



## **Association of Connecticut Library Boards**

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### **A Message to Connecticut Library Trustees:**

Thank you for accepting appointment to your community's library board. As a public library trustee you help guide the public library in your community—an institution essential to both individual and community well-being. For generations, public libraries have provided free access to the knowledge, information and diversity of ideas essential to a democratic society.

Your public library can provide so many wonderful services and resources: from story times for preschoolers to instruction in use of the Internet, from summer reading programs for children of all ages to special resources needed by the local business community. As a library board member, you can help ensure that your library provides needed services to everyone in your community.

Services unheard of twenty years ago are an ongoing part of programs offered by the public library, whether it is serving a large urban area or a small rural town. That same library no longer functions in isolation but rather has become a part, through library networks and automated systems, of the total library system of resources. Consequently, this new scenario has brought about the need for more knowledge on the part of trustees charged by law with the responsibility for public library governance.

As a volunteer citizen board member, you have direct knowledge of the particular needs of your community and a unique ability to advocate for necessary library services.

We hope that this handbook will assist you with your important responsibilities. Again, thank you for serving as a library trustee—your service is essential to your community and your community's future.

Betsy McIlvaine, President  
Association of Connecticut Library Boards - ACLB