

# Library Trustee Forum Spring Webinars

## Library Trustee Forum Spring Webinars

March 8, April 12, May 10

The Trustee Forum is continuing its virtual spring webinars for 2025. Participants can attend one, two, or all three sessions. The recordings will be available to participants after each session.



**STOP!** Are you a director or admin registering your trustees? Are you registering a group? Or have you never registered for the LTF Spring Webinars before? If so, then take a moment to read through these **registration instructions**. If you have any trouble with registering, please email [ila@ila.org](mailto:ila@ila.org).

### REGISTER

The deadline to register is Tuesday, April 30.

#### Registration Fees

	All three webinars *	Individual webinars
ILA Institutional or Personal Member	\$40	\$15
Non-Member	\$50	\$20

Questions? Email [ila@ila.org](mailto:ila@ila.org)

\* If you register for all three webinars, please allow 2-3 business days for staff to send you the recording of past webinars. Or email [ila@ila.org](mailto:ila@ila.org).

**Statement of Appropriate Conduct** - All participants are expected to observe the rules and behaviors described in the [Statement of Appropriate Conduct](#) in all conference venues.

#### Cancellation Policy:

If registered for all 3 events, cancellation must be received in writing by **Monday, February 26**. If registered for only 1 or 2 events, cancellation must be made 5

## EVENTS

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[Reaching Forward South Conference](#)

[Marketing Forum Mini-Conference](#)

[Reaching Forward North Conference](#)

[Annual Conference](#)

*business days prior to the start of the event you wish to cancel. Please e-mail your cancellation request to [ila@ila.org](mailto:ila@ila.org). Cancellations received in time will get a refund and are subject to \$15 processing fee.*

*Please note that these events will be recorded and recordings will be shared only with those registered for the event.*

*Due to a rise in paid, duplicate registrations, these will now be considered a cancellation/refund request and therefore subject to a processing fee.*

#### **Bill me later and payment policy:**

Payment is expected before attending the event. If payment needs to be made after an event, advance notice by emailing [ila@ila.org](mailto:ila@ila.org) is required. If notice is not given to ILA and no payment is received, registration will be rescinded and the privilege of utilizing the "Bill me later" option is forfeit for future events. All invoices must be paid before confirmed registration on future events. Failure to attend an event **without canceling before the deadline** does not eliminate the outstanding balance. **Payment is still required.**

## **Webinar Information**

### **Sustainability: A Core Value of Libraries**

Jennifer Ferriss of the Saratoga Springs Public Library (NY) will share how libraries can build stronger connections with their community, improve internal operations, and make environmentally conscious decisions and how trustees can support the work. Expect to come away with numerous ideas on how to get started and make this a part of your library mission, values and everyday operations.

Date: Saturday, March 8, 10:00 am - Noon

Speaker: Jennifer Ferriss

Moderator: Jennifer Lucas

### **Social Media Guidance for Library Trustees**

Attorney Julie Tappendorf, equity partner at Ancel Glink, PC, will share best practices for preventing Open Meetings Act violations and explain how the First Amendment impacts trustee social media use, even on personal accounts. She will review recent U.S. Supreme Court rulings concerning government officials and social media, and offer guidelines on the dos and don'ts of moderating comments on social media platforms.

Date: Saturday, April 12, 10:00 am - Noon

Speaker: Julie Tappendorf, [Ancel Glink, PC](#)

Moderator: Tom Stagg

### **Belonging in Community: How Libraries and Library Trustees Build Belonging in Community**

Library Trustees have responsibilities that go beyond finance, policies and compliance. Belonging is also central and may be the most important of the duties. Sean Gaillard's blog post – "Belonging in the Library: A Hub of Connection and Inspiration", he notes that the "Library (is) a space for Everyone to Feel Seen,

## **ILA Noon Network**

### **Webinar Archive**

Forums allow members to connect with one another on various specialized topics and interests. Informally structured, forum members work with one another to develop and present conference programs and informational literature, among other activities. The opportunity to serve as a forum leader is a benefit of ILA membership; forum managers and board members are required to maintain personal membership in the association during their term of service.

**Fill out the form below if you're interested in joining an ILA Forum.**

ILA Forum Interest  
Form

Heard and Valued.” While Gaillard is pointing to school libraries – the same can be said for public libraries presence in the communities. Public libraries strive to be that place in a community that supports opportunities for learning, adventure, respite, peace, gathering and fun by offering both welcoming and, ultimately, belonging. Often hard to measure, belonging is vital for public libraries by serving as gathering spaces and places for communities across Illinois and beyond.

Library Board trustees play a valuable role in building and supporting belonging in many ways: reviewing and discussing mission and vision, working with the library director to ensure a welcoming place for all community residents through good customer service, fair and impartial policies, creating spaces and places to laugh, explore, learn and build connections. Trustees ensure that the public library is for the entire community and reflects community culture, history and stories. This session will highlight how belonging is an essential element in community – from a practical perspective and a humanistic mindset. Library trustees – new and seasoned – will gain insights into the critical role of belonging is through representation, encouraging and supporting the library director with the hope and goal that all are welcome and belong.

Saturday, May 10, 10:00 am - Noon

Speakers: Richard Kong, Skokie Library; and Anne O'Keefe, Rockford Public Library

Moderator: Christine Westerlund

## Speaker Bios

### Jennifer Ferris, Saratoga Springs Public Library

Jennifer Ferriss is the Assistant Director at the Saratoga Springs Public Library (SSPL,) a library that holds the distinction of being the second library to achieve Sustainable Libraries Certification through the Sustainable Libraries Initiative (SLI.) Jennifer was a co-creator of the Certification program, contributing to its development and leading the library staff of SSPL through the process in 2018. Currently, Jennifer serves on the Advisory Board of the SLI, where she provides guidance and supports libraries nationwide in their sustainability efforts.



### Richard Kong, Skokie Public Library

Richard is responsible for the overall administration, operation, and services of the Skokie Public Library. He works closely with library staff and community partners to lead the development of the library's strategy and ensure progress is made with its current strategic priorities. Reporting directly to the Library Board of Trustees, he also develops and implements the library's policies and manages its finances.



Richard currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Skokie Chamber of Commerce and Turning Point Behavioral Health Care Center, and is also a member of the Rotary Club of Skokie Valley and the Kiwanis Club of Skokie Valley. He is a recognized leader in the professional library community, currently serving on a number of professional boards and committees. He previously served as an executive board member of both the Public Library Association and the Illinois Library Association.

### **Anne O'Keefe, Rockford Public Library**

Anne E. O'Keefe is the Assistant Director for Community Engagement at the Rockford Public Library. Anne's first position at the Library was Development Officer beginning in 2016 and has been in her current role since 2022. Prior to joining the RPL team, Anne was President and CEO of the Rockford Area Arts Council for 12 years.



Her entire career has been about connecting people to ideas and resources that enrich their lives whether it is their education, career or quality of life.

She was on the lead team for 815 Choose Civility which was established to "empower our community to conduct ourselves with honesty, respect, consideration and kindness even toward those with whom we disagree." 815 Choose Civility was established in 2016 and convened community engagement forums including local and state government forums to inform voters. In 2020 focused pivoted to the The Belonging Begins with Us: Rockford Initiative which includes more than 30 individuals and organizations working to build a culture of Belonging in Rockford. The work being done is based on the philosophy of Othering and Belonging developed by John A. Powell, Director of the Othering and Belonging Institute at University of California, Berkeley.

Involvement in the Belonging movement aligns both personally and professionally for Anne. It requires trust, difficult conversations, and introspection. She has discovered that a sense of humor also helps as a great unifier.

Belonging belongs in libraries because we are the ideal place for lifelong learning, convening and welcoming all.

### **Julie Tappendorf, Ancel Glink**

Julie Tappendorf is an equity partner at Ancel Glink, PC in Chicago. She practices in the area of local government law, representing governments on a variety of legal issues, including social media, FOIA, Open Meetings Act, personnel matters, First Amendment, etc. She speaks frequently at local and national conferences on a variety of legal topics and





 **LACONI**  
TRUSTEE BANQUET

Friday, May 30th  
6:00-9:00 pm

The Nineteenth Century Club  
178 Forest Avenue  
Oak Park, IL 60301

The LACONI Trustee Banquet brings together community leaders, donors, and supporters to celebrate our organization's accomplishments and further our mission of providing continuing education for library professionals at all levels and networking opportunities for library trustees. This year, we are thrilled to host a conversation between RAILS Executive Director Monica Harris and acclaimed author Cristina Henríquez.

We recognize the vital role elected and appointed public library trustees play in shaping our communities. In Illinois, libraries are essential hubs for information, education, and resources, promoting lifelong learning and community connection. Our annual banquet is an opportunity to acknowledge advocates for these efforts and their commitment to enriching the lives of Illinois residents.

For additional information and to purchase tickets, visit [laconi.org](http://laconi.org)

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