

Director's Report October 2007

New "DRAFT" Form 990 Details

On June 14, 2007, the IRS released for public comment a discussion draft of a redesigned Form 990, Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax, filed by many public charities and other exempt organizations. The discussion draft constitutes a significant redesign of the form, which has been revised only on a piecemeal basis since 1979. The IRS anticipates using the form for the 2008 tax year (returns filed in 2009). The comment period closed on September 14, 2007.

The redesign of Form 990 is based on three guiding principles: enhancing transparency, promoting tax compliance, and minimizing the burden on the filing organization as follows:

- Enhancing transparency means providing the IRS and its stakeholders with a realistic picture of the organization and its operations, along with the basis for comparing the organization to similar organizations.
- Promoting compliance means the form must accurately reflect the organization's operations and use of assets, so the IRS may efficiently assess the risk of noncompliance.
- Minimizing the burden on filing organizations means asking questions in a manner that makes it relatively easy to fill out the form, and that do not impose unwarranted additional recordkeeping or information gathering burdens to obtain and substantiate the reported information.

The IRS claims that most organizations will not experience a material change in burden; while those with complicated compensation arrangements, related entity structures, and activities that raise compliance concerns may see an increase in the effort required to provide information.

The Audit Committee of the Board will be continuously advised as further developments are revealed.

Member Library Updates:

Briarcliff Manor: Excavation for the Library addition is complete and concrete is being poured for the foundation. Con Ed is re-connecting the gas line late this month so the Library will once again have heat and hot water. Current work involves installing drainage and water lines. In order to access the library during construction, patrons will access the Library through the adjacent Law Park path and down the steps to the front door.

Greenburgh: Extensive progress is being made on the construction of the new facility – you can actually see it from I-287.

Mamaroneck: Plans for the new building and renovation to the existing structure are progressing. Initial estimates for construction came in substantially over budget and therefore, the Board and staff are reviewing and revising the building program.

Mount Kisco: Similar to Greenburgh, the original building has been leveled and work is beginning on the new structure;

Ruth Keeler Memorial Library (North Salem): Their Board has announced the appointment of their new director – Carolyn Reznick. Carolyn was the Assistant Director at the Chappaqua Public Library.

Health Advocacy Centers

As a reminder, WLS staff have set November 8th at 2 p.m. as the program kickoff at the Grinton I. Will Branch Library of the Yonkers Public Library. County Executive Andy Spano and Department of Senior Program Services (DSPA) Commissioner Mae Carpenter have been invited to the event and are expected to speak. The Medicare Rights Center, our key partner on the program, has begun training their volunteers on working with older adults in a library setting. The goal of the program is to assist and train older adults to learn to advocate for their own health by understanding the issues around Medicare support, learning to research information by understanding how to use both print and on-line resources and how to ask questions of health care providers and get the results you need in order to make informed decisions. WLS staff are currently working with the staffs of the Will Library and John C. Hart Memorial Library to get ready for this, hopefully, well used service.

WLS Website Redesign

Unfortunately, work still continues in the development of the new site. We have now pushed back scheduling a soft launch until the end of November so that the staff of the member libraries will have the opportunity to work with the site and comment on what works and does not work.

Important Dates to Remember

Annual Meeting – November 13, 2007

African-American Readers and Writers Literary Tea Kickoff Event – November 13, 2007

All Kinds of Readers – “Rethinking Literacy in the 21st Century” – November 13, 2007 @ WLS

Next Board Meeting: November 27, 2007

Respectfully submitted,


Siobhan A. Reardon
Director