

## **KDLA November 2012 Trustee Tip of the Month**

### **Trustee Continuing Education: Additional Resources**

Last month the tip included information on resources available from KDLA to help you become more knowledgeable about your job. It is also important to know not only the basics of governing library business, but also to become aware of the constantly evolving library services being implemented in other counties, states, and the world. This can be accomplished in structured CE programs and also through the unstructured exposure gained from attending library conferences and reading library journals, listservs®, blogs, etc.

Each year the KY Public Library Association provides a spring conference with sessions on a wide variety of topics and some are planned to specifically meet the informational needs of library trustees. Conferences are not only an opportunity to learn more about library issues and services but also allow trustees to meet and interact with the community of other trustees from around the state. In addition, the Kentucky Library Association provides a fall conference which will again include an opportunity for continuing education and networking with other trustees.

Every other year, the Public Library Association also provides a national conference with sessions on many library-related topics and an opportunity to network with other library personnel and trustees on a wider scale. Going to a national conference is extremely valuable as it exposes the attendees to new ideas and unique perspectives on all types of library topics. In addition to learning new things at a national conference, attendees return with a fresh outlook and enthusiasm that they apply to improving services at their home libraries. The next PLA Conference will be held in Indianapolis, IN on March 11 – March 15, 2014 and it will be an excellent opportunity for trustees to experience this biannual event.

Another unstructured form of gaining new information is to subscribe to the KY Public Library Trustee listserv®. While this is not an extremely busy e-mail list, it does provide the opportunity for Trustees to share questions and discuss information specifically of interest to trustees. This is also a venue for KDLA staff to share information and special announcements with trustees. Instructions for joining this listserv® can be found at:

<http://kdla.ky.gov/librarians/staffdevelopment/Pages/listservs.aspx>.

KDLA and your Director will keep you informed of any training opportunities that become available. It is important to ensure that trustees and library personnel are provided with ample opportunities to increase their knowledge and skill levels on job-related subjects. As a trustee you can ensure that money is set aside in the budget to cover any costs related to continuing education. Not only does the CE expenditure provide a well-trained staff and board, it also impacts the library's ratings in the KY Public Library Standards. Having the library board trustees attend workshops, seminars, and other training events will improve the library's score on the Standards. And, the State Auditor has stated that public funds spent on continuing education are an investment in good government.

As a trustee, you can feel assured that any funding that you earmark for training is money that will enhance the services that the library provides to the community. In addition to covering the cost of the required certification for library staff, a commitment to a well-trained staff leads to more job satisfaction and higher staff morale, efficiencies in new processes that are implemented, an increased capacity to adopt new methods and technology, and improved risk management.

As you learn and grow in your position as a library trustee, please let your regional librarian know what topics would provide you and your fellow trustees with the information that will help you in the important work you do providing the best possible library services to your community. KDLA is here to serve you and provide the support that will allow you to achieve your goals as a trustee and as a board.

“An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.” – Benjamin Franklin