

Panhandle SUN

April / May 2007

The Newsletter of the Panhandle Library System

PLS Coordinator's Message

National speakers and consultants receive for a one-day program what the rest of us earn in a month. We value their insights and experiences, and their ability to communicate with an impact that causes us to think in new ways. But we are also surrounded by talented individuals in our own local library world. Each of us has something to share, whether it's technology skill, the ability to listen well, an inspiring and positive management style, great enthusiasm for working with children, the capability to teach, creativity in making displays, or simply an attitude that makes our customers and co-workers happy to be around us. It's so important for us to recognize our individual talents and be willing to share them. It's also important that all of us look for the talents in those with whom we work. Just recently I encountered several of our librarians who may not even have realized what outstanding things they were doing. One had developed an interdisciplinary lesson around the Iditarod sled dog race, which had students literally racing to the library to work on it. Another was teaching Head Start workers how to use children's literature to give youngsters a foundation for reading. At a recent workshop, one of our librarians gave a professional-quality presentation on the importance of teen programming. Two more of our librarians collaborated to create a technology training session, and another will share her expertise with book repairs. But our talents come out in small ways, too. I observed a librarian patiently helping an elderly man locate the correct tax form from the display rack she had set up. Clearly he had complete trust in her ability, and appreciation for her concern. Another librarian told about reading to people in a nursing home, and how they would join in singing when she shared songs from the Little House on the Prairie. It's because of these special talents, that when I recently spoke to many non-library people from across our state at a business conference, I heard over and over "our librarian is great!" We may not get paid the big bucks like the celebrity librarians do, but we have important abilities that are valued by those who use our libraries. It's what allows us to share the many different resources of our libraries with each person who walks in the door or that we reach out to. Develop and share your talents – and encourage your co-workers to do the same.

Cherie Longmuir

*****UPCOMING EVENTS*****

April 10, 17, & 24, 2007 Basic Skills

Location: Scottsbluff Public Library,
1809 3rd Avenue, Scottsbluff

Time: 10 to 12 & 1 to 3

Lunch is on your own

Cost is \$35 for all 3 classes

Register with the Nebraska Library

Commission at www.nlc.state.ne.us and

click on "Commission Training" or call

800-307-2665

April 11, 2007 Book Repair Basics

Locations: ESU 13 Sidney and broadcast
to Chadron State College and ESU 13 in
Scottsbluff

Time: 10 am to 12

Bring some of your problem books

Presenter: Nancy Eddy

Register by April 2, 2007 with PLS

April 11, 2007 ESU Media Meeting

Locations: Distance Learning Labs –
Chadron State College, ESU 13-
Scottsbluff and Sidney

Time: 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Contact: Sandy White 308-254-4677

or email: swhite@panesu.org

**April 13, 2007 College of DuPage
Soaring to Excellence**

"The Best From the Web"

Locations: Chadron State College,
ESU 13-Scottsbluff and Sidney

Time: 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Register with the PLS office

**April 15 – 21, 2007 National Library
Week** Theme: "Come Together @
Your Library" ®



April 18, 2007 Library Town Hall:

public input for NLC planning

Alliance PL 3:30-5:00

April 17, 2007

National Library Workers Day

**April 26, 2007 Farewell Reception
for Cherie Longmuir**

Location: Bluffs Business Center,
1517 Broadway, Scottsbluff

Main Floor Conference Room

Time: 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

**April 27, 2007 Deadline for PLS
Board Voting**

May 7, 2007 NLA Spring Meeting

Sponsored by NLA Public Library/
SCYP/TUFS Sections

Location: Alliance Public Library, 1750
Sweetwater Avenue, Alliance

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Registration fee \$15 payable to

NLA Public Library Section

Morning snack and lunch provided.

Register by May 1, 2007

Mail your registration form to: Nadine DiBacco,
PO Box 68, Boys Town, NE 68010

May 8, 2007 PLS Board Meeting

Location: Bluffs Business Center,

1517 Broadway, Lower Level

Conference Room

Time: 10 a.m.

Contact the PLS office for information

May 11, 2007 College of DuPage

Soaring to Excellence

**"The Relevance of Libraries in a
Digital Age"**

Panhandle Locations: Chadron State

College, ESU 13 Scottsbluff and Sidney

Time: 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Register with the PLS office



Shannon Behrhorst from the Nebraska Library Commission introduces us to **flickr** as a way to get library images on the internet.



Librarians honing their grant-writing skills. LSTA grant funds were awarded to Scottsbluff, Gering, Ogallalla and Alliance, as well as to the System.

Carol Kyser and young friend are excited to have enough space in their new children's/meeting room to display Dr. Seuss books for Read Across America Day.



Judy Plesheck has volunteered to enter catalog records into the Book Systems automation program to create an online catalog for Morrill Public Library.

Inside Our Libraries

Crawford PL has a new coat of paint – and much more. Thanks to a memorial donation from a longtime library supporter, there is fresh paint in soft pastel colors, new lights, acrylic covers to protect the stained glass windows, upgraded heating and air systems, and ceiling fans. They've added new LCD monitors on the computers and have wireless internet. A recent initiative is to do more outreach to seniors. A grant from the Newbloom Foundation allowed them to expand the large print collection. They load a cart of books onto the handi-bus and ride to the senior center to check them out. In addition, Cleone Hoyda visits the nursing home and reads to the residents.

The **WNCC Library** has acquired several new databases for student use. Because of extremely high use of EbscoHost, they have updated to the premier level. In addition they have added Grove music and art subscriptions, a Spanish encyclopedia, AP Multimedia Archive, and Lexis Nexis. Several of the instructors require instruction in database searching. Jill Ellis reports that the library has become the “hangout” for the international students. They recently installed a people counter, so will be better able to document usage. Library assistants Deb Kildow and Connie Harimon went to New Mexico for the Mountain Plains Library Association conference. Stephanie Cacciavillani from Gering Library is doing a practicum at WNCC in completion of her LTA program.

Chadron PL is trying a variety of new programs to reach out to new users. One is a weekly film festival called “Reel Westerns” – featuring old western classics. They have created some “business book bags” that are being promoted to college business students and the Chamber of Commerce members. Most of the fiction collection has been relabeled to make it easier for browsers to find things and for workers to re-shelve items. The large clear label contains the genre, the author's last name, and the first word of the title. Next target is the teen area on the lower level, which is going to get new paint, computers, furniture, and art.

Deb Finley at **Hemingford PL** has done a library “makeover”! The shelves have been turned to make wide parallel aisles, which gives the library a more spacious feel, and allows the person entering the front door to see all the way to the back. She has worked with the Aging Office to get a worker 5 hours per week, who is helping with the ongoing collection automation project. There are now 4000 records in her Follett system. Deb is a self-taught librarian, who has gone from Basic Skills classes to becoming tech-savvy and customer-service oriented, and creating a library full of home-grown surprises.

Sandy Iwan at **Ogallala High School** hopes to start a lunch time book club. She'll need some ambitious titles to keep up with students who raised \$15,000 to help a local 16-year old who needed a heart transplant. The library computers have been full lately with seniors doing online college applications. Recently she worked with an English class of 30 students all working on power point projects. Luckily Sandy is calm and competent.





Barb Brandt, Ogallala Middle School, finds many ways to make every corner of her small library cozy and inviting. She changes decorations and book displays monthly with a theme, so students always look forward to seeing “what’s new in the library.”



Participants at the Marketplace Rural Entrepreneur Conference in Kearney were excited to learn that NebraskAccess could provide them with business information. Here are two new books that you might want to add to your business collection:

[The Entrepreneurs’ Information Sourcebook](#) (Susan Awe)
[Roots of Change: Nebraska’s New Agriculture](#) (Mary Ridder)

New DVD at PLS Office

“An Evening with Jamie LaRue” is a 62 minute DVD from the Fall Colloquium 2006 with Colorado library leader, Jamie LaRue. LaRue presents *An Offer They Can’t Refuse: Community Based Librarianship*. Most libraries provide well-managed services. Despite the quality of these services, it is unlikely the library will grow much beyond half the local market of potential users. To reach a commanding percentage of the market requires leaving the library and directly engaging with the community to solve problems and thereby to solve its own. LaRue talks about powerful and practical techniques to make your library indispensable to the community. This would be a good CE hour for trustees!

Who Said Statistical Reports Aren’t Newsworthy?

It’s fun to turn on the local radio station and hear statistics about the activities at the library. On the KSID news recently, they reported that 67,000 people visited the Sidney Public Library in 2006. The library has 47,500 items to check out to the 10,000 residents with library cards. And where did they get these tasty tidbits? From the annual report presented at the city council meeting.

Bridgeport Schools Make Creative Use of Plotter Printer Equipment

Amy Widener, teacher librarian in Bridgeport, shared this information about a piece of equipment that has spawned several meaningful research projects.

The school received a plotter printer through the Perkins Grant last year. This year, two of our teachers have developed lessons using the plotter. Jan Bloyd (Family and Consumer Science) had students in Sewing/Housing create a collage of different clothing styles from each decade. These were printed out in poster size using the plotter. She also had her Sports and Nutrition class do research on the nutritional content of various food items. Then they created poster size charts and graphs showing the sugar content in different pops and foods. The high school students shared their posters with the 5th and 6th graders, to teach them to be aware of what they eat and drink. It made a strong impact on the younger students to hear (and see) this from older kids.

Craig Johnson (High School Social Studies) had his U.S. History class make a newspaper detailing events from the late 1800's to the early 1900's. Because of their size, the papers turned out looking very similar to newspapers of that era.

Amy says that the students have been very excited to do the research when the product became something meaningful that they could share. If you would like information about a plotter printer, contact Amy at (308) 262-0346 or awidener@panesu.org



Panhandle Library System was honored to receive the “Friend of Education” award from the Nebraska Association of Elementary School Principals. Pictured below, Richard Miller from the Nebraska Library Commission, accepts the award on behalf of PLS, from Josie Floyd, principal from Sutherland, and president of the organization.



Public libraries are good for the community

By Margaret Jakubcin, west region manager for Jackson County Library Services
Published in the Southern Oregon "Mail Tribune" newspaper, Jan.23, 2007

If you are a reader and a book lover, you probably already use the library, love the library and cannot imagine life without a library. But even if you are not a library user, even if the extraordinary access libraries provide to books, movies, music, cultural programming, information, databases, and the worldwide Web has never tempted you through the library door, you still need the library.

Here are 10 reasons why:

1. Public libraries are good for the economy. Studies have shown that public libraries have an economic impact that greatly exceeds their cost, returning somewhere between \$4 to \$6 to the local economy for every \$1 invested. A healthy library system is indicative of a healthy community. A community without a library is unattractive to businesses and individuals looking to locate to a new area.
2. Libraries are a cornerstone of democracy. Free speech, intellectual freedom, and open access to information are essential to a free nation. Public libraries protect the right of every citizen, regardless of race, age, gender, or economic status, to have access to any information that is vital to his/her life. Without libraries, a significant number of Americans would not have access to books or the Internet.
3. Libraries play an important role in helping young children develop reading skills. Early childhood literacy and exposure to a book-rich environment are significant predictors of a child's success in school and in life. The Internet has yet to come anywhere near filling this need.
4. Public libraries provide support to schools and students. School libraries are currently endangered in Oregon, where there are now only 433 school librarians to serve 1,290 schools. As school budgets have continued to dwindle, public libraries have increasingly stepped in to fill the gap, recognizing that today's students are tomorrow's workers, leaders, and decision makers.

5. Libraries are forward-thinking, and play an important role at the cutting edge of information technology. Libraries provide Internet access to many who cannot afford it, or who live in areas where access is unavailable or slow. Librarians are trained to help Internet users winnow out irrelevant information, find specialized Internet resources, and determine the reliability, authority and safety of the information retrieved. In addition, American librarians are lobbying to maintain "net neutrality" to ensure that Internet resources remain available to everyone — not just to those who can afford to pay for them.

6. Libraries are repositories of the accumulated understanding of mankind. We live in a time when the information-of-the-moment is constantly at our fingertips, but it is important to remember that information is not knowledge. Libraries house, protect, and share materials which support a thoughtful and in-depth understanding of the world.

7. Public libraries are a bargain. The average annual cost to fund an Oregon library is only about \$42 per capita. That is less than the average cost of two hardcover books, a couple month's subscription to Netflix, or a year's subscription to only one or two magazines. It is a fraction of what it costs to obtain home access to the Internet.

8. Libraries provide a neutral community gathering place for the free exchange of ideas, culture, and entertainment. Libraries promote a sense of belonging and interpersonal connection in a society that is increasingly "virtual."

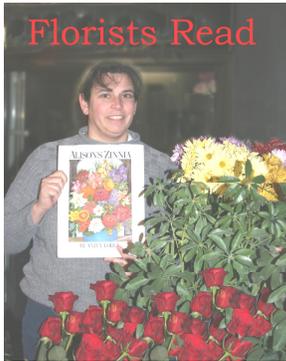
9. A vital and attractive library helps define a community, encourages civic pride, and invests residents with a sense of ownership.

10. Libraries are the heart and soul of a community and reflect the value residents place on literacy, education, culture, and freedom.



Who is supporting libraries in Nebraska? Voters approved a sales tax to build a \$2.9 million facility in Falls City. Other communities that have invested in new libraries in recent years: Blue Hill, Seward, Winside, Oconto, St. Edward, South Sioux City, Wakefield, Atkinson, Imperial, Lexington, Wahoo.

Carole Matthews of Hay Springs School Library tells about her READ/Photo hobby!

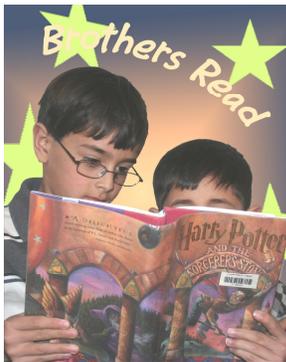


I have seen the READ posters for several years and thought, "I could do that." I have an advantage over most people -- my husband is a professional photographer and uses digital almost exclusively. The posters were made using Adobe Photoshop 6. With this program I can do more than cut and crop and adjust color and brightness. I extracted the children from the original background (a bedroom wall) and created new backgrounds that fit the book they were holding. The program also allows me to add text to the pictures. These posters were created so that each element is on a different layer. I can take a different child's picture and replace the original child without disturbing the

background or text.

The florist poster was done in her shop. I added some more flowers and blacked out her cooler logo so I could put the text at the top, but this poster could have been done without the adjustments. A solid box behind the text would hide the background and make the text visible.

The Hollywood poster was about the easiest of the children's posters. I used a gradient background from the programs and added the word HOLLYWOOD in a text similar to the one on the cover of the book; then tilted it, and added a drop shadow.



The brothers one included stars I had made in Microsoft Word, then cut and pasted into the photo program. I adjusted the size and arrangement after adding the boys. The text was curved also.

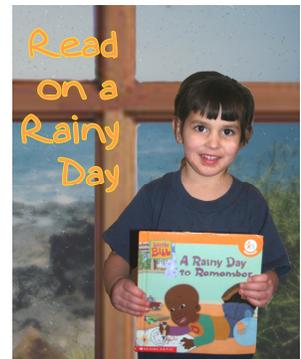


For the Harry Potter poster I used a photograph of fireworks that my husband had taken. I added the text and put a glow around it to help it stand out.

The rainy day poster was the most difficult. I used a background from a section of a family photo, then adjusted it with a program I downloaded free from the internet that makes it look like a rainy day window. I added a window frame. Then I added the text and an outer glow that makes it stand out a little more. I also cleaned up her hair, it was the end of the day. (To give you an idea, I included the original photo.)



The willing models were my daughter and her three children. **Carole Matthews**



Bits and Pieces

2007 is the “**Year of the Windmill**” sponsored by the Center for Rural Affairs. Artists, organizations, and businesses are encouraged to celebrate windmills as a symbol of the spirit of rural Nebraska.

On April 1, the new **NebraskAccess passwords** will take effect. If you have misplaced yours, email nebraskaccess@nlc.state.ne.us. Although residents may use their driver’s license number to login, the password is probably quicker.

A “one-stop” source for **business information** is available at the NE Dept. of Economic Development’s website: <http://assist.neded.org/> Those needing additional help can contact Steve Williams at steve.williams@ded.ne.gov

Dr. Seuss was honored in many ways across the region, from a birthday party in Bridgeport, to Seuss on the Loose story times in Scottsbluff, to an AR reading contest in Ogallala.

Broadwater and Dix will soon enjoy high-speed wireless **internet service** thanks to a Nebraska Internet Enhancement Fund grant. Mobius Communications collaborated on the application, and will set up the system.

Anne Hostert, elementary librarian in Sidney, received a **NETA grant** to get Inspiration software for her school. As a recipient, she is also invited to the NETA 2007 conference.

Those enrolled in the Public Library Certification program may now check their own **CE records** to find out how many hours they have or need. Passwords were emailed in March. If you didn’t get yours, contact Laura Johnson at NLC: 800-307-2665.

The Public Library Association **conference** is in Minneapolis on March 25-28, 2008. Plan ahead to get help with expenses – from a CE grant or a System scholarship. If Minneapolis in March isn’t your idea of fun, plan to attend the **NLA/NEMA** conference in Kearney October 24-26. It doesn’t get any closer to the west, and the programs will be outstanding. Funds are available to help you attend this event, also, although rooms and registration are very reasonable. Don’t miss it!

How many of these **audio books** do you have from Library Journal’s best of 2006? If You Could See Me Now; Strivers Row; The Hard Way; The Cold Moon; The Stolen Child; The Old Wine Shades; Through a Glass, Darkly; Black Swan Green; The Book of the Dead; Lost; Possible Side Effects; Mao, the Unknown Story; Game of Shadows; The Pursuit of Happiness; There is no Me Without You; The Judgment of Paris; DeKooning’s Bicycle; A Year in the World; Mayflower; Holy Father.



News You Can Use

If you have a small **digitization** project (like 20 historical postcards), the Nebraska Library Commission will do it for you. You just need to provide the objects and the information that tells about them. This is a new service to help you get involved in the Nebraska Memories program.

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is providing some **free tools** to help your library communicate about its technology. It includes an 8-minute DVD and brochures that will help you inform local community decision makers. Order the materials by email: USlibraries@gatesfoundation.org

If you need an inexpensive way to regulate **computer scheduling**, consider Cafezee software. It uses a “coaster” that you give the patron who signs up for computer time. When the coaster lights up, the computer is available. This allows people to browse in the library while they wait for the computer, and avoids calling names or searching for the next person on the list.

To help you deal with **computer security** problems, the US-CERT Cyber Security Bulletin: <http://www.us-cert.gov/cas/signup.html> provides a weekly summary of new computer problems in a very readable format. One of the easiest steps you can take to protect your computers is turning on automatic updates (whether Windows or Mac). This will help to keep operating system components updated, although it won't address vulnerabilities in other software.

Former Southeast Library System Administrator Kate Marek will be hosting the **Spring Colloquium** in Lincoln on April 21st. The topic will be “What are you reading? From the Obvious to the Obscure.” Enjoy a Saturday night with other librarians and talk about what you’re reading and how it helps you and your profession.

Here are 3 new books available to borrow from the Nebraska Library Commission, to help you with ideas for some **great books** to order for your **children’s** collection: *Best Books for Children Preschool Through Grade 6, 8th edition, 2006*; *Big Book of Children's Reading Lists, 2006*; *Books Kids Will Sit Still for, 3: a read aloud guide, 2006*. Also, check out this blog, where a children’s literature expert writes about books and suggests ways to use them: www.readingrockets.org

Dell Computer company will **recycle** all Dell-branded **equipment** for free. No purchase of new equipment is required. In addition, they will take back any brand of used equipment for \$10 per box weighing under 50 pounds.

In a **Public Library Effectiveness** Study, the same six items were ranked in the top ten by library users, friends, trustees, local officials, community leaders, library managers and library staff: convenience of hours, range of materials, range of services, staff helpfulness, services suited to the community, quality of materials.



Especially for schools

Have you heard of Nicholas Negroponte, who wants to supply \$150 computers to children around the world (“**one laptop per child**” – **OLPC**)? But he wants to avoid having them used to prepare youngsters for future jobs. “One of the saddest conditions in elementary school computer labs is training children to use Word, Excel and PowerPoint, when they should be making things, communicating, exploring and sharing.” The XO computer is green, and has a hand crank for charging the battery.

A new study has students learning to read, understand and critically evaluate internet search results using a technique that teaches comprehension. Teachers read aloud and talk about how they select an item from a list of search engine results that they think will help them. This brings the thinking process out in the open. Students are not used to doing critical evaluation, because much of what they read from textbooks is already filtered and assumed to be true. But online, the ability to distinguish credible information is crucial. In one example, researchers asked 25 seventh graders to review a web site devoted to a made-up endangered species (a tree octopus). All but one student rated the site as “very credible.”

The discussion about the Newbery Award book The Higher Power of Lucky is an important one. It reminds us of the responsibility we have in selecting appropriate books for our schools that meet the needs of our students. Sometimes we feel distressed when a parent wants a book removed from the collection because of certain words or ideas, in what we may feel is a worthwhile book for children to read. Now many school librarians are doing the same thing because of a single word used in a book that tells an important story. It’s healthy to talk about this with other librarians, teachers, parents, and students. Let’s be sure we do it in an informed way – after reading the entire book.

And speaking of awards, the board of the Assn. for Library Service to Children (ALSC) is considering changing the requirements for the Newbery and Caldecott awards to include books written by authors and/or published in other countries.

This year is the 75th anniversary of the book Little House in the Big Woods, the first of nine books written by Laura Ingalls Wilder.

Carla Schwartz sponsored a poetry writing contest at Bluffs Middle School, and the winners will read their writing at a poetry slam on April 18.

The database “Teen Health and Wellness” by Rosen Publishing, for grades 7-12, has received A+ reviews. It includes curriculum correlations for all 50 states; but more importantly it provides current, accurate information on topics such as fitness, alcohol/drugs, family life, sexuality, mental health, and many more – subjects of great interest to teens that may be missing from the bookshelf. Subscription price is based on enrollment; 30 day free trial.

www.teenhealthandwellness.com

ODDS AND ENDS

Who Said That?

“The biggest roadblock to turning information into knowledge is the belief that they are the same thing.” Jamieson McKenzie

A Librarian by Any Other Name

At the suggestion that librarians needed a sexier name, a poll was taken in the United Kingdom, and these were the top rated titles:

Information Goddess/God; Knowledge Hacker; Information Alchemist; Bibliodominatrix; Imperious Knight of the High Knowledge

Accessories

To match your new title, consider adding one of these temporary tattoos to enhance your image: “Read or Die”; “Literate for Life”; “Librarians Rule” – all available in the book [Illustrated Librarian Temporary Tattoos](#) brought to you by the same folks who sold millions of Librarian Action Figures: www.mcphree.com/items/11696.html

Budget Busters

The average price of all types of children’s and YA hardcover books went from \$20.52 in 2005 to \$21.60 in 2006. The biggest jump was in books for preschool to grade four: from \$18.92 to \$21.60. In the adult category, hard cover fiction went from an average of \$24.95 to \$26.83, while nonfiction jumped from \$36.86 to \$42.32.

Nebraska Winners

The Nebraska Book Awards, sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book, recognizes and honors books that are written by Nebraska authors, published by Nebraska publishers, set in Nebraska, or concerning Nebraska. The 2006 winners are:

[Slamma Lamma Ding Dong: an anthology of Nebraska’s Slam Poets](#) (anthology)

[The Nebraska Adventure](#) by Jean Lukesh (children/young adult)

[These Trespasses](#) by Jim Reese (cover design/illustration)

[This is Not the Tropics](#) by Ladette Randolph (fiction)

[Impertinences: selected writings of Elia Peattie](#) (nonfiction)

[Rainmakers: a photographic story of center pivots](#) (nonfiction honor)

[No Accident](#) by Aaron Anstett (poetry)



Cherie’s new back yard

Panhandle Library System Board Meeting
Tuesday, January 9, 2007
Bluffs Business Center Conference Room
1517 Broadway, Scottsbluff, NE

President Diane Downer called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. with the following members present: Kathy Terrell, Lillian Diedrichsen, Allison McBride, Vickie Retzlaff, Jane Schlager, Diane Downer, Eileen Nightingale, and Ruth Walker. Also present were Rod Wagner from Nebraska Library Commission, Cherie Longmuir the PLS Coordinator, and Debbie McCall PLS Administrative Assistant. The members that were absent were Jim Soester and Jill Ellis. There were no additions to the agenda. Vickie Retzlaff moved and Allison McBride seconded to accept the minutes as written. The motion carried.

There were no round table reports.

Jane Schlager was welcomed to the board. She will fill the position that was held by Cindy Mielke, who resigned. Corrections were made to the new directory page.

Cherie reported on the damage that was done to the car by vandals. The cost to repair the car was \$114.00 to remove the paint that had been put on the car. Cherie will keep the car at her place to keep vandals from damaging it in the parking lot.

The Annual Meeting committee is still working on a speaker. The theme will be Christmas in July. Jane Schlager will be a member of the Annual Meeting committee.

Allison reported on the CE/Tech committee. There will be a workshop on March 22, 2007 for technology training.

The Scholarship/Awards committee wants nominations for "Pat on the Back" awards. Vickie Retzlaff presented a "Pat on the Back" award to Jo Finnegan who was retiring from the Grant County Library Board. The new policy for the scholarship is to be put in the policy book.

Rod Wagner gave a report from the Library Commission. February 14 will be the Library Legislative Day. The Biennium Budget is coming up. The Library Commission is improving the Web site. There is a blog located at www.nlc.state.ne.us/blog. The Library Services and Technology Act five-year assessment and report is due at the end of March. The dinner and dialogue sessions were successfully held in September. There will be one more meeting for a final review before the recommendations are presented to NLA. Talking Book and Braille Service is preparing for the transition to the digital talking book. The Mari Sandoz Heritage Society is sponsoring the 2007 One Book One Nebraska for the book *Crazy Horse*. State Aid Award letters were sent out to the accredited public libraries. The Library Improvement Grants will be announced on March 21. The Commission is continuing to award scholarships for library science education. Laura Johnson joined the Commission staff in October. Sally Reed will be presenting workshops entitled "*Maximizing the Value of Friends*" in March at North Platte and Fremont.

Cherie gave the Coordinator's report. Cherie prepared a packet for public libraries to give patrons that may want to start a small business or need information on business.

Cherie gave the budget report. Office supplies are a little over the budget. A DVD player was purchased for the office.

The PLS Loan Agreement for Digital Audio Player was discussed. Allison McBride moved to approve the agreement with a change that the agreement deletes "or alters the contents". Kathy Terrell seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Cherie asked if there was anyone who wanted to attend Legislative Day with her. Cherie went over the events that are coming up. A program has been added on April 11, a book repair workshop in Sidney.

Rod Wagner wanted input about the relationship with the Nebraska Library Commission and the Panhandle Library System having the PLS Administrator being an employee of the NLC. It was agreed by both organizations that everything seemed to be working very well. Cherie announced to the group that she would be retiring at the end of April.

The meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Ruth Walker

Non Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Scottsbluff, NE. 69361
Permit 260

Panhandle SUN

Panhandle Library System
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Scottsbluff, NE 69361

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Assistant's phone: 308-632-1350
Toll free: 888-879-5303
Fax: 308-632-3978
Web site: www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/panhandle



Your System Board Members:

Diane Downer, President
Vickie Retzlaff, Vice President
Ruth Walker, Secretary
Jill Ellis, Treasurer
Lillian Diedrichsen
Allison McBride
Eileen Nightingale
Jane Schlager
Jim Soester
Kathy Terrell

Serving libraries in these counties:

Arthur, Banner, Box Butte,
Cheyenne, Dawes, Deuel,
Garden, Grant, Keith,
Kimball, Morrill, Scotts Bluff,
Sheridan and Sioux
Counties

Cherie Longmuir, PLS Coordinator, E-mail: clongmuir@nlc.state.ne.us
Debbie McCall, PLS Administrative Assistant, E-mail: debm@charterinternet.com
PLS Web Site: <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/panhandle>

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