/recordings.html.

Nicolet Federated Library System previously organized this event, with financial support from most other Wisconsin library systems. In 2016, South Central Library System Continuing Education Coordinator Jean Anderson will assume organizational responsibilities for the project. ❖

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