

Trustee Orientation Policy

KDLA provides this example policy to assist a library in developing and adopting their own policy. The example policy should be modified to meet the needs of your library and community and should be reviewed by the library's attorney prior to adoption.

The _____ County Public Library recognizes the importance of Board member orientation to the Library's efficient operation. Once a Library Board member has been appointed and taken the oath of office, the Board member will go through an orientation process that encompasses the information and tools needed to understand the duties and responsibilities of being a Board member. This orientation process will be conducted collaboratively by the Director, President, and the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives (KDLA) Regional Consultant.

Once the new Board member has been appointed, the Director or President will contact the Board member to welcome him/her to the Board and set up an meeting to have an orientation session. The Director will assist in scheduling an opportunity for the regional consultant to provide additional orientation information in conjunction with, or in addition to, the Library orientation.

Board member orientation includes introducing the Board member to the following documents, as well as any other documents necessary for compliance with Kentucky law governing libraries and information specific to the _____ County Public Library:

- The KDLA Kentucky Public Library Trustee Manual
- A list of Board members with their contact information, terms of office, and offices held
- The location and schedule of Board meetings, Board bylaws and policies
- A sample agenda

Documents each Board member must receive within 60 days of their appointment shall be included at the orientation: *Your Duty Under the Law*; *Managing Government Records*; and the Proof of Receipt to acknowledge that those two documents have been received. When the Proof of Receipt has been signed, a copy will be retained by the library.

Additional documents that may be provided by the Director as part of the Board member orientation process may include the following documents, among others:

- The Library's latest Annual Report
- The Library's Standards Report
- The Library's long-range or strategic plan
- The Library's current and previous year's budget
- The Library's tax rate (if applicable)
- Board packets from the previous three months meetings, including minutes, statistics, and financial reports
- An organizational chart of the Library staff with names and titles
- A copy of the Library's policies or the location where they can be accessed
- Brochures or other concise information about the library or library services

- PR or information on any recent Library accomplishments

The orientation process shall also include a tour of the Library facilities and an introduction to the Library staff, allowing the new Board member to ask questions in context as they view the different services, activities, and areas of the Library facilities.

Some topics that could be addressed and discussed during the tour include:

- How the Library is operated on a day-to-day basis
- How the Library is linked to other resources and libraries
- How the Library serves the needs of the community
- How the Library could better serve the needs of the community

Every attempt will be made by the President, Director and Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives Regional Consultant to provide the new Board member with any additional pertinent information requested to assist in equipping the Board member with the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in their new role.

Adopted by the _____ County Public Library Board of Trustees this ____ day of _____, 20____.

[Reviewed 4/8/2020]