

From: Ruth Anna
Date: December 16, 2004

Greetings to the Trustees & Friends who attended the 2004 CAL Conference!

I'm Ruth Anna, Chair of the Trustees & Friends Division of the Colorado Library Association (CAL). As I stated in October when I was elected, my goal as Division Chair is to provide leadership so Trustees and Friends of public libraries will be better prepared to advocate for public libraries. I firmly believe we must stress the importance of public libraries in our democratic society, improve public library funding, influence public library policy, and insure free and accessible access to information for all. Our present passive support of public libraries needs to be turned into educated action. Also, **please read this entire update**. Your input is important.

At our October meeting, several priorities were set for our Division:

- E-mail quarterly updated on legislative news and issues
- Take positions on key legislative issues as warranted
- Create guidelines on how Trustees can better advocate to elected officials & influence decisions
- Develop the Trustee portion of the CAL web site to be more user friendly for Trustees
- Provide information and/or links on the web site for Trustees to acquire background on key operational issues such as health insurance, investments, security for staff, measuring success, etc.
- Encourage Trustees to contact the Division Chair for help, workshops, requests, etc.
- Create a statewide Trustee list
- Work with the CAL Conference Committee to establish a Trustee track at the annual conference (Friday afternoon- Saturday morning with roundtable discussions, workshops, and Division meeting)
- Revise the Division's Bylaws to better reflect a role and mission for Trustees and Friends
- Ask the State Library for a grant to support Trustees attendance at CAL's Annual Conference

From the above list, the Vice Chair and I met to set goals to be completed before March 1, 2005.

1. Send at least three informational e-mails to every Trustee/Friend in our database
2. Launch a new look for the Trustee portion of the CAL web site in late January
3. Create a statewide Trustee list, which will be an ongoing project
4. Chair (Ruth Anna) is serving on the CAL Legislative Committee and the Conference Committee
5. Distribute advocacy guidelines for Trustees to use
6. Board of Directors (Chair, Vice Chair, Member-at-Large, and Immediate Past Chair) meet, at least once, revise the Bylaws to better reflect our missions, and set future goals and objectives.

However, the most important part of these efforts is each of you! It's vital you convey what the key issues are for your library system, identify problems you are experiencing, and ask questions. Don't hesitate to ask for help. We will respond.

Requests will be reviewed to determine how best to assist. It could be as simple as providing research/background material, or it may mean providing your Board with a person(s) who will travel to your location and present a workshop or training session.

I look forward to the coming year and urge each of you to become active members of our organization. Together we will succeed. And, happy holidays to everyone.

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