

## **Trustee Ethics Policy**

**Created: 11-2023**

**Revised:**

**Reviewed:**

Powers Library Trustees are accountable for the resources of the library as well as seeing that the library provides the best possible service to our community.

Each Powers Library 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.

To this end, Trustees shall:

- Respect the opinions of their colleagues and not be critical or disrespectful when they disagree or oppose a viewpoint different than their own.
- Comply with all the laws, rules and regulations that apply to them and to their library.
- Not be swayed by partisan interests, public pressure or fear of criticism when fulfilling their responsibilities.
- Not engage in discrimination of any kind and shall uphold library patrons' rights to privacy in the use of library resources.
- Must 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.
- Must respect the confidential nature of library business and not disclose such information to anyone. Trustees must also be aware of and in compliance with Freedom of Information laws.

## **Powers Library – Moravia, NY**

- Must avoid situations in which personal interests might be served or financial benefits gained because of their position or access to privileged library information, for either themselves or others.
- Shall immediately disqualify him/herself whenever the appearance of or a conflict of interest exists.
- Not use their position to gain unwarranted privileges or advantages for themselves or others from the library or from those who do business with the library.
- Not interfere with the management responsibilities of the director or the supervision of library staff.
- Support the efforts of librarians in resisting censorship of library materials by groups or individuals.

**(Adapted from United for Libraries Ethics Statement)**