



Lincoln Trail
Libraries System

Lincoln Trail Trustee Connection

2009 no. 1

Dear LTLS,

Welcome to the first issue of the Lincoln Trail Trustee Connection. We will issue this update on an irregular basis when we have topics of importance for library trustees. Our goal is to bring you short informative articles about significant issues and opportunities for libraries. Please let us know how we can make this publication meet your needs by giving us feedback and suggesting topics you would like us to cover. We thank you for your volunteer service to your community and want to do our part to help you succeed.

Jan Ison
Executive Director

In This Issue

IMRF News

Labor Posters

Interesting Information

Grant News

IMRF News



IMRF: Planning for Higher Rates
Many LTLS libraries participate in IMRF. Due to the financial crisis, IMRF expects to lose about 27% in 2008. This will result in employer rate increases in 2010. Ironically, because of good investment results in 2007, IMRF rates will go down in 2009 before going up in 2010. LTLS recommends that libraries consider setting aside funding during 2009 to meet increased contribution requirements beginning in 2010. Rates for 2010 will be announced by IMRF in Spring 2009. Rates deducted from employee wages are fixed at 4.5% and will not change. More information is available on the IMRF website at <http://www.imrf.org/>

Special Tax for IMRF Contributions
Illinois public libraries have the ability to levy a special tax to meet their

Grant News

The Illinois State Library has announced the 2010 Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grants. Four types of grants are available: "In Sync With Technology" for library services using new technologies and equipment. "Digital Imaging" to digitize and make accessible significant cultural or historical collections. "Dreamcatcher" for end-user training programs. "READ: Reading for Education & Development" for reading activities and resources for end-users. The first step is to file an online Letter of Intent by March 31, 2009. Full applications are due May 1, 2009. The grant period is Oct. 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010.

Quick Links

[LTLS Website](#)
[LTLS Blogs](#)
[LTLS Board](#)
[LINC Catalog](#)

[Links in Articles](#)

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IMRF employer contributions. With substantial increases set to begin in 2010, libraries not already collecting the special IMRF Tax should consider this. The special tax is specifically earmarked for IMRF and can not be used for any other purpose. If the library does not take advantage of the IMRF Tax, the employer contributions will come out of the general fund, reducing the ability to provide other services.

Labor Posters



Various labor-related posters are available for posting in staff areas. There are many sources of commercial and free posters to meet these posting requirements.

The US Dept of Labor website describes the various federal [workplace poster requirements](#) and free downloads:

The Illinois Dept of Labor website has information on [state required posters](#).

There are also numerous private companies that create all-in-one Illinois and Federal posters to save space. Here is [one example](#), and [another](#).

Interesting Information

Trustee Training DVD

LTLS has an innovative trustee training tool, "Trustee Trouble: Misadventures of a New Library Board Member" from Wyoming, consisting of a series of 10 short video programs under 10 minutes each, and suitable for playing at your monthly board meetings. To order a copy for your library at a cost of \$10, please email ltls@lincolntrail.info.



Home Rule

According to the [Illinois Municipal League](#), there are 198 Illinois municipalities that operate under the Home Rule form of government. Seven cities in the LTLS area are Home Rule: Champaign, Danville, Onarga, Rantoul, Tuscola, Urbana, and Watseka.

Did You Know?

Lincoln Trail's delivery vans traveled almost 95,000 miles, made over 7,000 stops, and moved 1 million items between member libraries from July 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008.

The Word

Bandwidth: The capacity of the library's telecommunications connection to transmit data. With increased use of the Internet for research, school work and recreation, and with more content available in audio and video formats, the need for increased bandwidth is greater than ever.

Tax Caps

In counties covered under the Tax Cap law, the cap limits the yearly increase in tax revenue to the lesser of 5% or the cost of living. Nine LTLS libraries in 2 counties (Champaign and Coles) are under the tax cap, however not every library in Champaign Co. is covered. Home rule municipalities are exempt from tax caps, so in Champaign County the Champaign, Rantoul and Urbana libraries are not under the tax cap. The following LTLS libraries are under the tax cap: Charleston, Homer, Mahomet, Mattoon, Ogden, Philo, Sidney, St. Joseph, and Tolono.

The Department of Revenue has a [summary](#) of the effects of the Tax Cap legislation. A [map](#) showing counties covered by tax caps is also available.

Public Library Standards - New Edition

Serving Our Public, the standards document for Illinois public libraries, has been revised. The [Illinois Library Association](#) will announce ordering details soon.

It's Your Turn

Use our [online input form](#) to tell us what topics you would like us to cover in the next issue.

For More Information

You can get more information about topics covered in this issue by contacting any [LTLS Consultant](#).

Links in Articles

For your convenience, LTLS has bookmarked all the links in this issue on our Delicious.com shared bookmarks page at <http://delicious.com/lincolntrail/trusteenews2009-1>.

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