

MERIDIAN MONITOR

MERIDIAN LIBRARY SYSTEM

APRIL/MAY 2004

Your System Board:

*K. Joan Birnie
Linda Bowden
Darlene Catlin
Joan David
Maxine Erpelding
Gail Irwin
Rosalyn Lamb
Kristina Owen
Stacy Vogel*



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2004 PLA Conference

Included in this issue are just a few of the handouts from various sessions that I attended at this wonderful conference. I hope that you can benefit from them!

Detectives Without Pants: Alternative to the Traditional Mystery Presented by Michael B. Gannon

Quiz: It's A Mystery to Me!

1. _____ is Sister Helen's often unwilling sidekick in the Carol Anne O'Marie's series.
2. Carol Lea Benjamin writes mysteries featuring Rachel Alexander and her dog _____.
3. Ellis Peter's Brother Cadfael is a monk as well as an _____.
4. Jim Qwilleran's cats in the Lillian Jackson Braun series are _____ and _____.
5. _____ is not only a famous author but an amateur detective in a series written by Stephanie Barron.
6. Laura Crum's character Dr. Gail McCarthy is a _____ for _____.
7. _____ is a private investigator in Ancient Rome.
8. Midnight Louie is the tomcat detective in the series by _____.
9. In Lynda Robinson's series set in ancient Egypt, Lord Meren is the confidential assistant to _____.
10. Jenny Scholten's amateur detective, Aubrey Lyle, makes her living as a _____.

Ancient Egypt:
Doherty, P.C.
Haney, Lauren
Jacq, Christian
Robinson, Lynda

Ancient Greece:
Apostolou, Anna

Ancient Rome:
Davis, Lindsey
Roberts, John Maddox
Rowe, Rosemary
Saylor, Steven

T'ang Dynasty:
Van Gulik, Robert Hans

Byzantine Empire:
Reed, Mary and Mayer, Eric

Medieval Europe:
Frazer, Margaret
Grace, C.L.
Harding, Paul
Newman, Sharan
Peters, Ellis

Elizabethan England:
Buckley, Fiona
Emerson, Kathy
Harper, Karen

17th Century Japan:
Furutani, Dale

Regency England:
Barron, Stephanie

Victorian England:
Brightwell, Emily
Douglas, Carole Nelson
King, Laurie
Peters, Elizabeth

Victorian USA:
Monfredo, Miriam Grace

Edwardian England:
Kingsbury, Kate

Nuns on the Run: Modern Mysteries

Alison, Joseph: Sister Agnes
Black, Veronica: Sister Joan
Holmes, H.H.: Sister Ursula
O'Marie, Sister Carol Anne: Sister Mary Helen
Quill, Monica (aka Ralph McInerney): Sister Mary Teresa
Sullivan, Winona: Sister Cecile

Felonious Felines

Adamson, Lydia
Allen, Garrison
Babson, Marian
Block, Barbara
Braun, Lillian Jackson

Brown, Rita Mae
Claire, Edie
Douglas, Carole Nelson
Lockridge, Frances and Richard
Matthews, Alex
Malmont, Valerie
Marshall, Evan
Murphy, Shirley Rousseau
Shaw, Catherine

Canine Conundrums

Adamson, Lydia
Benjamin, Carol Lea
Berenson, Laurien
Block, Barbara
Brown, Rita Mae
Campbell, Ann
Cleary, Melissa
Conant, Susan
Guiver, Patricia
Hammond, Gerals
Lanier, Virginia
Murphy, Dallas
O'Kane, Leslie
Stabenow, Dana

Equine Euivocations

Banks, Carolyn
Crum, Laura
Dobyns, Stephen
Falk, Margaret
Francis, Dick
Francome, John
Jaffe, Jody
Shoemaker, Bill

A Detective Without Pants...or Anything Else

Scholten, Jenny: Audrey Lyle (stripper)



Appeal Characteristics: Do They Work for Non-Fiction?
Presented by Melanie Deutsch

Story:

- Does the story emphasize people or situations or events?
- What is the author's intention in regard to the story line? Light and humorous or weighty and serious? Example: *Orphans Preferred* or *John Adams* by McCullough
- Is the focus of the story more interior and psychological or exterior and action oriented?
- Reader asking for these kinds of books starts out by describing the plot. Readers will also use descriptors that describe the impact of the story on them such as "tragic" or "inspirational."

Pacing:

- Are characters and plot quickly revealed or slowly unveiled?
- Is there more dialogue or description?
- Is the book densely written?
- Are there short sentences, short paragraphs, and short chapters?
- Are there multiple plot lines, flashbacks, alternating chapters related from different points of view; or is there a straight-line plot?
- Examples: *Seabiscuit*, *Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat*

Setting/Frame:

- Is the background detailed or minimal? Could the book take place elsewhere without altering its effect on readers?
- Does the frame affect the tone or atmosphere?
- Examples: *Professor and the Madman*, *Into Thin Air*, *Cook-Off*, *Galileo's Daughter*

Characterization:

- Is the focus on a single character or on several whose lives are intertwined?
- What is the point of view from which the story is told?
- Is characterization the most important aspect of the book?
- Is the reader expected to identify with the characters or observe them?

- Are there memorable and important secondary characters?
- Readers describe the characters in these books as "three-dimensional."
- Examples: *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*, *Eight Men and a Duck*

Language:

- A well-written book always employs language skillfully but in books where the primary appeal characteristic is language the quality of the writing makes the book stand out. The novel is frequently described as poetic, thought provoking, and evocative. It is impossible (or very difficult) to describe the book without mentioning the author's use of language. Readers frequently describe the book as "evocative", "thought-provoking" or "poetic."
- Examples: *Living To Tell the Tale*, *Out of Africa*

Literary Non-Fiction:

Road from Coorain by Jill Ker Conway
A Blade of Grass by Lewis DeSoto
An American Childhood by Annie Dillard
Out of Africa by Isak Dinesen
A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius by Dave Eggers
Nine Hills to Nambohka: Two Years in the Heart of an African Village by Sara Erdman
84 Charing Cross Road by Helene Hanff
Living to Tell the Tale by Gabriel Garcia Marquez
Theodore Rex by Edmund Morris
Liars' Club by Mary Karr
Poker Face: A Girlhood among Gamblers by Katy Lederer
Gift from the Sea by Anne Morrow Lindbergh
Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to his White Mother by James McBride
Angela's Ashes: A Memoir by Frank McCourt
John Adams by David McCullough
West With the Night by Beryl Markham
Cloister Walk by Kathleen Norris
Desert Pilgrim: En Route to Mysticism and Miracles by Mary Swander
The Language of Blood by Jane Jeong Trenka
A Room of One's Own by Virginia Woolf

Historical Non-Fiction:

The Spy Wore Red: My Adventures as an Undercover Agent in World War II by Aline, Countess of Romanones

Undaunted Courage by Stephen Ambrose

Higher: A Historic Race to the Sky and the Making of a City by Neal Bascomb

Black Hawk Down by Mark Bowden

Flags of Our Fathers by James Bradley

Papillon by Henri Charriere

Faith and Treason: The Story of the Gunpowder Plot by Antonia Fraser

A Civil Action by Jonathan Harr

Rocket Boys by Homer H. Hickam, Jr.

Seabiscuit: An American Legend by Laura Hillenbrand

Flu: The Story of the Great Influenza Pandemic of 1918 and the Search for the Virus that Caused It by Gina Kolata

Princess: A True Story of Life Behind the Veil in Saudi Arabia by Jean Sasson

Ghost Soldiers: The Forgotten Epic Story of World War II's Most Dramatic Mission by Hampton Sides

Galileo's Daughter by Dava Sobel

The Right Stuff by Tom Wolfe



Just the Facts Ma'am: Non-Fiction Reader's Advisory

The Armchair Experience: Travel & Adventure:

1. Is the Reader interested in a particular setting? Geographical (location); Temporal (historical/modern)
2. Is the reader more interested in the destination or in the getting there?
3. Does the reader want the focus to be more on the traveler (introspection) or on the adventures/experiences?
4. What is the tone (writing style) of the book? Humorous; Literary; Reflective; Psychological; Sociological?
5. What kind of pacing? Leisurely travelogue with every step recounted or rip-roaring adventure/adrenaline rush.

Noteworthy travel writers:

Bill Bryson (Essays, humor), Peter Matthiessen (Naturalist), Tim Parks, Tim Cahill (Essays), Frances Mayes (Tuscany) Jonathan Raban, Pico Iyer, Peter Mayle (Provence), Paul Theroux (Essays), Peter Jenkins, James & Sean O'Reilly (editors), Calvin Trillin

Appeal Characteristics of True Crime:

1. Is the reader interested in the characterization of the criminal or the investigator?
2. Is the storyline the most important? The crime, the investigation, the trial, background, etc.
3. What type of pacing does the reader want? Lots of detail with the background or forensics, various points of view (criminal & investigator), straightforward action vs. slowly unfolding investigation with lots of flashbacks, a page-turner or a more scholarly treatment, etc.
4. Is there a particular setting the reader likes? Historical, modern, certain geographical area, local interest, etc.
5. What is the primary focus of the work? The crime, the criminal the investigation, the trial, etc.
6. What is the affect or tone? Hard-core blood and gore, puzzle being solved, justice being served, etc.



How to Write An Annotation

It is important for all those involved in readers' advisory work to write annotations. Only by capturing your reading in some sort of printed record can you translate the pleasures of reading a book yourself into a resource for others and for yourself years later. A standard annotation form includes:

Author Title

Publication date: *Helps those who only read-contemporary novels or who want to read the contemporary fiction of another era. It also aids in remembering a book.*

Number of pages: Some people base selections on length or are not in the mood for a huge novel.

Geographic setting: Helps those who want Medieval mysteries or Scottish Romances.

Time period: Keep these uniform by using a source such as the Fiction Catalog or LC for a controlled vocabulary.

Series notes: Use series name (if there is one) and include series characters. Often readers know one but not the other.

Plot summary: Keep this focused on readers and entice them by the plot to read the book. Do not reveal any spoiler information. The plot summary should be long enough so readers get a sense of the work and librarians who have read the work will have their memories jogged. Include words that give the reader clues about tone, language, violence, and sex. Also include appeal terms as part of the description. It is helpful to think in terms of appeal when writing the summary – if the atmosphere is key to the novel then describing it in appeal terms – spectral atmosphere – will only help the reader decide if the book would be one to read.

Subject headings: Again, use a controlled vocabulary. Think of subject headings as the multiple access points to the novel. Include a wide range that reflect the various interests a reader might have in a title. Various subject headings will also aid in finding a forgotten book. Include genre classifications in this section as well.

Appeal points: This section is the heart of the annotation. It is here, and the section below, where the annotation becomes a tool for readers' advisory work. Include terms that highlight the major appeal elements of the novel based on the standard points of pace, character, storyline, and frame. Start with the strongest appeal elements and work down to the incidental elements. Most works have a strong major appeal and secondary appeal, few are strong in all four appeal points and their offshoots. If appeal elements are ranked, readers can identify early the driving appeal elements of the novel.

Similar works: By including other titles or authors that have the same appeal in the annotation, you help both staff and browsers find additional books to read and suggest. It also augments the annotation in a broader manner – a

sort of “Oh, that’s what you mean” way if the text itself is not as descriptive as you hope. Including this information forces you (as did the appeal elements section) to think of why a reader would enjoy the book, not just what the book is about.

Name of annotator: Including this allows for other staff to ask questions of the annotator.

(the above is adapted from Readers' Advisory Service in the Public Library by Joyce Saricks and Nancy Brown)



Reinventing Your Library for The 21st Century

Presented by Karen Hyman

Here is Karen’s “12 step” plan. If you would like a copy of the complete presentation, please contact the system office.

1. Exert influence.
2. Energize staff.
3. Walk through everything.
4. Merchandise your collection.
5. Take the library to the people...with full services on the web.
6. Make their day...with memorable service.
7. Deal in volume.
8. Be a hot spot.
9. Promote yourself.
10. Break new ground.
11. Change your community...and make sure people know you do.
12. Experiment.

Five Things You Can Start Today:

1. Look at what people want (and will want) and find ways to deliver it. Ask them.
2. Look at your rules and root out the negatives and everything that reinforces a stereotypical impression of the library.
3. Find five services that would surprise and delight your users. Put them front and center.
4. List ten things you are tolerating. Get rid of two and see if your energy increases.
5. Identify your dead horses and dismount.



Excerpted from Heart of a Child newsletter -
February 11, 2004:

Ten Software Programs "Perfect for Public Libraries"

The February 2004 issue of School Library Journal has a three-page article describing what they feel are essential software for public libraries. The article reports the good news: prices have plummeted from approximately \$35 in 1997 to about \$19 today. The bad news: there's less software to choose from with the popularity of the Internet and handheld programs. SLJ asked Warren Buckleitner, editor of Children's Software Review, to share his "star-studded favorites" for kids and libraries. All products run on both Macintosh and Windows, unless otherwise noted (in no particular order):

1. Blue's Clues: Blue Takes You to School. \$19.99. Atari. (Windows only);
2. Nick Jr. Little Bill Thinks Big. \$19.95. Scholastic;
3. The Powerpuff Girls Learning Challenge #2: Princess Snorebucks. \$19.99. Riverdeep.;
4. I Spy Fantasy. \$19.95. Scholastic;
5. Liberty's Kids CD-ROM: The Real Adventures of the American Revolution. \$24.95. Riverdeep;
6. Exploring the World of Thomas Day. \$59.95. Thomas Day Project;
7. Hoyle Majestic Chess. \$19.99. Vivendi Games (Windows only);
8. Zoo Tycoon. \$30. Microsoft;
9. Inspiration Version 7.5. \$69. Inspiration Software;
10. Ancient History: Lives and Times in Ancient Egypt, Greece, and the Roman Empire. \$69.95. Teaching for Thinking.



It's a Mystery to Me Answer Key:

1. Sister Eileen.
2. Dash.
3. Herbalis.
4. Koko and Yum Yum.
5. Jane Austen.
6. Vet for Horses.
7. Marcus Didius Falco.
8. Carole Nelson Douglas.
9. King Tut.

Stripper.



USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS AVAILABLE TO ASSIST RURAL LIBRARIES

Economic Impact Initiative (EII) Administrative Grant Funds are available for feasibility studies, environmental reviews and architectural and engineering studies in conjunction with present or potential Community Facilities projects. Public bodies, community based nonprofit corporations, or Federally Recognized Indian Tribes are eligible to apply. Applicants must have the legal authority to own and operate the facility. Project must be located in a community with a population of 20,000 or less and serve an area with a median household income (MHI) of less than \$30,995. The maximum amount available is \$100,000 per project, with no matching requirements and no limits tied to the MHI of the service area.

Community Facility (Direct and Guaranteed) Loans and Grants provide for community service facilities in communities with populations of 20,000 or less. Facilities include fire & rescue buildings/equipment, streets, utilities, community buildings, libraries, senior citizen centers, day-care centers, airports, industrial parks, hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, and assisted living facilities. Eligible applicants include non-profit groups, public entities such as municipalities, counties, nonprofit corporations, special purpose districts, and Indian Tribes. Funds may be used to construct, enlarge, or to improve community facilities, purchase equipment for the operation of the facility or to pay other associated costs. Loan rates and terms are determined by the median household income of the service area.

Contact your local USDA Rural Development office for further information or contact the USDA Rural Development State Office Attn. Community Programs Division 100 Centennial Mall North Federal Building Rm. 152 Lincoln, NE 68508, phone 402-437-5556 or 402-437-5093 (TDD).
Visit: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne>

OCLC CATEXPRESS OFFER FOR NEW SUBSCRIBERS: 13 MONTHS FOR THE PRICE OF 12

NEBASE is offering a free trial month of OCLC CatExpress access to new subscribers. CatExpress provides web-based copy cataloging to small libraries at a low, flat-fee subscription price.

If you are cataloging 2,400 or fewer titles a year, CatExpress is the most efficient way to get your records into OCLC. A CatExpress subscription includes the cost of searching the WorldCat database, setting or deleting your holdings in WorldCat, receiving MARC records to load into your local system, and your telecommunications charges to OCLC.

The OCLC CatExpress trial subscription is a no-risk way to see if CatExpress is right for you and your library. Many libraries new to OCLC would like to know what kind of hit rate they will receive with CatExpress. You may also want to know how the records from OCLC can be processed by your local system. The trial option allows you to do real work with CatExpress, before committing to a subscription.

The introductory subscription is for the month of June 2003, and is free. If you do not wish to continue with CatExpress, simply cancel before the end of the month. If you do not cancel within that first month, the subscription automatically rolls over to the regular 12 month subscription, which runs from July 2003-June 2004.

NEBASE will be taking orders for CatExpress from now through May 15. The free trial month will begin on June 1, 2003. If you decide to continue with CatExpress after the free trial month is over, you don't need to do a thing. You will automatically be added to NEBASE's CatExpress Group Subscription. You will only pay for the regular 12 month subscription, receiving 13 months of CatExpress access for the price of 12.

To learn more about CatExpress, and to see the special NEBASE Group Subscription Pricing, go

to <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/netserv/nebase/catx.html>.

Contact Christa Burns at cburns@nlc.state.ne.us or 800-307-2665 or 402-471-3107 if you have any questions and to sign up for the CatExpress offer.



A Word to Trustees

From Maggie Harding, NLA Executive Secretary

I want to thank Jill Bresson, Trustee at Crete Public Library, Larry Jirsak, Trustee at Fremont, Keene Memorial Library and Kristen Rogge, NLC Commissioner for serving as greeters at the Nebraska Library Association's Legislative Day, February 19th. It gave the Senators a chance to meet the people who are responsible for supporting libraries on a local level. The Senators are well aware of the people who staff the libraries, thanks to hard work on the part of NLA Legislative Committee. They haven't been as aware of the trustee group. This is something we would like to improve on.

I know that some of you have not been aware of the purpose of the NLA mailing list. The welcoming statement spells out some of the details, but I would like to emphasize these issues. The list is not a public list. It is for members of NLA only. Email addresses are not available through the list. The messages that are transmitted deal with library issues only. It is monitored closely and any abuses are handled immediately. You will not be deluged with unwanted "spam". The Association has chosen the mailing list as a way of keeping members current on the happenings of the Association and any library issues that may arise. It is a cost-effective way of reaching our membership. The numbers of emails you are likely to receive in a month's time have ranged from none to around 20. Please consider (or reconsider) keeping your name on the list. We want to keep in touch!

TUFS has been working with the systems on a survey that will be coming to the trustees soon. We are trying to determine what issues you feel are important and where you would like to have more information or training. When you receive yours, please answer it and return it.

This will help in planning future continuing education programs of interest to trustees.



Paraprofessional of the Year

The Paraprofessional Section of the Nebraska Library Association (NLA) accepts nominations for the Paraprofessional of the Year Award each year. This award is given annually to a paraprofessional who must be a member of the Paraprofessional Section of NLA who has demonstrated outstanding service in a library setting.

The recipient will be selected on the basis of all of the following criteria:

1. Innovative programs that the nominee has worked with which have resulted in new or improved library services.
2. Exceptional volunteer work in library service or related field.
3. Exceptional use of library resources, local or otherwise.
4. Significant involvement or leadership in NLA Paraprofessional Section; i.e., holding office, member of a committee, or workshop or conference presentation.

Nominations are due on July 31 of each calendar year. A special nomination *form* is available. Contact Mary Geibel, Paraprofessional Section Citations Committee Chair, Nebraska Library Commission, 1200 N Street, The Atrium, Suite 120, Lincoln, NE 68508-2023, 800-307-2665, or e-mail: mgeibel@nlc.state.ne.us for a print copy.

The Chair will present the nominations to the Paraprofessional Section Executive Board for the final decision. The award will be announced following their decision.



Nominations for Meritorious Service and Mari Sandoz Awards Due by May 28, 2004

The NLA Citations Committee invites nominations for the Meritorious Service Award and the Mari Sandoz Award for the year 2004. The Meritorious Service Award is given annually to the

person, corporation, or organization which has contributed to the improvement of library service in a local community, region, state agency, or in library legislation. The Mari Sandoz recognizes significant, enduring contribution to the Nebraska book world through writing, film production, or related activity.

Nomination procedures:

1. The original letter of nomination should include the nominee's name, address, and telephone number, the nominee's accomplishments, and any relevant supporting documentation. The letter should include the name, title, address, and telephone number of the person or group making the nomination.
2. Also required are at least four additional letters that support and endorse the nomination. Such letters may provide further information about the nominee.
3. The NLA Meritorious Service Award may be given to an individual or group.
4. More information and lists of past recipients may be found in the NLA Handbook at <http://www.nol.org/home/NLA/handbook/handbk8.htm#merit>
5. Nominations and letters of support must be received by Friday, May 28, 2004 and should be mailed to:

Patty Birch / Chair NLA Citations Committee
North Platte High School
1220 West 2nd Street
North Platte, NE 69101
Nominations may also be submitted via e-mail at pbirch@esu16.org

*Congratulations to Walnut Middle School Integration Specialist Jean Lukesh upon the publication of her new textbook on Nebraska:
The Nebraska Adventure!*

**NLA Public Library Section
2004 Spring Meetings**
May 17-20 from 10:00-3:30

Track One: Being A Professional Person: It is Not All About the Credentials, presented by Mary Bushing.

Track Two: Teen Space: Capturing Teen Imagination in the Library, presented by Kim Bolan Taney

REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Library: _____

E-Mail: _____

- May 17th at Alliance Public Library
- May 19th at Broken Bow Public Library
- May 20th at Seward Memorial Library

Registration deadline is May 10th. Registration fee is \$15, payable to NLA Public Library Section. Morning snack and lunch included.

The track I will attend (please choose one):

- Being a Professional Person
- Teen Space

Please mail registration to: K. Joan Birnie, Broken Bow Public Library, 626 South D Street, Broken Bow NE 68822



Cutting Machine Schedule

Machine 1:

April—Garfield County Library, Burwell
May—Gibbon Public Library

Machine 2:

April—Gibbon Public Library
May—Garfield County Library, Burwell

Web Sites of the Month

4 Girls Health: This site for adolescent girls offers basic information about puberty, fitness, mental health, nutrition, healthy relationships, safety, and substance abuse prevention. Includes sections for parents and caregivers and for teens with chronic illnesses or disabilities. From the Office on Women's Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
<http://www.4girls.gov/>

American Experience: The Donner Party: This companion to a Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) program features a description and transcript of the film, along with links to other books, articles, and Web sites on the Donner Party and the settlement of the West. Includes a map of the group's route and a teacher's guide for related activities and discussion ideas.
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/donner/>

Crochet Pattern Central: This site offers links to free crochet patterns and to tutorials for those who wish to learn the craft. Searchable, or you can browse by subject (such as animals, flowers, and holidays) for hundreds of patterns. From a crochet enthusiast and hobbyist.

<http://www.crochetpatterncentral.com/>

I Hear America Singing: "This Web site invites visitors to experience the diversity of American performing arts through the Library of Congress's unsurpassed collections of scores, sheet music, audio recordings, films, photographs, maps, and other materials." The site features special presentations on selected topics from material in the library's collections. Includes essays, images, and sound files. Searchable, or browsable by topic or material type.

<http://www.loc.gov/rr/perform/ihas/>

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A good book is always on tap; it may be decanted and drunk a hundred times, and it is still here for further imbibement. —George Holbrook Jackson (1874-1948)

MINUTES - Meridian Library System Board

January 16, 2004

Garfield Co. Library, Burwell

Call to Order: President Kris Owen called the meeting to order at 10:15 AM.

Roll Call: Members present included Joan Davis, Rosalyn Lamb, Linda Bowden, Stacy Vogel, Darlene Catlin, Kris Owen, Gail Irwin, Maxine Erpelding, and K. Joan Birnie. Also present were Sharon Osenga, System Administrator, and Christie Behle, Administrative Assistant.

Approval of Agenda: Motion made by Joan Davis, second by Stacy Vogel, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Approval of Previous Minutes: Maxine Erpelding proposed a change to the minutes, that Gail Irwin be added to Members Present. Motion by Rosalyn Lamb, second by Maxine Erpelding, to accept the minutes from September 2003 with this change.

Correspondence: Thank you letters were shared with the Board from Ravenna, Callaway and Wood River Public Libraries.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report was reviewed. A check was reissued to Buffalo Co. because the first one was lost by them. The system car windshield had to be replaced. Motion by Gail Irwin, second by Stacy Vogel, to approve Treasurer's Report. The motion passed unanimously.

Administrator's Report:

Training: 15 people attended Print Reference class in Holdrege with good feedback. Participants had the opportunity to use unfamiliar books for reference and consider which ones to add to their collections. There are currently 12 signed up for the next online reference class. The Book Repair class has 7 people signed up. Summer reading workshop is scheduled for March 26 in Oconto. A date has not been confirmed yet for the Developing Computer Confidence class with John Seyfarth. Promoting Library Visibility is scheduled for April 29. Board members are encouraged to attend. Evaluations from NEMA PreConference are enclosed with board packets.

Office: The next newsletter will be coming out soon. Deleting board members from other systems from the mailing list has saved on copies and postage. The office chairs have been reupholstered.

Schedule Highlights: Sharon reported on visits to area libraries, workshops attended, and questions answered. She attended a very good preconference on outreach services to Latinos at NPLA in Lake Tahoe.

LSTA Grant: A LSTA grant has been written for multicultural programming and materials.

Gates Grant Sustainability Meeting: Gail Irwin has been chosen to go to Seattle in February for this meeting. She will also attend PLA Conference there.

System Administrator Health Care: New health care policy took effect January 1st. Support does not seem to be present in the legislature for system staff health care to be grandfathered in under the NE Library Commission, so it will not be attempted at this time.

Old Business: Sharon Osenga completed the Gates Program Upgrade to XP on her computer. Motion by Stacy Vogel, second by Joan Davis, to purchase upgrade to QuickBooks before upgrading Christie Behle's computer to XP. The financial records are in QB, which has not been tested for XP compatibility. Motion carried.

Laptop projector policy: There were no questions so the policy will take effect now.

New Business:

Youth Service Grants: Applications for Youth Services Grants were reviewed. A suggestion was made to have a list of items be provided for one of the applications. Motion by Stacy Vogel, second by Darlene Catlin, to approve the grant applications from North Loup, Callaway, Oconto, and Burwell libraries, contingent upon the Burwell applicant providing list of items to purchase with grant money. Motion carried.

Other: K. Joan Birnie has raffle tickets for a Lewis & Clark print, donated by University of Nebraska, as a fundraiser for the NE Center for the Book.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for April 30 at the Broken Bow Public Library. The By-Laws Committee will meet at 10:00 and the Board at 11:00.

Four positions will be available on the Board. A member must be off the Board for two years before serving again.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:43 AM. Motion by Maxine Erpelding, second by Stacy Vogel, to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Christie Behle
Administrative Assistant

MERIDIAN LIBRARY SYSTEM

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