

Hello Trustees & Friends of Public Libraries:

I'm Ruth Anna, chair of the Trustees & Friends Division of the Colorado Library Association (CAL). As I noted in my December message, one of your officers' goals is to send you at least three informational messages during the year. This is the first in that series. Our goal is to provide leadership so Trustees and Friends of public libraries will be better prepared to advocate for their libraries.

From the goals established, here are updates on our activities since early December:

1. This is the first of three informational e-mails to be sent to Trustees/Friends in our database.
2. The new look for the Trustee portion of the CAL web site will launch by the end of February. You will be sent an e-mail to announce the change.
3. In order to establish an accurate database we are contacting public libraries throughout Colorado to obtain contact information for their Trustees. It is 1/3 completed.
4. Ruth Anna, Chair is serving on the CAL Legislative Committee and the Conference Committee.
 - a. Legislative update: budget issues are key, again this year. TABOR, Amendment 23, and tobacco revenue remain controversial. Weld County and the town of Erie are proposing legislation to amend the library law to allow municipalities to join library districts. Another consideration is an Intergovernmental agreement (IGA) to make it easier to get out of a library district. How this will impact other library districts is being still unclear. At the end of this e-mail I've attached a more in-depth description of the proposed legislation – ATTACHEMENT A for HB 1210 (page two of this e-mail).

Another issue is the continued funding of the new CLiC (Colorado Library Consortium). CLiC was created to assist libraries with a variety of needs, and a Director was hired, Valerie Horton. Funding requests for the next fiscal year are being discussed.
 - b. Conference Committee: The goal is to have workshops and round-table discussions at the November 10-13, 2005, CAL Conference specifically for Trustees. Workshops suggested by many of you include: Beginning & Advance Trustee training, Being a Library Advocate – urban and rural areas, Investment Policies, Advisory vs. Governance Boards, Benchmarking for Finances, Security Issues – for staff & patrons, Roles of Trustees and the Library Director, Making Complex Decisions, and Ethical Leadership.

If you would like additional topics, call or e-mail Ruth as soon as possible.

5. To get you started on some advocacy tips for Trustees begin at the AdVanced Advocacy web site: www.advocacyguru.com. Additional sites and material will be posted on our web site in March.
6. The Trustees/Friends Division Board of Directors (Chair, Vice Chair, Member-at-Large, and Immediate Past Chair) are to meet, at least once, revise the Bylaws to better reflect our mission, and set future goals and objectives – the plan is to meet over the summer and complete the work by August 1.

Additionally, I've received requests from Trustee Boards to provide training in specific areas where they would like help. People with the expertise required to assist have been, or are being, sent to provide the training needed. **If any of you would like training/assistance please contact the Chair, Ruth Anna,** as soon as possible. Asking for help is key. Requests are reviewed to determine how best to assist. Sometimes it's as simple as providing research/background material. Or, we will suggest providing your Board with a person(s) who will travel to your location and present a workshop or training session.

Your input is vital to the success of Colorado's public libraries. Let us know what you need to be successful, and how we can help. **Page two** of this message contains **contact information for your officers and Attachment A.**

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ATTACHMENT A

The Weld Library District (WLD), created in 1986 and headquartered in Greeley, covers over 4,000 square miles in northeastern Colorado. Recently, WLD formed a task force comprised of elected officials and town administrators in the southwestern section of the District to help determine how many, where and when new libraries should be built to accommodate the rapid population growth.

Operating revenue for new facilities is expected to come from property taxes within the Weld Library District. However, two areas affected, Dacono and the Boulder County side of Erie, are not part of the Library District. Dacono, although part of Weld County, had chosen not to join the District during its initial formation. Half of Erie is in Weld Library District and Weld County. The other half is in Boulder County, and has no provision for library services.

Currently, there is no provision in the Colorado Library Law for an area to join an existing library district. So, the Southwest Weld Library District Facilities Task Force initiated an amendment to the Colorado Library Law. The title is, "Concerning inclusion of governmental units into an existing library district." Representatives Berens and Shaffer are carrying the amendment to the House and Senate, and there are several co-sponsors. We also have the support of the Colorado Association of Libraries Legislative Committee. We feel confident of its passage. The next step will be to go to the voters of Dacono and Erie this fall, and find out whether or not they are willing to be taxed for expanded library services.