



Happy New Year!

Welcome Library Board Trustees. The North Central Library District is grateful for your service. Our success is dependent upon your passion, leadership, and vision for our public libraries. This trustee newsletter will help us better communicate with you all of the wonderful activities happening across our area. The North Central Library District is comprised of 40 public libraries in 11 counties. We are the largest geographic district in the state. In 2011, the District Advisory Council was expanded and divided into two leading groups (Regional Steering Committee and Regional Action Committee). This enabled more participation from our member libraries to help us brainstorm, make decisions, and share information. Our 2011 accomplishments include a cooperative purchase of Tumblebooks (an ebook database service for elementary students) and Mango Languages. We sponsored four regional workshops including Michael Kumer's Non-Profit Leadership Workshop in March, the Public Library Association Virtual Symposium for Library Leadership, Get Your Geek On (a partnership workshop with West Branch Chapter of PALA), and Fund Development with Peter Pearson. We have seen a number of changes this past year, including Karen Temple's retirement and Barbara McGary's promotion to District Administrator and Director the James V. Brown Library. We hope this newsletter finds you well. Please let us know of success stories happening in your area.

Best wishes and continued success,

Melissa A. Rowse
District Consultant

Have you received the new trustee handbook?

Getting on Board packets were delivered to each library and are taking the place of the blue trustee handbook. The packet was created to be placed in a three-ring binder and supplemented with your individual library's information such as by-laws, articles of incorporation, profit and loss statements, and job descriptions. A DVD with 8 segments was also sent to the district member libraries. The DVD provides a summary and helpful hints from library trustees and directors across the state and correlates to specific chapters in the handbook. Contact Melissa Rowse, mrowse@jvbrown.edu or (570) 326-0536, for more information.

PA Forward Buzz

Creating Joyful Noise by Kathy Silks

The Pennsylvania Library Association is working on the final preparation for PA Forward public launch at the State Capitol (date to be set mid-February). We hope you are also planning a significant community event to reinforce the statewide release of the campaign. Build your own buzz by showcasing the ways your library brings literacy to peoples lives. You may also want to use this opportunity to create new strategic alliances based on one of the 5 literacies. Share your places for advancing PA Forward with Kathy@palibraries.org. We all have an important message to spread. Pennsylvania libraries are preparing people to compete in the 21st Century by helping them improve essential literacy skills and reach their greatest potential.

Upcoming Meetings

Next Regional Steering Committee - Wednesday, March 21, 2012 @ 10am.

Regional Action Committee, Wednesday, March 21, 2012 @ 1pm Lowry Room, James V. Brown Library

State News

Want to receive updates from the Office of Commonwealth Libraries? Join the Compendium list, email Melissa Rowse @ mrowse@jvbrown.edu to be added.

The Hopeful Workplace with George and Joan (InfoPeople)

On January 17th, George Needham and Joan Frye Williams will explore how to get out of the rat race that says "do more with less." They will shift our focus to hope-engendering ways to "do different with less," and offer practical techniques to improve your own job satisfaction and move your organization in a more positive direction.

Tune in to learn how to support each other, build trust and confidence, and develop services that recapture that feeling of success for ourselves and our communities.

This one-hour webinar will be of interest to anyone in the library community who wants to see libraries move forward, including library staff, volunteers, friends, trustees, and commissioners.

This free webinar will last approximately one hour. Registration is ONLY done on the day of the event on the WebEx server. No Passwords are required. For Tips and Registration Information, please go to <http://infopeople.org/training/webcasts/tips.html>.

If you are unable to attend the live event, you can access the archived version the day following the webinar. Check the archive listing at:

<http://infopeople.org/training/view/>



Tax Credit for Nonprofits... Are You Receiving It?

Small employers - both non-profits and for-profits - can immediately claim a tax credit when they pay for at least half of the health insurance premiums for their employees. The full credit will be available to employers with 10 or fewer workers with average annual wages of \$25,000, while firms with up to 25 or fewer employees and average annual wages of up to \$50,000 will be eligible for part of the credit.

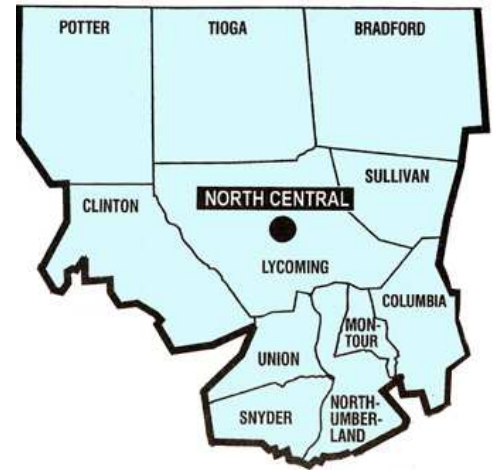
The small employer credit will help *all* small employers (defined as 25 or fewer employees and average wages below \$50,000 per year) provide insurance to their employees.

- In Phase I (2010-2013), small nonprofit employers can take a credit (in the form of 25% of the employer contribution for employee insurance premiums) and apply that credit to taxes withheld through payroll (and employees would still get full credit for taxes withheld from their pay).
- In Phase II (2014-onward), the amount of the credit increases to 35%.

Learn more about the [Small Employer Health Credit](http://www.councilofnonprofits.org/public-policy/federal-policy-issues/health-care-reform/). @ <http://www.councilofnonprofits.org/public-policy/federal-policy-issues/health-care-reform/>



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Online Professional Development through Webjunction

January 13
Developing and Maintaining E-Reader Policies and Procedures for Libraries

As debates rage on about e-books, publishers and privacy, how are libraries approaching policies for managing e-readers? Join this webinar focused on the nuts and bolts of serving patrons with gadgets, including policies and procedures for libraries lending e-readers and for patrons using their own readers to access library e-book collections. Hear from a library who has e-reader policies and procedures in place, including how they review and update policies; and from a library who recently developed policies and procedures after researching and learning from many other libraries.

Presenters are David Newyear, adult information services manager, Mentor Public Library, Ohio, and Daniel Schwartz, library director, Butt-Holdsworth Memorial Library, Kerrville, Texas.

[Early Registration](#) is available for Webjunction affiliates.