

Chapter 10: Continuing Education

Here, you will learn:

- ✓ Need for trustee continuing education
- ✓ Continuing education providers
- ✓ Organizations for professional involvement

Trustee Continuing Education

Even the most knowledgeable and experienced library trustee needs continuing education to stay informed about new laws, new technologies, and new possibilities for library service. Library services and library policies must constantly change to keep pace with changing community needs, new laws, and new technologies. Library trustees who stay informed about these changes will be better able to provide high-quality library service to their community.

Continuing education opportunities are available on the national, state and local level to offer support to both new and experienced trustees. There are approximately 61,000 public library trustees in the United States, with over 2,500 representing Massachusetts. By sharing information, discussing common problems and planning strategies for the future, trustees can most effectively fulfill their responsibilities.

Orientation for new trustees is the beginning of this process, and are dealt with in Chapter 1.

Sources for Continuing Education

One of the most effective means of keeping your skills and knowledge current is to join the Association of Connecticut Library Boards (ACLB) and participate in their workshops and conferences.

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The Association of Connecticut Library Boards was established in 1965 to achieve the following goals:

- Broaden trustees' knowledge through workshops and other activities to enhance awareness of current developments in the library field
- Improve communication and cooperation between member boards, individual trustees, and other library related groups
- Act as liaison among boards and provide for cooperation and planning
- Provide trustee leadership on matters of regional and national concerns
- Participate in the advocacy process to secure strong local, state, and national support for public libraries

The Connecticut State Library has a formal agreement with ACLB and finances a part of the ACLB Continuing Education Program.

Visit the ACLB website at: www.aclb.org for information on their latest training opportunities.

Join ACLB's listserv to receive notifications of events and stay current with any legislative and other statewide news. <http://mylist.net/listinfo/aclb-trusteetalk>

Trustees are encouraged to join and attend meetings, workshops and conferences of the following organizations:

Connecticut State Library (CSL) <http://www.ctstatelibrary.org/> and <http://www.ctstatelibrary.org/organizational-unit/division-library-development>

Connecticut Library Association (CLA) www.ctlibraryassociation.org/

Connecticut Library Consortium <http://www.ctlibrarians.org/>

Friends of Connecticut Libraries (FOCL) www.foclib.org/

New England Library Association (NELA) www.nelib.org/

American Library Association (ALA) www.ala.org

United for Libraries: Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations <http://www.ala.org/united/>

ALTAFF Trustee Academy

http://www.ala.org/united/trustees/trustee_academy/

Online training for library trustees

Other continuing education ideas

Short continuing education sessions can be held during library board meetings. This is a way to reach every trustee on the board and a way to involve the board in brainstorming or problem-solving discussions on issues that may be important to the library. The chapters that make up this handbook can be used for short continuing education sessions held during regular or special board meetings. The meeting agenda should alert board members that a particular ACLB Handbook chapter will be reviewed at the next board meeting. Each board member should read the chapter in advance of the meeting and bring to the meeting any questions or thoughts concerning the issues raised by the Handbook. Perhaps a board member (especially one with experience on the topic to be covered) or the library director or a library system staff person could volunteer in advance to lead the discussion.