



A NEWSLETTER FOR LIBRARY TRUSTEES WITHIN THE PIONEER LIBRARY SYSTEM

Late Summer 2011 Edition



Tax Cap Implications for Public and Association Libraries

Governor Cuomo signed legislation on July 6, 2011 capping property taxes at 2% or the Consumer Price Index (CPI), whichever is lower. Unanswered questions remain, including the exact impact on association and municipal public libraries that go out for a supplemental school vote and/or a 414 vote.

What isn't in question is that this legislation has the potential to be very damaging to municipal and association libraries who have not made the shift to a public library district model, as recommended by the Regents Commission on Library Services in 2000, and who rely heavily on municipal appropriations for funding.

As of this writing, it is believed that public library districts (school district public libraries and special legislative library districts), will be considered under the local government section of the legislation. This interpretation means that public library districts have their own, separate tax cap, and that the mechanism to exceed the tax cap is the same as for local government. To exceed the tax cap a library board would pass a vote by a 60% margin of trustees, then bring to a public vote. If the public approves by a simple majority (50%), the tax cap may be exceeded.

The Pioneer Library System is closely monitoring new developments as the New York Library Association continues discussions with the State Comptroller's Office, the NYS Division of Budget, State Education Department Counsel and the Governor's Office in an attempt to clarify how the legislation impacts all types of libraries. We will pass along information to library directors as we receive it.

Save the Date.....

Legal Issues for Libraries

A workshop for library trustees and library directors/managers
Saturday, October 1, 2011 from 1—5 pm
A light mid-afternoon snack provided

Attorneys Bob Schofield and Ellen Bach from Whiteman Osterman & Hanna LLP will present a legal update for libraries, including information about the recently passed tax cap legislation & time for Q&A on individual library issues.

Based in Albany, Schofield and Bach work with the New York Library Association to provide assistance on legal issues that affect

libraries statewide, and have represented a variety of libraries across the state, ranging from small association libraries to large library systems.



What is that?

It's a QR (Quick Response) code. With a smartphone and a free app (CertainTeed, for example), you can scan it and be taken right to the online registration form.

Positioning Your Library: The Community's Early Learning Center

by Ellen Reynolds, Public and Outreach Services Librarian
Pioneer Library System

With many young children enrolled in Universal Pre-K, daycare or other preschool programs, some libraries are seeing fewer 3 and 4 year olds at traditional library storytimes than in the past.

Parents are a child's first teacher and some parents need assistance in learning how to help their child learn during the most important formative years. Libraries with baby and toddler programs have an opportunity to not just introduce children to books and reading, but to model behavior for the parent/caregiver that will help them prepare their child for the learning they have ahead of them.

Children's brains grow the most from birth to age five. These are the years that learning is most critical. At birth a baby's brain is 25% of its adult weight. As a child grows the number of neurons remains relatively stable, but each cell grows, becoming bigger and heavier. This is due to multiple connections with other cells. Brain connections strengthen if they are used repeatedly. "Pruning" occurs if they are not used.

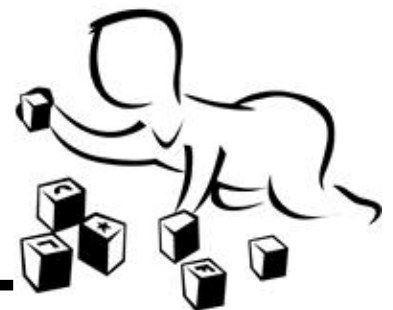
The kind of experiences that strengthen connections in growing brains need to be frequent, regular and predictable. They need to occur in the context of a warm, supportive relationship. They are associated with positive emotion (fun, excitement, humor, comfort). They involve several senses. They are responsive to the child's interests or initiatives. Through research, The Public Library Association (PLA) and Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) have found that public libraries influence early literacy by providing programs to parents and caregivers that model behavior to be replicated at home. The outcome is children who are better prepared to enter school and learn.

Five simple practices can develop early literacy skills that will influence a child's success in school. They are Talking, Singing, Reading, Writing, and Playing. A library early literacy program involves teaching parents how to use tools like finger plays, nursery rhymes, songs, and games to enrich their young child's experiences. By sharing developmental tips along with activities, library youth services specialists help parents use positive and comforting methods as they learn how to be their child's first teacher.

"Research has found that public libraries influence early literacy by providing programs to parents and caregivers that model behavior to be replicated at home....the outcome is children who are better prepared to enter school and learn."

By establishing itself as the early learning center in the community the library has a unique opportunity to demonstrate to community partners and funders that it is a key asset in helping children to succeed. The value of the library is better recognized by the school district, daycare centers, health care providers, and programs that work with teen mothers, and parents whose babies may be at risk.

As attendance at traditional storytimes for 3 and 4 year olds drops, the public library has an excellent opportunity to assume the critical role of early literacy provider in the community. Public libraries with successful early literacy programs become highly valued for their role in the community and develop strong connections with other organizations and agencies that share the same goals.



Consultation Services Available to Library Boards

Starting in January 2012, the Pioneer Library System will offer newly designed on-site trustee training and consultation to member library boards. Trainings generally last 1 hour, but can be tailored to fit your time requirements. Currently available for scheduling starting in January 2012:

- How to Run Effective Library Board Meetings
- Roles and Responsibilities of Library Trustees
- Organizing a Successful Job Search Strategy for a Library Director or Manager

For more information, contact Cassie Guthrie or Betsy Morris at 585-394-8260 or by e-mail cguthrie@pls-net.org / bmorris@pls-net.org

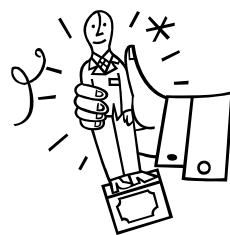
Pioneer Trustee Success Stories

Rita Reissig, who recently ended her term on the Geneva Public Library Board, has been very active in the Library Trustees Association of New York State (LTA), chairing both the Education Committee and the Awards Committee. Being active in LTA has allowed Rita to network with other library trustees from across the state, and to share that knowledge locally in Geneva.



Geneva Public Library trustee
Rita Reissig speaks at the LTA Trustee
Institute in Albany on April 29, 2011

Are you or one of your fellow trustees doing something "above and beyond" to further the cause of public libraries locally or across the state? Send your stories and photographs to cguthrie@pls-net.org for a future issue of Trustee Talk.



2011 Pioneer Awards

Library Director/Manager of the Year
Library Trustee of the Year
Library Advocate of the Year

*Deadline for Submissions Extended to
September 12th*

The Pioneer Library System will present three awards at the Annual Meeting on October 12. Nomination forms and guidelines were sent to library directors/manager, library board presidents, and Friends' groups at the end of July. The forms are also available on the PLS website at <http://www.pls-net.org> under Award Nomination Forms near bottom of the page. The deadline for nominations to be received has been extended to September 12, 2011.

Please consider nominating your library director/manager, a fellow library trustee, or a library volunteer. The selection committee hopes to finish its work by mid-September and notify nominators and recipients ahead of the PLS Annual Dinner Meeting on October 12th, where the awards will be announced.

New in the Pioneer Library System Professional Collection

Available for loan by library staff, trustees, volunteers, and the general public by placing a hold in the OWWL catalog:

Meeting and Exceeding Expectations: A Guide to Successful Nonprofit Board Meetings, Outi Flynn, 2009

Are your board meetings inspiring, productive, and efficient? Or are your board meetings tedious, unproductive, and dominated by one or two people? Do they leave board members wondering why they volunteered in the first place? In **Meeting, and Exceeding Expectations**, you'll find ready-to-use information that will help your board members provide the valuable input that will propel your organization to greatness. It also shows you how to insert some fun into your meetings.



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U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Canandaigua, NY
Permit No. 62

2557 State Route 21
Canandaigua, NY 14424
(585) 394-8260

Trustee Talk is a publication
of the Pioneer Library System
for Library Trustees in
Ontario, Wayne, Wyoming
and Livingston Counties.

Layout and Editor:
Cassie Guthrie,
Executive Director

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Upcoming Workshops & Events:

Saturday, October 1, 2011

Legal Issues for Libraries

A workshop for library trustees and library directors/managers
Saturday, October 1, 2011 from 1—5 pm @ PLS Headquarters in Canandaigua
A light mid-afternoon snack provided

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Pioneer Library System 22nd Annual Dinner and Meeting
Keynote Speaker: Author Anne Panning
Valley Oak Events Center, 4242 Lakeville Road, Geneseo, NY