

TRUSTEE

LTA | LIBRARY TRUSTEES
ASSOCIATION
OF NEW YORK STATE

formerly known as NYSALB — New York State Association of Library Boards

Vol. XXI, Issue No. 4, Fall 2010

New Name *New Website*

We are pleased to announce the activation of our new website. There is plenty of reason to visit ... and visit often. Go to

www.LibraryTrustees.org

Two of the biggest additions to the website relate to library policies and membership. A third additional tab yet to be released is specifically for online trustee training. This effort is more involved and is requiring a significant investment of research and energy but remains a priority for the LTA board in 2011.



Library Policies

What do you do when someone is engaging unwilling patrons or staff in religious or political discussion? Children left unattended? A car left overnight in the library parking lot?

Evaluating your library director, defining board responsibilities, outlining personnel policies . . .

What exactly are other libraries like yours doing when it comes to these issues and concerns? The long awaited feature of our website is the section simply labeled **policies**. Here you can

look up policies by subject and refine your search by library location, budget, and number of people served.

Continued on page 5

IN THIS ISSUE

- | | |
|---|---|
| 2..... News from the NYS Librarian | 6..... From The Editor's Desk |
| 3..... Cooperating Collections Offer Free Access to Foundation Center Resources | 7..... Welcome New Board Member |
| 4..... LTA Legislative Recap | 7..... Velma Moore Award |
| | 8..... Tully Library celebrates a quarter of a century! |

News from the *State Librarian*



From the Desk of Bernard A. Margolis, State Librarian and Assistant Commissioner for Libraries

One of my top priorities when I became State Librarian in January 2009 was to significantly improve communications between the State Library and the library community – and particularly to improve communications with library trustees. Timely and clear communications about pertinent state and local issues will help us all as we guide our libraries through these challenging economic times.

With that priority in mind, I asked the State Library staff to create NYLINE-T, a new e-mail list that will be used by me to communicate directly with the some 6,300 trustees governing our State's 755 public and association libraries and 23 public library systems. NYLINE-T is a closed, confidential "announce only" list. Hopefully by the time you read this message, you will have received a welcome message from NYLINE-T. If you have not, and would like to be added to the list, please send your name and email address to Andrew Mace, NYLINE-T Listowner at nyline-t-request@listserv.nysed.gov. I look forward to communicating with you in the coming year!



I hope many of you are planning to attend the 2010 New York Library Association Conference in

Saratoga Springs from November 4-6. The State Library, along with the Library Trustees Association of New York State and NYLA is cosponsoring a number of exciting programs. There are two in particular I recommend:

- Thursday November 4, 3:15 pm - **2020: What's Your Vision for Library Services in New York State?** Join your colleagues in developing a future vision for what library services should look like in 2020. What services will New Yorkers expect from their academic, public, school, and special libraries? Roberta Stevens, President of the American Library Association and Bridget Quinn-Carey, Chairperson of the Regents Advisory Council on Libraries, will lead this important session.
- Friday November 5, 10:30 am – **Meet Commissioner of Education David M. Steiner** who will discuss the critical roles that libraries can play within his comprehensive agenda for education reform in New York State, followed by a Q and A session.

And finally, I would like to invite you to expand your social network by joining the State Library's new Facebook page for the NOVELNY databases project. The page has basic information about the statewide database program, and has links to the NOVELNY Website for additional information. Facebook users began "Like"-ing the page within minutes of the e-mail announcements being sent out, and by the following morning 157 additional fans of the page were added! The page can be accessed at: <http://facebook.com/novelny> I encourage you to share this new page with your colleagues, friends, family members and neighbors! We want all New Yorkers to know about the fabulous electronic resources freely available to them 24/7 through NOVELNY and through their local public library! **IA**

Cooperating Collections Offer Free Access to Foundation Center Resources

Peg Elliott, Supervisor Nonprofit Resource Center, Onondaga County Public Library, Syracuse, NY



You only need to look as far as your nearest Foundation Center Cooperating Collection if you are looking for grant funding to continue or expand your library's programs, materials, technology upgrades or building projects. The Foundation Center, through its national network of over 450 affiliate libraries, called Cooperating Collections, provides nonprofit organizations free access to a core selection of print and online resources and a variety of supplementary materials and services in all areas of interest to grant seekers. Need fundraising ideas or information and tips about grant proposal writing? Each Cooperating Collection provides centralized information that enables nonprofits to identify sources of funding, construct successful proposals, and secure funding. This information is not available through free websites or other online sources.

The Foundation Center is the leading authority on all aspects of philanthropy. The Center was established in 1956 and for more than fifty years has been connecting nonprofits and the grant makers that support them to tools they can use and information they can trust. It undertakes research, education, and training programs designed to advance knowledge of philanthropy at every level. Through the network of Cooperating Collections, the Foundation Center helps grant seekers, grant makers, researchers, policymakers, the media, and the general public better understand the field of philanthropy. Most of the Cooperating Collections are located in public libraries. In New York State, we are lucky to have 31 locations. Each Cooperating Collection supervisor is charged with educating its local nonprofit community and promoting the resources and services of the Foundation Center.

Visitors to any of these Collections will find a core selection of Foundation Center resources such as:

- After the Grant: The Nonprofit's Guide to Good Stewardship

- The Foundation Center's Guide to Proposal Writing
- The Grantseeker's Guide to Winning Proposals
- Online access to the Foundation Directory Online (FDO) Database

FDO is considered the "gold standard" for online grants research. An excellent resource for finding alternative or additional grant funding for your library, FDO provides comprehensive and accurate information on U.S. grant makers and their funding activities. FDO includes profiles on more than 98,000 United States foundations, direct corporate giving programs, company-sponsored foundations, 900,000 recent grants, and more than 400,000 key decision-makers.

The Foundation Center continually monitors more than 35 diverse information sources to verify the details in each grant maker profile, and updates the database weekly. Data is compiled into four searchable databases: Grantmakers, Companies, Grants, and 990s. Users can refine their search results using up to 12 indexed search fields and other custom-search options in order to discover potential funders for their endeavors.

FDO is available to organizations for purchase in five subscription levels from Basic to Professional. A single user subscription to the Professional level is \$1,295 per year. Each Cooperating Collection pays a modest annual membership fee which provides them with the print resources as well as full access to the highest level of FDO available at a savings to their library of more than \$2,500 if they were to purchase each item at full cost outside of the Cooperating Collection agreement.

In the immediate future, public funding for libraries may continue to decrease. Public libraries plus local and regional nonprofit agencies, using resources available through the Cooperating Collection network, can more easily search for alternative, non-public funding sources, ultimately becoming less dependent on scarce public funding. **IA**

LTA Legislative Recap

By Francis Picart, Chair of the LTA Legislation and Policy Committee

Greetings, LTA members. I'm pleased to provide a summary of where our libraries stand with library legislation and funding issues. While the figures present a gloomy picture, we saw some progress made during this year's legislative sessions.

In recent years, State support for libraries has decreased significantly, falling six times in the last three years by 20%. The 2010 budget presented another reduction of \$2.4 million, bringing funding below 1998 levels. That was recently reduced further by \$833,334.00 in the 2010-2011 NYS budget with funds going into an FMAP Contingency Allocation Plan or "Lock Box." If the State develops a surplus, some promised funds may return. In addition to direct cuts, many libraries and systems have received NO State aid yet this year, or funds may only

recently have begun to arrive. For many libraries and systems operating on calendar fiscal years, two thirds of their fiscal year passed with no State aid payments.

These are difficult circumstance and raise questions about alternate mechanisms, sources or vehicles of state funding. LTA encourages you to contact your local representatives to encourage them to work with their leadership and colleagues in Albany to:

- pass the Education, Labor and Family Assistance (ELFA) Article VII legislation that would allow the distribution of library aid in a quick and fair manner, and
- pass legislation that would authorize the allocation and expenditure of federal stimulus funds for schools and libraries.



LTA quarterly meeting in Albany

On the positive side for public libraries, one bill did pass this session. Bill S.3903 Oppenheimer/A.6154 Paulin would permit libraries and library systems to engage in cooperative bidding for products or services. That will allow libraries to save money through bulk purchasing and can be of significant help to larger systems. LTA extends thanks to Senator Suzi Oppenheimer, Assemblymember Amy Paulin and Assemblymember Jonathan Bing (Chair of the Libraries Committee) for their continued support.

With elections just weeks away, it is not too late to engage candidates to gain their commitment to library funding. Personal contact from library trustees, patrons and friends can bring our situation into better focus and put a face on the funding dilemma. **LTA**

New Name New Website

Continued from cover

Many libraries are familiar with this effort having responded to the request to share your policies. **We are still receiving, categorizing and uploading policies and expect this to continue for a few months.** However, we have a number of policies in place already and it is an active tab on the website. Inquires and policies may be sent to tgavin@librarytrustees.org

The LTA Board is deeply grateful to graduate student Timothy Gavin who dedicated his time to this effort. Further, we would like to thank the NYS Office of Library Services and Joe Mattie for overseeing Tim's work. Tim recently graduated from the Information Studies Program at the University of Albany.

Renew and Manage Your LTA Membership

Your system or library performs better when your trustees are educated and informed. When a system or library joins LTA, all their trustees

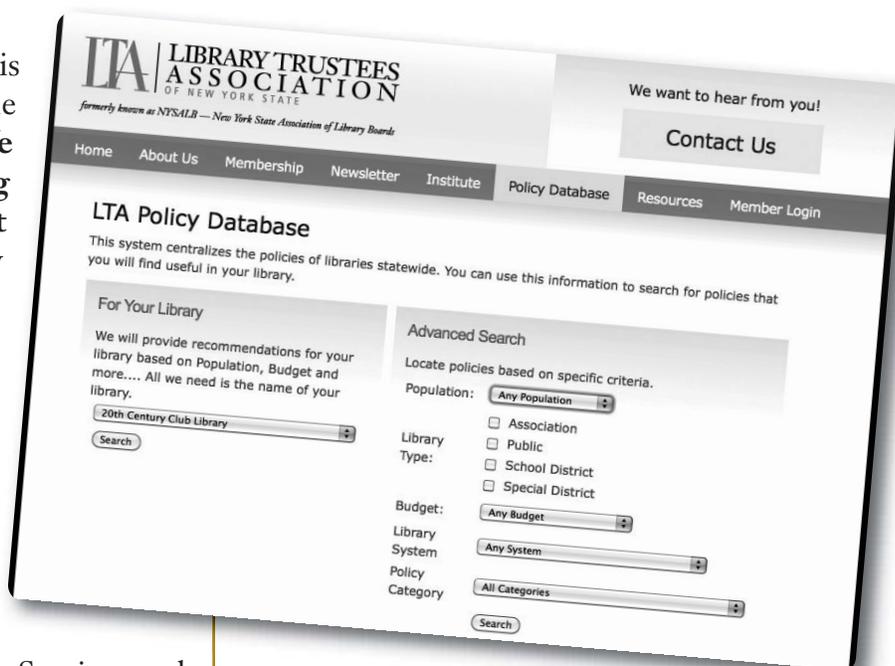
*Be sure to share
this news with your library
bookkeeper*

become members too. Keeping your trustee list current with LTA has always been challenging. Now with an **online membership option**, systems and libraries can

- Renew or join LTA and
- At anytime update trustee names, addresses, emails, and board positions

Membership runs on a calendar year. Initially LTA will still send traditional mailings to encourage your membership online but hopes, with your help, to move to a totally electronic membership environment.

In November, look for your membership mailing and opportunity to pay for your membership online. Further, at anytime during the year, you may update one or all your trustees information. **LTA**



from the *Editor's Desk* by Adria Ripka

Greetings, fellow library trustees.

Believe it or not, I enjoy attending library meetings. Regardless of the location, length or purpose, I always learn something. At a local advisory council meeting in July attendees heard about materials available at the Onondaga County central library that relate to foundations and grants. Besides an excellent introduction to the Foundation Center cooperative collections, the presentation reminded me that our library systems are truly great information resources in ways of which *we, the trustees*, may not be aware.

I think you will find the article on the Foundation Center in this issue informative for two reasons: 1) you may be more successful in seeking grant funding by using this resource, and 2) we can point out that the cooperative collections are an added value our systems provide to the public at no cost. What a nice tidbit for our marketing tools. There is a cooperative collection center located in 17 of the 23 library systems in New York State. To find the collection nearest you, go to <http://foundationcenter.org/collections/ccny.html>.

As part of my “summer reading”, I borrowed a book displayed at that July meeting, and I highly



recommend it. Titled “Fund Raising Realities Every Board Member Must Face”, the book is an excellent primer or review on key steps to keep in mind when planning a fund drive. Chapters are short and to the point so that the reader is not overwhelmed. The author, David Lansdowne, provides clear suggestions and encouragement.

Keeping track of funding and legislative initiatives can be daunting. When I visited the New York State Assembly site recently at www.assembly.state.ny.us/leg, a keyword search on “library” brought up 88 bills! Some of the bills listed related to specific libraries while others have a wider scope. LTA, along with other partners in the library realm, will provide insights and overviews. You’ll see a brief update in this edition of the Trustee.

We are in the midst of challenging economic times. In spite of that, there are successes large and small taking place in our libraries. We need to share those successes with our community news sources and ourselves. Hearing good news can brighten our outlook and reinforce our resolve. I know you will find some good news in this issue.

I’ll close by saying thank you to those trustees who shared positive feedback on the Summer 2010 edition of the Trustee, and for the corrections that came in, as well. The goal of the Trustee is to communicate information that has value to our members and the library community. The newsletter may include a range of topics; some light, some thought-provoking; some local and some broader in scope. While not every item submitted may be included, I welcome your news and views. Which topics would you like included in the quarterly Trustee? Perhaps a survey in the next issue of the Trustee and on the website would trigger some feedback. I’ll keep that in mind. **ITA**



Welcome New Board Member

During the business meeting at the 2010 Trustee Institute on Long Island, the LTA board elected Patricia "Tish" Fontanella to her first three-year term with Library Trustees Association of New York.

Currently, Tish is in her 10th year as a member of the Westchester Library System Board of Trustees having just completed two one year terms as President of the Board. During the term of her Presidency, the board searched for and hired a new director, planned and executed a county wide 50th anniversary celebration and trustees became much more involved with the local library boards that each trustee represents. Each of these events brought the board in greater contact with the citizens of our county and county administration. The events also made trustees aware of the advocacy necessary to keep libraries a much needed and valuable community service.

Prior to her Westchester involvement, Tish was a member of the Library Board of Trustees for the North Castle Public Library, in Armonk, NY for 14 years completing her last term in December 2009. She held the office of President twice, once for two years and then again for another three years.



**Patricia "Tish"
Fontanella**

Tish is a graduate of SUNY Cortland and was a high school teacher in White Plains before starting her family. She presently is Executive Administrator and Sales Coordinator for McMichael Yacht Brokers Ltd in Mamaroneck, NY. Tish oversees the handling of contracts, works with yacht brokers, coordinates the building of clients' yachts with manufacturers and finalizes the transfers of ownership.

Tish and her husband are very involved with many outdoor activities. They enjoy sailing, skiing, cycling and spend a much time in the great outdoors. Tish also enjoys reading, running and time with their grandkids.

After her first board meeting in September, Tish stated, "For the past 15 years I have had many wonderful experiences service libraries. I have dealt with exciting times, disappointments, successes and challenges, but most of all I have enjoyed working with dedicated committed individuals who find serving the needs of their library community brings much satisfaction. I look forward to working with the Library Trustees Association and helping to implement the many programs and services that are being planned."

Welcome, Tish! IIA

Velma K. Moore Time to Start Thinking

A quick reminder before we get into the holiday season. LTA will seek nominations beginning in January 2011 for the Velma K. Moore award. LTA's Velma K. Moore award is given annually to an individual or group that has made exemplary contributions to the development of library services in New York State. Nominees may include trustees, a community member, staff or any group of library supporters. For details on the award, details and deadline, keep checking our website at www.librarytrustees.org. IIA

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Tully Library celebrates a quarter of a century!

May 15th, 2010 marked the 75th anniversary of the start of the Tully Free Library. On Sunday, May 16th, about 80 community members, Library staff, volunteers, and past and present members of the Board of Trustees gathered at the Library to celebrate this important milestone. Tea was served from 4-6 pm. along with a variety of sweet and savory treats that included scones, cookies, and tea sandwiches.

Current Board member and event chair Joanne Kelly acted as host. Featured guests included Norma White who, at age 99, is the last surviving member of the Tekaneata Club, a local women's club that spearheaded the drive for the Library in 1935. Earlier this year, Tully resident Jim Paccia videotaped an interview with Mrs. White that was shown during the tea. In the interview Mrs. White recounted how the Library started and described her years serving as a volunteer and a librarian. Also present was Robert DeMore, County Legislator (12th District). Mr. DeMore presented the Library director, Lorraine Tickner, with a plaque commemorating the Library's 75th anniversary. Peg Murray entertained guests with her dynamic piano playing, and the event ended with talks by Anne Padget, former Library Director, and Elizabeth Dailey, current director of the Onondaga County Public Library (OCPL) System. **ITA**



Left-Right:
Anne Padget, Elizabeth Dailey,
Norma White, Lorraine Tickner