

Panhandle SUN

The Newsletter of the Panhandle Library System

August / September 2006

PLS Coordinator's Message

Have you ever met an author? For people who work with books everyday, authors are celebrities. Maybe we all feel that we have a book inside if only we had time to write it. We listen to an author speak, or read an author interview, and wonder what it's like to sit in front of a computer and weave words into stories. But we also have a partnership with authors. Many authors developed their love of language because of childhood experiences in the library. They found friendship and acceptance from a nurturing librarian. As adults, they valued the resources that supported their research and the intelligent assistance provided by library staff. And then there's the money thing. How could authors make a living if librarians didn't buy and promote their books? So it's a mutual admiration society.

You have a chance to participate in some admiration twice this fall. In September, Nebraska author Alex Kava will be making 34 appearances across the state, including 3 in the Panhandle region. Hundreds of local residents have read one or more of her books as part of the "One Book One Nebraska" program. Take advantage of this opportunity to talk to her about her career as a writer – and encourage your book club readers to join you

Then in October, PLS is sponsoring children's author and illustrator Judy Schachner, creator of the beloved Skippyjon Jones character, and Golden Sower winner Grannyman. She will speak to all 2nd and 3rd graders in the Panhandle Library System area about her books, and the wonders of reading and writing. In addition, she will present evening programs in Bayard on October 17 and in Scottsbluff on October 19 for the public – with books available to purchase.

Join us in this celebration of that special collaboration between those who work in libraries and those who write the books.

Cherie Longmuir



Panhandle Library System Upcoming Events

September, 2006 Library Card Sign-Up Month

September 6, 2006 Author Tour Training Workshop

Location: Bayard High School,
726 4th Avenue
Time: 4:00pm
Contact the PLS office.

September 12, 2006 Panhandle Library System Board Meeting / Lunch / Committee Meetings

Location: Bluffs Business Center, 1517
Broadway, Main Floor Conference room
10am Board Meeting
Noon: Lunch
1pm –Committee Meetings
Contact the PLS office for information.

September 18, 2006 Duane Munson's Book Exhibit

Location: Gering Civic Center,
1050 M Street, Gering
Time: 9am to 4pm

September 18, 2006 School Media Specialists Meeting with Sandy White

Location: Gering Civic Center,
1050 M Street, Gering
Time: 10am
Contact: Sandy White, ESU 13, Sidney,
308-254-4677, Email:
swhite@panesu.org

September 23 through 30, 2006 Banned Books Week

September 27, 2006 NEBASE Annual Meeting West

Location: Chadron State College,
300 East 12th Street, Chadron
Time: 9am to 3pm
Register with: Jeannette Powell,
800-307-2665, jpowell@nlc.state.ne.us

September 24 – Alex Kava in Ogallala
September 25 – Alex Kava in Alliance and Scottsbluff

September 29, 2006 (1st class) Basic Skills: "Library Administration"

Location: Scottsbluff Public Library,
1809 3rd Avenue, Scottsbluff
Time: 10am to noon and 1 to 3pm
Cost: \$ 35 for all three classes
Register with the Nebraska Library Commission, 800-307-2665

October 6, 2006 (2nd class) Basic Skills: "Library Administration"

October 13, 2006 (3rd class) Basic Skills: Library Administration

October 15 through 21, 2006 Teen Read Week

October 17 through 19, 2006 PLS Children's Author Tour –

Judy Schachner:

October 17, 2006 Chadron High School – 10am;
Bayard High School – 1:45pm
Bayard High School – **Public Performance – 7pm**

October 18, 2006 Sidney High School – 9:30am;
Ogallala High School – 1:15pm

October 19, 2006 Scottsbluff High School – 9:30am

Scottsbluff High School – 1:30pm
Scottsbluff High School – **Public Performance 7pm**

October 25-27

NLA/NEMA Annual Conference
Qwest Center, Omaha

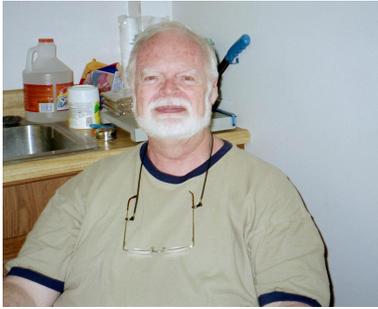


INSIDE OUR LIBRARIES

Public libraries seem to come alive in the summer time. Special activities for children draw adults as well, who may have a bit more time for some leisure reading. Here are a few of the highlights from our libraries this summer.

Gordon had green paper chains hanging from the ceiling to create a jungle – complete with monkeys and parrots – all done by volunteers. Some very responsible teen helpers assisted little ones with painting pet rocks. **Rushville** has a live caged parakeet, two fish tanks in the entryway, cat food bags as bookends, and a stuffed dog peeking out of a kennel. Animal shapes woven from colorful paper strips line the walls going downstairs to the activity room. Displayed on the shelves are books about any animal you can imagine. **Bayard** has 111 kids signed up, and though the library doesn't have programs, readers track their progress on a display board. Participants end the summer with a pool party. This year they are also trying a point challenge for those who want to read Accelerated Reader books. **Scottsbluff** has over 1000 kids registered for the many reading activities. Children visited the zoo, with special leaders to tell them about the animals. "It's Reading Cats and Dogs" is the theme of the wall display where readers' names are written on cat and dog shapes. There is a pet shop open twice a week where kids can spend their "petty" cash on prizes. **Broadwater** has a two-foot tall wasp's nest in a glass case that is piquing the kids' curiosity. It was discovered in an abandoned well and was fumigated. Each child in the summer program received a handmade cloth book bag with fun animal designs – sewed by the librarian. In **Ogallala**, the walls are covered with murals of eco-systems, with pictures and information about the appropriate animals that live there. This year there is a program for those ages 0-5, who have been coming to the library for the lapsit program. When kids return books at **Morrill**, they drop them into a plastic wading pool before diving into the book bins for something new to read. Milvina Dillman, library assistant, provides an interactive storytime outside on the lawn. The kids are so attentive that they barely notice the truck traffic and the mosquitoes buzzing near their ears. **Sidney** started an adult summer reading program this year, and the response has been large and enthusiastic. Apparently the interest in special activities and prizes doesn't stop when you grow up.

Cherrie Clarke presented an excellent program at 19 libraries, emphasizing the importance of respecting all animal life, and trying to learn more about it by reading and observing. Her pelts from raccoons, skunks, beavers, fox, badger, and river otter got lots of petting. The various wings, claws, shells, and skins provided a close-up look at how animals operate. Her Pawnee tales pulled together the worlds of nature and imagination.



Jim Soester, new PLS Board Member



Cindy Mielke, new PLS Board Member



Imogene Horse, retired from Chadron



Scott Kinney, new Chadron library director



Richard Miller bids farewell to Pam Scott



Tammy Sessions, weeding her library garden

Cherrie Clarke with eagle wings



Sharon Ulbrich ready for summer reading





Beth Trupp, children's librarian at Gering Public Library, provided a special reading time for kids and dogs this summer. Inspired by a session at last fall's NLA, Beth contacted the Humane Society, and arranged to have Boots, a dog trained to visit nursing homes and schools, spend an hour twice a week during June, at the library. Two other dogs joined the program, brought by private owners. She set up moveable walls which created a quiet space for each child to read to the dog. There is nothing quite so beautiful as a child reading aloud, and these wonderful dogs helped each one feel very good about doing it. Each reader received a laminated book mark with the dog's photo on it and the words "I read to Boots today at Gering Public Library." Because of its success, Beth may continue the "Paws to Read" program in the fall.

NEWS YOU CAN USE



The **Mountain Plains Library Association (MPLA) conference** will be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, March 14-16, 2007. There may be a bus taking people from Nebraska, as was done for the conference in Wyoming last year. Find out more about this excellent educational opportunity at www.mpla.us

Closer to home, the **NLA/NEMA annual conference** will be at the Qwest Center in Omaha, October 25-27, 2006. This is an outstanding conference that allows you to learn from a wide variety of programs, see new products from vendors, and talk to your colleagues from across the state: www.papillion.ne.us~nla-nema2006

Carolyn Lowitz (Ogallala) and **Wally Seiler** (Alliance) are running for offices in the Nebraska Library Association. Watch for your ballot and get involved by voting.

Alliance and **Minatare** public libraries, and **Hay Springs, Creek Valley** (Lodgepole), and **Community Christian** school libraries, applied for and received a set of 15 books awarded in the “We the People” Bookshelf program from ALA. They will do promotions relating to the history of our country and “Becoming American” as it is portrayed in literature. Of 29 winners in Nebraska, 5 were from the Panhandle Library System.

Jon Volkmer, author of the book The Art of Country Grain Elevators, will be at **Goodall Library in Ogallala** on Monday, August 7, from 5-7pm for a book talk, sales & signing.

New materials at the Nebraska Library Commission that you may want to borrow: “The Attitude Virus: Curing Negativity in the Workplace” (DVD); “Holding an Effective Meeting” (DVD); Information Literacy Assessment: Standards-Based Tools and Assignments; Less is More: A Practical Guide to Weeding School Library Collections. PLS has recently added these items to our collection: “An Evening with Joseph Janes” (DVD of a live symposium held recently in Lincoln); Running a Small Library (book).

A recently published book tells the story of pioneers traveling west through the plains: A Tale of the Oregon Trail by **Nebraska author Carolyn Scheidies**. She also does public programs based on her historical research. Contact her at crscheidies@mail2faith.com

The 2006 **Teen Read Week** website is now active. This year’s theme is “Get Active @ your library” and takes place **October 15-21**: www.ala.org/teenread. The purpose of the observance is to encourage teens to read for the fun of it – and to use the resources at their library to help them lead active lives. If you register your library on the site, you can download the logo. The week is sponsored by YALSA, a division of American Library Assn.

..... **MORE NEWS**



A report titled “**Long Overdue**” suggests that elected leaders and even library supporters don’t recognize the need for library funding. Libraries may be able to put themselves higher on the budget priority list by integrating better into the community. Here are some ways that libraries have succeeded in doing that: providing a safe and engaging place for teens; supporting literacy skills for a strong work force; becoming a hub for community information; offering greater access to technology. Complete results of the survey are available at www.publicagenda.org.

Look for another award coming from the American Library Association (ALA). Called the **Odyssey Award**, it will be given annually to the outstanding **audiobook** produced for listeners up to 18 years old. If you don’t have audiobooks in your children’s and teen collection, considering ordering some titles from [Full Cast Audio](http://FullCastAudio.com). This company was formed by author Bruce Colville, who uses the voices of teens as well as professional readers and authors to narrate stories in many voices – in the style of radio drama.

For those who consider library work a **no-stress job**, just ask the employee at a Brooklyn (NY) Public Library branch who lost part of a finger while attempting to break up a fight among eight teenage girls in the library. Topping that is the library director in Columbus, Ohio, who suffered injuries after being pinned behind her desk when an unhappy customer drove his car into the front of the building. But then there’s the good news: a New York patron returned a book that was 24 years overdue, and paid the 10 cents per day late fee of \$2190 (rather than the maximum \$15 the library charges).

A new study finds that using a female screen name is more likely to elicit threatening or sexually explicit messages in online chat rooms. It is recommended that people use ambiguous gender-free screen names (for example “stargazer”) for **online chat**.

On October 21, NBC will broadcast the **Quill Awards**, the publishing world’s equivalent of the People’s Choice Awards. It will honor excellence in writing in 21 categories, including Book of the Year, Debut Author of the Year, and Best Book to Film. Booksellers and librarians will whittle down 2400 titles to a list of 95 nominees, and the public can **vote online from August 22 to September 30** at MSNBC.com. Last year 130,000 people voted; they are anticipating one million voters this year. Find more information at www.thequills.org/

Two university researchers are working on a technology that would help users more easily find reliable information online. Rather than having pages ranked by topic, as Google does, they want sites ranked by credibility. Their first strategy is to find a way to “harvest” the sites that librarians are recommending in their “ask a librarian” services – and create a database from just those sites. The theory is that what librarians recommend is going to be credible and useful. Hmmm.

Panhandle
Library System

2006 Author Tour

Featuring
Judith Schachner

Ms. Schachner has many books to her credit as author, illustrator, or both.

Her works include Skippyjon Jones, I Know an Old Woman who Swallowed a Pie, and the Golden Sower winner Grannyman



Two Free Public Performances

Tuesday, October 17
Bayard High School Auditorium
7:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 19
Scottsbluff High School Auditorium
7:00 p.m.

Books will be available for sale and autographing after both public performances. These free public performances are sponsored by the Panhandle Library System in cooperation with its member libraries and media centers.

Funding for this program is provided in part by the Nebraska Library Commission, Kinder Morgan Foundation, Wal-Mart, US Bankcorp, Mitchell Area Community Foundation, Ogallala Friends of the Library, Grant County Library Foundation.

For more information, contact the Panhandle Library System.

308-632-1350

Note: The centerfold page of this newsletter is intended to be used for publicity for the Judy Schachner author programs. If you would like additional copies, contact the PLS office. YOUR promotion of this event will make it a success!!



Judy Schachner began writing and illustrating children's books in 1992. Now, in her school visits, she helps children believe that the stories in our lives are worth writing about. She had a difficult childhood, but found her voice through drawing. She earned a degree in art, but didn't begin using it in book illustration until she had two daughters who loved to hear stories. Now she says she lives in a constant state of 3rd grade bliss – making up stories and drawing pictures.

Judy grew up in Massachusetts, but lives now in Philadelphia. Her book Skippyjon Jones won the E.B. White Read-Aloud Award for Children. She went on to write other adventures about this irrepressible Siamese cat who prefers his imaginary life as El Skippito, the great Mexican sword fighter, out to right the wrongs of the world: Skippyjon Jones in the Doghouse, and the newest, Skippyjon Jones in Mummy Trouble. Her book The Grannyman, a tender book about an old Siamese cat, won the Nebraska Golden Sower award. Yo, Vikings! won the Chapman Award for Best Classroom Read-aloud for 2002. Mr. Emerson's Cook combines history, food, and imagination, as a young girl learns to follow her heart while preparing meals for the writer Ralph Waldo Emerson. Another book for which she was the illustrator, is How the Cat Swallowed Thunder by renowned author Lloyd Alexander.

Judy's style is full of fun and fantasy, but grounded in an understanding of the needs and imaginations of children. We are very lucky to have this rising star in children's literature visit in our area. **She will be speaking to every 2nd and 3rd grader.** The students will attend her program **at one of these locations:** Chadron State College, Bayard High School, Ogallala High School, Sidney High School, Scottsbluff High School. The public is encouraged to attend an **evening program** at either **Bayard High School** at 7p.m on **Tuesday, October 17**, or at **Scottsbluff High School** at 7p.m., **Thursday, October 19**. Teachers and librarians are invited to a **training session** on **Wednesday, Sept. 6**, at **Bayard High School at 4 p.m.** At this time, they will receive a free book and a packet of information to prepare students for the program.

We encourage you to buy Judy Schachner's books for your library so that children who have seen her program will be able to find her books. Please read and promote the books – and encourage families to attend the public programs.

Book Club Ideas

If you have been hesitant to support book clubs at your library because of the difficulty of getting multiple copies of one title, consider these options. Try a thematic discussion, with each person reading a book relating to the theme. It may include fiction and non-fiction selections. This may appeal to readers who aren't interested in standard book club fare and to men, who are more inclined to read non-fiction. It also potentially raises the conversation above the "I liked it" level.

Some authors are available for "phone chats" with reading groups. Using a speaker phone and prepared questions may be a possibility; check with the publisher's publicity departments, some of whom are developing various creative ways, such as podcasts, to promote their authors. If you need suggestions for book club choices, check www.spl.org/pdfs/recommendedbooksfordiscussion.pdf. The Nebraska Library Commission also has book club kits: <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/ref/bookclubkits.html>

Bring on the Teens

Why do teens love horror stories? They love to be scared, grossed out, filled with dread, and partaking in something that adults don't like or approve of. Consider having a paperback horror section in your library that has new books with cool covers. What to include? A few collections of short stories for starters: The Year's Best Fantasy and Horror 2006 (Griffin); The Mammoth Book of Best New Horror 16 (Carroll & Graf). Horror comes in many forms. Here are a variety of titles featuring different themes: I Know What You Did Last Summer (psycho killers); Full Tilt (ghosts); The Boy Who Couldn't Die (magic); Magic or Madness (dark fantasy); These Ten Bones (shape shifters); Twilight (vampires). Borrow Teen Genreflecting from the PLS office, which is a great guide to selecting recommended titles in many genres, including horror. Have some teen volunteers create a display – maybe a dungeon with spider webs and rubber rats – as a way to feature the scary stuff. And don't forget to use Halloween as a time to promote the poltergeists. Scary movies and monster makeup can make a chilling special event.

Internet Safety

In a recent survey, 85% of parents responded that the Web is more dangerous than television; 80% say they worry about their children's exposure to online predators. A source of information to help parents and kids be aware of the dangers and know how to deal with them is Common Sense Media: www.common sense.com. This group provides a downloadable "Internet Survival Guide for Parents" and is launching a media campaign to help keep children safe. Most experts agree that knowledge is the most effective defense. Another internet problem comes in the form of cyber bullying. Students post "flaming" messages or send emails that assault the reputation of the victim. This can be emotionally traumatizing to young teens who may not report it for fear of losing their online privileges. Schools should have policies in place to stop these behaviors, and again, education is the key to making students aware of the potential consequences. Useful information is available at www.cyberbully.org.



Who Said That??

“Words, wisdom, wonder – there is no greater gift we can give our children.”

Julie Andrews, actress, singer, author

“At the end of a long career, who is richer – the person who has made the most money or the person who has helped the most people? Librarians can feel good about themselves and their work when retirement finally beckons because they have devoted their working lives to serving others and building better communities.”

Will Manley, in American Libraries

“Why schlep to a library? There’s nothing there to tempt you but books, magazines, newspapers, movies, music, computer training, tax preparation help, children’s story time, grown-up reading circles, Sherpa-like guidance through the World Wide Wilderness, and a politely enforced atmosphere of peace and quiet.”

Daniel Patrick Sheehan, in the Allentown, Pennsylvania, “Morning Call” newspaper

How are you using the @ ? Here are a few interesting ones:

“The heart of your community is @ your library”

“We’re here to help @ your library”

“You’re always welcome @ your library”

Policy Patrol

Does your library have a dress code for employees? This is a delicate issue, and one that may need legal assistance. A Harris poll indicates that one-third of Americans between ages 25-30 has a tattoo. Body piercing is nearly as common. Are you going to prohibit such a common behavior because some may see it as “inappropriate”? Dress codes must not violate discrimination laws. Though tattoos and piercings are not protected by law, be sure that the restrictions are based on business reasons, not personal ones. Involve staff in drafting a policy, and leave room for exceptions. Clothing styles that may be offensive to an older generation are fashionable to younger employees. A statement such as “employees will dress in a manner appropriate to their responsibilities” could be helpful, but of course is open to interpretation.



Meet Diane Davis, new library director at Rushville Public Library.



(Sharon Ulbrich's display)

Esp. for schools...

Try this **online dictionary** that is a great reference tool: <http://thefreedictionary.com>

At LaVista Junior High, the media specialist has a **book club** that meets after school for one hour once a month. They don't all read the same book; they just talk about what book they've read recently. And while they have snacks, she book talks new books and lets students check them out – or get on the waiting list. They play games like Bingo and Jeopardy using authors and titles for categories.

Another school had a **“One Book, One School”** Celebration after reading the book Did You Carry the Flag Today, Charley? By Rebecca Caudill. Some of the activities were dressing up as your favorite character, eating an Appalachian lunch, doing a clay project in art (like Charley did), learning the Virginia Reel in PE/Music. They also created family flags that were displayed in the media center.

Your students can take their research one step further when they use WilsonWeb on NebraskaAccess. It's possible to create a correctly **formatted bibliography** when they use the checkboxes to select articles, then go to print/email/save – select “brief citation” – choose MLA or APA format, and click “save” – bibliography done.

A group of high school students in Lincoln were suspended after bragging about their drinking activities on **MySpace.com**. Many young people are not aware of the digital “footprint” they leave when they post personal information online. A recent Harris poll showed that 23% of people search for their names on the Internet before meeting or interviewing business associates. What you write in places like MySpace is accessible to anyone, even those who may be looking for background information on college applicants.

Students and teachers have free access to **historic films**, including WWII newsreels and NASA documentaries thanks to Google and the National Archives. Google digitized the films, which also include early footage of the Civilian Conservation Corps workers, and Native American activities: <http://video.google.com/nara.html>

If you use **Inspiration Software**, there is now a Version 8, with expanded visual capabilities, more writing support, and additional resources for integrating the software across the curriculum. Download a free trial copy at <http://www.inspiration.com>

More school stuff -----

In an article by Dr. David Thornburg, futurist, author, and consultant, appearing in eSchool News, he says: “Too often we destroy courses and subjects by telling students everything they need to know about them, instead of providing them with enough information to allow them to come up with interesting questions that they can then go out and explore on their own. Don’t you think a school is a good place for people to learn the **difference between good information and bad information**? They’re going to spend the rest of their lives doing it. Why not teach it to them?”

Consumer Reports recently evaluated online **SAT test preparation materials**. The services range from free to \$500, and they found that quality does not necessarily correlate with cost. Getting high marks was the free “Number2.com” by Zap Corp. A \$499 program from PrepMe had “significant design problems, lack of interoperability, and poorly designed user interface.” The worst review went to Test Preparation Program’s Online Test Prep, which charges \$29.95 for a 3 month subscription.

Are you familiar with the “Great Heartlanders” series from Acorn Books? These books and videos cover some people and events relevant to our area. Videos include “The Pony Express”; “The Oregon Trail”; “Petticoat Pioneers”; books include Women of the Wild West; Buried Treasures of the Great Plains; Notable Nebraskans; Roadside History of Nebraska; Scribe of the Great Plains: Mari Sandoz: www.acornbks.com

Do you have the book Dare to be Scared: Thirteen Stories to Chill and Thrill by Robert San Souci? It’s geared to ages 8-12, and sounds perfect for Halloween! Here’s a goodie for high school libraries: The Debatabase Book: A Must-Have Guide for Successful Debate from International Debate Education (includes 125 the pros and cons of 125 topics).

WHY DO WE NEED A LIBRARIAN, WHEN WE HAVE THE INTERNET?

- Why do we need English teachers, when everyone has word processing software?
- Why do we need accountants, when everyone has a calculator?
- Why do we need cooks, when every store is full of food?
- Why do we need coaches, when every kid has a closet full of sports equipment?

The Internet is like a library with all the books on the floor. Librarians and media specialists are trained to organize information and determine which source is most appropriate for each person’s needs. They can clean up the information mess, by quickly and efficiently sorting through all types of resources and getting useful results. And they’re even willing to teach others how to do it. You gotta love ‘em!



Panhandle Library System Board Meeting
Tuesday, May 9, 2006 - 10:00 a.m. - WNCC - Sidney, Nebraska

Diane Downer called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Board members present were Diane Downer, Vickie Retzlaff, Jill Ellis, Lillian Diedrichsen, Allison McBride, Kathy Terrell, Sue Gosnell, and Ruth Walker. Board members absent were Dena Crews and Maryruth Reed. Also present were Cherie Longmuir and Debbie McCall, PLS, and Pam Scott, Nebraska Library Commission.

The Agenda was approved. Lillian Diedrichsen moved to accept the minutes as corrected. Vickie Retzlaff seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Jill Ellis reported that Western Nebraska Community College has changed the library web page. They also have Ask-a-Librarian on the web. Valetta Schneider and Jill Ellis went to a conference in Georgia about serving distance education students. Key concepts: college students are very different today. They are very big on multi-tasking. They don't want to be bored. One college gives the students the college catalog on a CD rom. Sessions addressed how to meet the technology challenges presented by these students. Sue Gosnell reported finals are going on in Sidney. Massages are being offered during finals week to help relieve students' stress.

Pam Scott gave a report from the Nebraska Library Commission. She reviewed the upcoming Continuing Education activities. WebJunction courses are available. The Gates Rural Library Sustainability Project will be reminding attendees to use WebJunction for communication. There will be an online workshop on "Understanding MARC21 Bibliographic Records." Database Roadshows will be at eight different sites across the state of Nebraska, including Scottsbluff. Fiction Connection has been added to the NebraskaAccess site. There is a Digitization Workshop in North Platte on July 17th and 18th. The Nebraska Library Association Spring Meeting will take place in May. Extra College of Dupage sessions will be offered in June. LTA courses for the summer session are "Introduction to Children and Young Adult Services" and "Reference Services in Library and Information Environments." The Nebraska Library Commission is still providing scholarships for various college-related library education courses. CE grant applications are available. New this year is that the 25% local match doesn't have to be all cash. The Trustee Manual is being revised. There were several Panhandle libraries that received payments from the "Dollars for Data" program. The Nebraska Library Commission will be sending out information about the new Open Meetings Law and Concealed Handgun Law.

The Scholarship Committee reported that there were no new scholarship applications and no new applications for the PLS awards. The nomination committee reported that they had contacted Diane Downer, Jill Ellis, Ruth Walker, and Vickie Retzlaff, who agreed to be officers for the coming year.

Debbie reported the results of the election for the board members. Jim Soester was the winner in District A, Kathy Terrell, for schools, and Cindy Mielke for public librarians.

Cherie Longmuir gave her Coordinator's Report. The System sponsored four training sessions: Basic Skills classes, Gates Rural Sustainability Planning, OCLC Training, and Disaster Preparedness. Cherie did visiting and consulting with many libraries and Boards, attended PLS jobalike and a school library talktime in Scottsbluff. The System is working on plans to implement "iPod" digital audio book Systems grant. Cherie helped weed the non-fiction collection at Alliance HS, attended web session on "Fiction Connection" and provided book lists in the newsletter as well as promoted the Golden Sower program. She attended the Public Library Association conference. Some new books have been purchased as well as the journal Voice of Youth Advocates. Cherie participated in an ESU video meeting, worked on and promoted NEMA/PLS summer workshop, promoted "One Book One Nebraska" activities and blog discussion. She has been working on finding funding for the author tour. The final revised technology plan was submitted to NLC. The proposed budget for 2006-7 was completed. Materials and press releases were done for National Library Week. The newsletter was published as well as an update of the mailing list.

Author tour report included \$1000.00 donated by Wal-Mart. NLC is providing some extra funds to each system for programs. It will cost about \$5000.00 for the author tour. The author committee will meet again on June 27. Chadron State College will be a program site instead of Chadron High School. The system ordered five Skippy Jon Jones dolls for promotions.

Cherie reviewed the proposed budget for July 2006 through June 2007. Allison questioned whether we had added in enough for Board mileage. Cherie will make final revisions and there will be a vote on the budget at the annual meeting in July.

The Annual meeting will be on July 21, 2006 at Bridgeport. The theme is "It's Greek to Me." Royce Ammon will be the speaker. The cost is \$10.00 for the lunch. Discussion at the meeting will include changing the number of members on the board, funding the summer program, and paying for workshops. We will then do a "survey monkey" this fall to get feedback from members about these topics. Committee chairs will give a brief summary at the annual meeting of what their committee did during the year.

Upcoming events include the special summer programs with Cherrie Clarke. She will be doing programs in nineteen libraries.

The next meeting will be Friday, July 21, 2006 at Bridgeport. The meeting adjourned at 12:04 p.m.

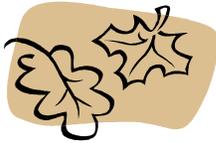
Submitted by Ruth Walker, Secretary

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Your System Board Members:

Diane Downer, President
Vickie Retzlaff, Vice President
Ruth Walker, Secretary
Jill Ellis, Treasurer
Lillian Diedrichsen
Sue Gosnell
Allison McBride
Cindy Mielke
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
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PLS Web Site: <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/panhandle>

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