

Board of Trustee Ethics Policy

The Walter E. Olson Memorial Library is dependent on the trust of its community to successfully achieve its mission. Every OML Trustee makes a personal commitment to contribute the time and energy to faithfully carry out their duties and responsibilities effectively and with absolute truth, honor and integrity. All OML Trustees do affirm that they shall:

- Comply with all the laws, rules and regulations that apply to them and to their library.
- Fulfill their responsibilities without being swayed by partisan interests, public pressure of fear or criticism.
- Refrain from knowingly acting in any way that would reasonably be expected to create an impression among the public that they are engaged in conduct that violates their trust as Board members;
- Avoid situations in which their personal interests, activities or financial affairs are, or are likely to be perceived as being, in conflict with the best interests of the Library or its users and excuse or disqualify themselves immediately whenever there is the appearance of or a conflict of interest;
- Engage respectfully with other Trustees and Library staff, even when negotiating differing opinions;
- Distinguish clearly in their actions and statements between their personal philosophies and attitudes and those of the library, acknowledging and supporting the formal position of the Board even if they disagree.
- Refrain from denigrating the Library, employees, or fellow Board members in any public arena.
- Advocate for the library, both within the community and within other organizations;
- Support to the fullest the efforts of librarians in promoting intellectual freedom and resisting censorship of library materials by groups or individuals;
- Respect the confidential nature of library business and uphold patron's right to privacy;
- Recognize the limits of the Board's responsibility and refrain from interfering with or undermining the responsibilities of the director or the supervision of library staff;
- Ensure that the Library and its facilities are well maintained, financially secure, growing and always operating in the best interest of its users. This responsibility includes an obligation to
 - Use the Library, attend its programs, and become familiar with its operations;
 - Read the distributed materials before the meetings and come to all meetings prepared to participate actively in meetings and actions;
 - Take advantage of opportunities for continuing development as a board member.

Compliance

To preserve and uphold the Walter E. Olson Memorial Library's reputation as an organization of unimpeachable integrity, each Trustee will sign this "Ethics Statement" upon their appointment and annually during their tenure with the Walter E. Olson Memorial Library.

If any Board member appears to be in conflict of this policy, they will be asked to meet with the Board's officers/executive committee to discuss the issue. The executive committee will make a recommendation to the full Board based on their findings and take appropriate action based on the full Board's determination.

Acknowledgement

_____ Date

I agree to the terms of the Board of Trustees Ethics Policy. As a part of my commitment to the transparent administration of the Library's business and finances (please check one):

- I affirm that I have no affiliations to business, political, or other interests which would influence the decisions that I make in regard to the Library's business and finance.
- I disclose the following affiliations that may influence my decisions or that should be a consideration when actions are made by the board:

_____ Printed name

_____ Signature