



Trustee Update

Library News You Can Use

SCLS libraries record nearly \$1 million in service to adjacent county residents

As confirmed by 2018 annual report data, South Central Library System (SCLS) member libraries provided circulation services to residents in adjacent counties valued at \$995,811, of which about \$866,928 will be requested as reimbursement from adjacent counties. Chapter 43.12(2) of Wisconsin State Statute grants authority for libraries to bill adjacent counties (within and outside SCLS) for serving residents in those counties.

The requests for reimbursement can only be made for those residents in adjacent counties who live in cities, villages, or towns that don't have a library and are thus charged a county library tax.

For 2018, SCLS will submit reimbursement requests for \$741,162 at the request of member libraries. Some libraries choose not to request reimbursement for smaller amounts, and Adams and Portage Counties (both consolidated county

library systems) cannot be billed by libraries in adjacent counties, and they do not request reimbursement for providing services to residents in adjacent counties.

These reimbursements are for services libraries have already provided, and they are stipulated in statute to ensure that residents statewide have access to the public library that is most convenient for them to use.

These reimbursement requests are due to county clerks (or their designees) by July 1, 2019, and payment from counties must be made by March 1, 2020. ♦



Resources available to support trustee advocacy efforts

Advocating for your public library is a primary responsibility of Wisconsin library trustees, as outlined in Chapter 1 of Trustee Essentials, "The Trustee Job Description."

Item #7 in that chapter explains that the core of effective politics is the building of rapport. Since local politics are personal, your contacts on behalf of the library with public officials from the municipal-

ity, the county, and the state will advance the cause of your institution. In the same way, building rapport and networking with civic and service groups will advance your cause with your customers and potential individual supporters.

Chapter 13 of Trustee Essentials (<https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/pld/pdf/TE13.pdf>) deals specifi-

cally with Library Advocacy.

To support trustee efforts in this area, the South Central

Library System (SCLS) is developing a series of Data Dashboards (<https://www.scls.info/data-statistics>) that make important library use data available at your fingertips. In addition to the dashboards, the SCLS Consultant Team can provide assistance to

help you interpret and use the data available.

Advocacy is all about educating people about the value of the library, and using data is an excellent way to help make your case. Trustees should be the face of the library in the community, and this data can help give you the support needed to confidently speak on behalf of your library. ♦



SCLS resources support library trustees

The job of the library trustee is ever changing, often responding to new and unexpected local issues that can challenge even the most experienced individuals. But the South Central Library System (SCLS) has resources available to help make the job of library trustee easier.

To begin, check out the SCLS website (<https://www.scls.info/management/trustees>) for a host of resources developed just for trustees. Specifically, you can find easy access to:

- ✓ Trustee Essentials and other resources from the Division for Libraries and Technology;
- ✓ Trustee Training Week;
- ✓ Short Takes for Trustees, which is 10 short videos from

- United for Libraries that address the job of a trustee;
- ✓ Trustee training overview;
- ✓ Top 10 action list for trustees;
- ✓ Library acronyms;
- ✓ Self-evaluation tools for trustees;
- ✓ Links to Chapter 43, Wisconsin Library Law; and
- ✓ SCLS fact sheets.

All of this and more is available through the SCLS website. Mark Ibach and Martha Van Pelt are also available to answer questions for library directors and trustees.

Be sure to bookmark this website and make it your first stop to find answers related to your position as a library trustee. ❖

SCLS staff contacts:

For more information about Wisconsin library law, trustee responsibilities, and 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. ❖

Hold the date for Trustee Training Week

Planning for Trustee Training Week 2019 is underway, with programs scheduled to take place Aug. 12-16, 2019. The one-hour webinars will be held each day that week from noon to 1 p.m., and recorded for later viewing.

More information about program topics and presenters will be available soon, but in the meantime you can view past programs at www.wistrusteetraining.com. ❖

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