

## Join the Trustees' discussion list

**TRUSTEES-L** is the discussion list for public library board members that is administered by Georgia Public Library Service (GPLS). The primary purposes of this list are:

- to facilitate discussion among members of Georgia's public library boards of trustees; and
- to promote the sharing of ideas and best practices.

Trustees are required to actively "opt in" by requesting to subscribe. Forms are located on the GPLS Web site at [www.georgialibraries.org](http://www.georgialibraries.org).

**Just visit the site, click on the "Resources for Trustees" button and follow the links!**

Each registrant will be asked to provide name, e-mail address and library affiliation to help verify eligibility. The list is and will continue to be restricted to those Georgia public library trustees who are currently serving on library boards, public library directors and GPLS management staff.

Directors and GPLS staff may occasionally share ideas and information about best practices via TRUSTEES-L. We might also let you know about the availability of new trustee-related books. TRUSTEES-L **may not** be used to conduct a "virtual" meeting of a board, and it may not be used by a quorum of any board to discuss issues specific to the library system they represent. Apart from these requirements, the list will be whatever you and your peers make it. Please join today! ■



## FOLUSA and ALTA become ALTAFF

### *New ALA division unites voices for nation's libraries*

Citizen support for libraries received a big boost on Feb. 1, when Friends of Libraries U.S.A. (FOLUSA) and the Association for Library Trustees and Advocates (ALTA) joined forces to become an expanded division of ALA. The new organization is called the Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations (ALTAFF).

The boards of both FOLUSA and ALTA believe that a strong division that reaches as many formalized lay support and governing groups of libraries as possible will be extremely important for America's libraries. "No one has a stronger voice for libraries in the community and on campus than those who use and love libraries," said **Peggy Barber**, FOLUSA board president. "This is a wonderful opportunity to pull those voices together for advocacy."

This new division will help Trustees and Friends work together at the local, state and national levels to effectively promote and advocate

for libraries. Additionally, both boards agree that libraries benefit when Trustees and Friends have strong working relationships at the local level and this will be modeled through ALTAFF. "While their roles are different, the fact that both groups are comprised of citizens who care about and support their libraries makes them natural allies," said ALTA President **Peggy Danhof**.

In an effort to bring in as many Trustees and Friends as possible, ALA has made special membership pricing available for individuals and associates. The ultimate goal will be to harness the power of hundreds of thousands of library advocates so that libraries will thrive even in times of economic distress.

Meeting challenges and taking advantage of opportunities in the 21st century won't be possible for libraries that don't have powerful advocates in their communities — in other words, Trustees and Friends. Visit ALTAFF online at [www.ala.org/altaff](http://www.ala.org/altaff). ■

## Videos developed for rural library board members

The Wyoming State Library has developed a DVD entitled *Trustee Trouble: The Misadventures of a New Library Board Member*. This DVD was specifically created to help rural library board members. It follows the adventures of a new library trustee's first year on the job. Each six- to 11-minute segment offers a short and entertaining way to introduce library board members to difficult library topics. Although the videos were developed in Wyoming, they are generic enough to be useful in any state. *Trustee Trouble* is available in the GPLS professional collection and can be borrowed through PINES or OCLC WorldCat. Individual video segments are also available online at [www.wyominglibraries.org/trusteetrouble.html](http://www.wyominglibraries.org/trusteetrouble.html). ■