

Library Trustee Development

Trustees need to strive for in-depth awareness of current practices and trends in the operation of public library facilities. Opportunities for trustee participation in national, state, and regional library or community organizations as well as continuing education activities such as workshops and seminars exist to further understanding of the library field. The library encourages and supports participation by providing for payment or reimbursement of dues, fees and other expenses incurred from attending such activities.

Section 1: Authority

Per Illinois Revised Statutes, 75 ILCS 16/30-55.90, the Board of Library Trustees of every public library district may join the district and its employees or trustees as a member or members of the Illinois Library Association and the American Library Association, or any non-profit, non-political, [501C – 3] associations as designated by the federal Internal Revenue Service, having the purpose of improving library development and librarianship. The Board of Library Trustees may provide for the payment of membership dues, fees and assessments to the associations.

Section 2: Association Dues

Trustees are encouraged to belong to the American Library Association and/or the Illinois Library Association. The library may pay for membership in each of the above library organizations and/or other appropriate groups.

Section 3: Meetings, Workshops and Seminars

Trustees are encouraged to participate in continuing education activities appropriate to their positions on the board and which enhance their performance of their public duties.

Section 4: Conferences

Each year the library community schedules several important professional conferences. The Library's budgetary restrictions and the length of some conferences demand that attendance at major out-of-town conferences may be limited.

Section 5: Committee Work

Trustee participation in regional, state or national committees having the purpose of improving library development and fostering informed and enlightened trusteeship is encouraged.

Section 6: Library Advocacy

Visiting local, state and national legislators for the purpose of promoting library development and visibility is highly regarded and encouraged. However, expenses incurred during library advocacy must be clearly tied to the promotion of library needs or for specific library purposes as agreed upon in advance by the Board. Prior to incurring expenses to be reimbursed, trustees will obtain specific authority from the Board. The Board will agree on a definition of the items to be reimbursed and a not-to-exceed figure for such reimbursement.

Section 7: Community Organizations

Attending meetings of community organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce and selected service organizations for the purpose of promoting library visibility in the community is highly regarded and encouraged. Expenses incurred are the responsibility of the individual Trustee but may be paid or reimbursed at the discretion of the Library Board.

Section 8: Expenses

See Policy 1.23 Expense Reimbursement.