

Congratulations to Bridgeport and Morrill Public Libraries!

Two area libraries received a helping hand thanks to the generosity of a lifelong educator, the late Shirley Kreutz Bennett of Lincoln. The Kreutz Bennett Donor-Advised Fund of the Nebraska Community Foundation provides grants to libraries in communities with populations under 3,000.

The Fund provided \$8,500 to the Morrill Public Library to remodel the eastern side of the building. The library was built in 1936 and still has the original windows and plaster on the interior. The grant will help cover costs to replace windows, repair the ceiling with drywall and repaint the interior on both levels. By improving these areas, library patrons will be welcomed by a more inviting atmosphere and utility costs will decrease by an anticipated 25 percent, allowing more room in the budget for programs and expanded activities.

The Bridgeport Public Library received \$20,000 to support the library's expansion project. The grant will supplement funding for a project that will allow the library to double its space. The library will expand into an adjacent vacant office which previously housed the Bridgeport City Hall. The new space will be used for a children's area, work space, circulation desk and archival storage. The major cost of the project will be the removal of the common wall between the two spaces. Support columns and arches will be installed. The Bridgeport Public Library is a past recipient of the Nebraska Library Commission Broadband Technology Opportunities grant. Expansion of the library will allow more space for the technology needs of the community.

There are 228 libraries in Nebraska communities with populations under 3,000 that are eligible for a grant from the Kreutz Bennett Donor-Advise Fund. In addition to Bridgeport and Morrill, libraries in Tekamah and Ponca also received grants from the first round of funding in March.

"We are really excited to be helping the family of Shirley Kreutz Bennett develop a strategy to share her passion for learning, especially in places where funding continues to shrink," said Jeff Yost, President and CEO of the Nebraska Community Foundation.

Following Ms. Kreutz Bennett's wishes, a Fund Advisory Committee composed of her nieces and nephews recommends grants in three areas: planning grants leading to accreditation; enhancement grants to improve library services and/or programs; and facilities grants for new facilities or the renovation, restoration or rehabilitation of current libraries.

All grants require a certain level of matching funds and evidence that the project has broad community support. Approximately \$70,000 is available each year. Grant seekers are encouraged to review the guidelines and application procedures at www.nebcommfound.org/fund/kreutzbennett.

In This Issue:

P. 1 NE Community Foundation Grants

P. 2 Books added to NLC. PLS Awards Info

P. 3 PLS Awards Nomination Form

P. 4-6 PLS Board Minutes 1-10-2012

P.7 Upcoming events.

P. 8 NDOL News

P. 9 PLS Scholarship App.

P.10 2012 NLA/ NEMA Preconference Flyer

P. 11 PLS Annual Meeting Flyer

P. 12 Last Page



New Books Added to the Nebraska Library Commission Collection

The following books have been added to the collection, please contact the information services team if you'd like to check out any of these titles. 800-307-2665 or 402-471-4016.

The Cybrarian's Web; An A-Z Guide to 101 Free web 2.0 tools and other Resources, by Cheryl Ann Peltier-Davis

Essential Library of Congress Subject Headings, by Vanda Broughton.

How to Fix Copyright, by William Patry

A Book Sale How-To Guide; More Money, Less Stress, by Pat Ditzler & Joann Dumas

Graphic Novels In Your School Library, by Jesse Karp, Illus. Rush Kress

The Information Diet; A Case for Conscious Consumption, by Clay A. Johnson



The Nebraska Library Commission has many more books and book kits for you to check out, just contact the Nebraska Library Commission. <http://nlc.nebraska.gov>.



Awards Information

Please nominate deserving nominees for these annual awards that will be given during the PLS Annual Meeting in Chadron on July 20, 2012.

The Advocacy Award is for someone that gives outstanding support and promotion of the library, its services and programs and its intended for a library board member, volunteer or another person who is or is not employed in a library.

The Distinguished Leadership Award is for a library employee in a management position who has shown initiative and contributions in their library position/profession.

The info re: each award is located on the nomination form, see next page. The deadline for each award is May 1, 2012. If you have questions, please contact Merrilene Wood at 308-247-7451 or email: woodm234@wncc.net.

See the award nomination on page 3.



Panhandle Library System Award Nomination



(you may nominate yourself or someone else)

I would like to nominate _____ for the following award:

_____ PLS Advocacy Award

_____ PLS Distinguished Leadership Award

Position: _____

Name of Library: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Years of service in the library capacity: _____

Name of person making the nomination: _____

Name of Library: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone: _____

Attach two letters of recommendation stating why this person deserves the award:

Advocacy – outstanding support and promotion of the library, its services and programs;

Distinguished Leadership - initiative and contributions in the library position/profession.

The ***Advocacy Award*** is for a library board member, a volunteer, or another person who **is or is not** employed in a library.

The ***Distinguished Leadership Award*** is for a library employee in a management position.

The nomination form and letters of recommendation are due May 1, 2012.

Awards will be announced at the PLS Annual Meeting in July 2012.

Send completed form and letters to:

Awards/Scholarships Committee Chairperson

Merrillene Wood

WNCC-Sidney Campus

371 College Drive

Sidney, NE 69162

E-mail: woodm234@wncc.net

Fax: 308-254-7444

**1-10-2012 PLS Board Meeting Minutes
Railway Plaza
10:00 am**

I. President Floyd Smith III called the board meeting to order 10:00 am. Board members present were Floyd Smith III, Beth Trupp, Terry Christensen, Dixie Riley, Rick Caudillo, Roberta Boyd, Sara Brennemann, Kendra Caskey and Sue Shaver. Merrillene Wood was absent. Also present were Debbie McCall and Jeri Clapper, and guests, Pat Gross and Rod Wagner.

The agenda is set.

II. Review and approve minutes from November 8, 2011 Board meeting.

Motion to approve the minutes from November 8, 2011, board meeting were made by Rick Caudillo and second by Sue Shaver. The motion carried.

III. Reports

a. District Reports: At Large (Beth) Beth reported on libraries using the new Alexandria automation system. Kimball Public Library is still bar coding and plugging through. Sidney Public Library will be on board soon. Bridgeport Public Library just joined Alexandria and is over whelmed. Gering Public Library finished bar coding and is finding a few glitches. Gering Public Library has Floyd Smith III on speed dial and working through the glitches.

Academic/Special: (Merrillene) Merrillene emailed her report. WNCC library is now working on a new strategic plan in addition to adding new multiple databases for various college curricula, a link resolver for databases and library guides. The campus has a night and Saturday staff member for those hours. With the close connection Merrillene has with the Sidney Public Library, she usually report on their activities. The friends of Sidney Public Library held a Mystery Dinner fundraiser in November which netted \$500.00 for the library. Sidney Public Library held its 5th annual Christmas tea featuring St. Patrick's church bell choir in Dec. The Girl Scouts decorated the tree and the library hosted an open house and book sale as well.

Other district reports. Floyd Smith III applied to the LDS Church in March of 2004 to become an affiliate research library. At that time he was told the application process and waiting period could be seven years. The Center was approved in December to be the newest FamilySearch affiliate library. Floyd received the certificate and forms necessary to order microfilm from the LDS. Microfilms ordered from the LDS will be available on a monthly or indefinite loan period. The microfilm, once it has arrived will be available to view and print at the West Nebraska Family Research & History Center.

b. Committee Reports

i. Annual Meeting: (TC & Roberta) Roberta emailed the Chadron State menu to committee members. The menu has a variety of lunch options. Roberta said she is not sure of the topic at this time. Terry said the topic is about Mari Sandoz. TC didn't know for sure about the parking at the Mari Sandoz Center. Since the Annual Meeting is July 20 there should be plenty of parking. The committee will make the decision on the lunch choices.

May/June 2012

ii. Nominating: (Dixie & Sue) Three Board members are completing their first term and will be up for re-election. If anyone has suggestions, please let the Nominating Committee know. Re-election of officers is in July 2012. Roberta is finishing Lori Hartman's first term.

III. Public Relations: (Beth & Rick) Rick said he heard the PLS Author Tour went very well and people were very pleased.

iv. Scholarship: (Merrillene & Kendra) There has been no activity for scholarships. There are two \$100.00 scholarships available for training or attending certain events.

v. Technology: (Sara & Floyd) Floyd attended the NLA/NEMA conference in October. Speaker Jamie LaRue mentioned some software similar to overdrive software which allows e-books to patrons. Floyd will check into the software which has a one-time cost of \$15,000.00. Floyd will present it when details are sent. Sara is looking into software upgrades for PLS computers and Quick books upgrade.

c. Shared Automation Project Report: (Floyd Smith III). Floyd said 15 public libraries are now using Alexandria. The last one to convert is Sidney Public Library. Back in December Floyd visited with Grant County Library, Oshkosh Public Library, Bridgeport Public Library and two days at Gering Public Library's conversion. He also spent two days at Oshkosh Public Library doing their conversion which was successful. On December 15 Floyd was at Bridgeport Public Library helping with their conversion. Floyd helped Vickie at Grant County Library. Carol Kyser just came back to work after having surgery. Floyd received a call from Gail Dunkle at Potter Public Library. She is interested in joining Alexandria. Potter School is also using Alexandria. Bridgeport schools and Bridgeport Public Library are using Alexandria. The students can use 1 card at the school or the library. The Bridgeport schools became part of Alexandria after their information was lost. Floyd thought he had more time to fill out a grant, but Richard Miller called and Floyd has to file the grant as soon as possible. As of now, the total number of Consortium members is 21.

d. PLS Coordinator Report: Debbie and Jeri. Debbie stated the Jan/Feb 2012 newsletter went out Monday via email and she is working on DVD rotations and waiting on supplies. The PLS Summer Reading Program kickoff is February 22. Jeri said she has been cleaning all the disks and will check how many DVD's will need to be purchased. Jeri and Debbie are working well together.

e. Nebraska Library Commission Report: Rod Wagner. Rod commented on the Lied Scottsbluff Public Library for being recognized by the December, 2011 issue of the Library Journal for the building's architecture. Rod said the funding concerns have been settled. We will start advertising for the PLS Coordinator position until March 25, 2012, or it will remain open until filled.

IV. Old Business

a. Budget: Floyd Smith III. We now have a budget. The figure of \$16,000.00 was incorrect. The new figure is \$21,000.00. The amount at the end of the fiscal year was \$21,138.00. Floyd and Debbie went through each item. State funding is 5 1/2 percent less than we had last year. We are ending up with a larger amount of money because we didn't have a coordinator. When we have a coordinator, there will be some money to be use. Kendra asked if PLS pays for the new coordinator. Floyd said PLS pays for all the expenses.

b. Code of Conduct for Committees. Terry commended Rick for creating the Code of Conduct. Rick said if anyone would like to add or change anything you're welcome to do so. Dixie Riley made a motion to adopt the code of conduct for committees and to be added to the PLS Policies and Procedures. Kendra seconded the motion. The motion carried. This will be added to PLS policies and procedure.

V. New Business

- a. **Review PLS Policy & Procedures.** The PLS coordinator will be on a six months' probation period with the option of extending probation after six months. The person can't sign checks during the probation period. Credit card starts at a lower limit during the first six months. Floyd will work out the details and wording on changes. This will be proposed at the next meeting. Kendra asked if PLS has any procedures in place for the new coordinator as far as our expectations. Floyd said PLS does not have those procedures in the job description and will use the document that NLC has to recruit. Kendra believes we should update as far as traveling among the system libraries. Kendra said the more upfront we are, the better understanding the new coordinator will have. NLC has a job description to use. PLS can amend the description. Floyd will talk to Rod and see what PLS needs to add to its policies and procedures. Beth thought that could be under orientation in our policies and procedures. Kendra said we learned from our previous coordinator and lack of clarity. Floyd will make a note and he said we can add to our policies and procedures at the next meeting. Dixie said Margie held librarian meetings. Floyd thought we added that information to the job description. Dixie said she really liked those and that way the coordinator could meet everyone instead of traveling to each library/school. Kendra thought the first month should be one week in the office and one week traveling. Kendra said we should help this person succeed. We need to get the best applicant we can. Beth commended Jeri, Debbie and Floyd for working well together and taking on more responsibilities. Floyd said it's about our patrons and getting things done.

b. Administrator Assistant six month review. Floyd said six months has gone by fast. Floyd said we need to give Debbie a six month review. Floyd thanked the board for hiring Jeri.

VI. Upcoming Events / Announcements. Debbie said the date was wrong for Bev Russell's retirement. It is not the January 22nd but January 27th. Roberta said the interim directors at Lied Scottsbluff Public Library are Judy Oltmanns and Deb Carlson. Floyd said January 25th is Oshkosh Public Libraries BTOP open house. Rod Wagner said the commission meeting is this Friday. Pat Gross was telling NLC about the PLS Author tour. Floyd shared Kendra Caskey's article about receiving her MLS degree. Kendra said she is very happy to be done with her master's degree. Floyd read a thank you card PLS received from Ms. Plummer's 2nd grade class at Westmoor Elementary in Scottsbluff thanking PLS for Diane DeGroat's performance.

VII. Adjournment. Adjourned at 11:32 am.

Secretary,

Terry Christensen

Upcoming Events

May 7, 2012 Navigating the Waters of Legal Information and Self-Help for Library Patrons. 9:30—10:30am at Sidney Public Library, 1112 12th Avenue, Sidney. Please RSVP to Doris Jensen at: doris@sidneypubliclibrary.com or 308-254-3110.

May 7 - 13, 2012 Children's Book Week

May 8, 2012 PLS Board Meeting, 10:00am at Railway Plaza, 115 Railway Street, Scottsbluff, NE. In the conference room.

July 20, 2012 PLS Annual Meeting at Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center, 1000 Main Street, Chadron. Cost \$10.00

See flyer on page 11.

October 17-19, 2012 NLA/NEMA Conference

Basic Skills Classes through December, 2012

Grants for Learning Labs in Libraries and Museums: <http://nlcblogs.nebraska.gov/nlcblog/2012/04/18/imls-learning-labs-grant/>

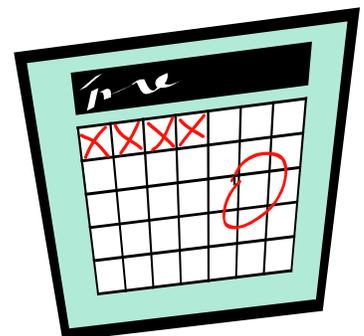
NebraskaAccess offers free online access to current magazines, journals, newspapers, genealogy and business information to all Nebraska residents.
www.nebraskaccess.ne.gov

NLC Training and Events Calendar: <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/calendar>

PLS List Serve: pls-l@nlc.state.ne.us

PLS Website: <http://libraries.ne.gov/pls>

Mark your calendars!



Nebraska Department of Labor Partnering with Libraries to Promote Career Services

LINCOLN – The Nebraska Department of Labor (NDOL) is partnering with the Nebraska Library Commission to better serve employers and jobseekers in all Nebraska communities. The partnership is part of a multifaceted plan to extend the outreach of the NDOL beyond the existing career centers. NDOL's role in the partnership will include offering in-person, computer-based assistance for computer center users and library staff at over a dozen libraries across the state.

“We are excited that the Library Commission asked us to partner with them in this initiative,” said Catherine D. Lang, Commissioner of Labor. “The Nebraska Department of Labor is focused on being pro-active when it comes to providing the services that employers and jobseekers need, no matter where they are located. In this job market, it's key that career resources are available in as many communities as possible.”

Library staff will be trained in utilizing the NDOL job site, [NEworks](#), and will receive “How To” materials for library visitors. The NDOL will also present workshops on topics such as resume writing, interview skills and job search. Videoconferencing will allow additional libraries to participate in the trainings.

The Nebraska Library Commission is enhancing public computer centers in 147 public library locations statewide. The Broken Bow Public Library will host an Open House to introduce their public computer center to the community on Monday, April 9. Governor Dave Heineman will stop at the library as part of his tour of Broken Bow businesses, and give congratulatory remarks at approximately 3 p.m. To learn more about the Library Commission, visit <http://nlc.nebraska.gov>.

The partnership between the NDOL and the Nebraska Library Commission is supported by the Library Broadband Builds Nebraska Communities initiative. The initiative runs through July 31, 2013 and aims to connect library users throughout the state with the career resources they need, improve broadband access and upgrade technology. The \$3.66 million initiative is being funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Department of Labor news releases are accessible on the Internet at:

dol.nebraska.gov

###



Panhandle Library System Scholarship Application

The Panhandle Library System has established a scholarship fund to facilitate the professional development of librarians within the system. Librarians, Media Specialists, and those connected with member agencies within the System may use these monies for attendance at professional meetings, classes, workshops, or other beneficial academic activities.

There are two scholarships available in the amount of \$100.00 each through June 30, 2012.

Provisions of the Scholarship include:

1. Each applicant must submit an application letter and form any time prior or two weeks after the event for which the scholarship is intended.
2. The Scholarship Committee will review each application and recommendations will be given to the Panhandle Library System Board for approval or denial.
3. **Requests for a scholarship are for the amount of \$100.00 each through June 30, 2012.**
4. The Scholarship Committee has the right to adjust the amount requested depending on the budget and number of applications during the fiscal year.
5. Scholarships will be evaluated on a first come first serve basis.
6. Priority will be given to those events within the state.
7. Individual applicants will be limited to requesting scholarships once in a three-year period.
8. Budget, event, amount requested, and the number of applicants will dictate approval or denial of the scholarship requests. More than one scholarship requests from the same library agency during a two-year period will need to be reviewed by the Scholarship Committee.
9. Scholarship recipients are requested to provide a brief article in the System Newsletter as a form of resource sharing within one month of completion of the activity. Article is submitted to the Coordinator.

Scholarship Committee
Panhandle Library System
115 Railway Street
Scottsbluff, NE 69361

***Panhandle Library System
Scholarship Application***

Name: _____

Library/School/Agency: _____

Complete Address: _____

Phone: _____

Scholarship Activity: _____

Requested Amount \$ _____

Please describe the activity, why you want to attend this activity, and how it will contribute to your professional growth. Be as specific as possible with the date, location, and function of the activity.

Revised 4-10-2012

2012 NLA/NEMA/MPLA Pre-Conference

RUN, RUN TO READING ALOUD!

Wednesday, October 17 – La Vista, Nebraska Conference Center

Featuring children's book authors

Jim Aylesworth & Lisa Campbell Ernst



And Nebraska children's book authors

Julia Cook

Ted Kooser

Preston McDaniels

& James Solheim

AGENDA

9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
Registration, Coffee and Book Sales

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
One Book, One School

11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.
The Teacher Who Became An Author
Jim Aylesworth

12:15 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.
Lunch on your own

1:45 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.
Nebraska Children's Book Author Panel
with Julia Cook, Ted Kooser,
Preston McDaniels and James Solheim

3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
*Gifts of the Universe:
Inspiration, Hard Work, and Grace*
Lisa Campbell Ernst

4:00 p.m.
Book Signing

REGISTRATION

\$40 if received by July 1

\$45 if received between July 1 and Sept. 20

\$50 after Sept. 20
(15% discount for MPLA members)

You can register online at
nebraskalibraries.org/triconference2012

For more program details or to reserve books
by the authors please visit
www.readaloudnebraska.org

This workshop is sponsored by
Read Aloud Nebraska.



Support was also received from the
Nebraska Regional Library Systems and the
School, Children's and Young People's Section
of the Nebraska Library Association.

Email info@readaloudnebraska.org
if you have any questions

PLS Annual Meeting



Friday, July 20, 2012

Where—Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center, Chadron State College, 1000 Main, Chadron



Please Join Us for Panhandle Library System's Annual Meeting.

9:00—9:30 Registration and coffee

9:30 PLS Annual Meeting

Speaker Sarah Polak, "The Hidden Mari Sandoz"

12:30-1:30 Lunch-Buffer-Cost **\$10.00**
from **"The Hen House"**

1:30pm PLS Board Meeting

Please register by Monday, July 16, 2012 Make checks payable to Panhandle Library System and mail to 115 Railway Street, Scottsbluff, NE 69361. You may also pay at the door.

Name (s): _____

Library/School: _____

Email/Ph _____

Please register by Monday, July 16, 2012 with the PLS office. Fax: 308-632-3978. Panhandle Library System, 115 Railway Street, Scottsbluff, NE 69361 dmccall@panhandlelibsys.org

Panhandle Library System
115 Railway Street
Scottsbluff, NE 69361

Phone: 308-632-1350
Toll Free: 888-879-5303
Fax: 308-632-3978
Website: <http://libraries.ne.gov/pls>



PLS Board of Trustees:

Floyd Smith III, President

Beth Trupp, Vice President

Terry Christensen, Secretary

Sara Brennemann

Kendra Caskey

Rick Caudillo

Dixie Riley

Sue Shaver

Merrillene Wood

Roberta Boyd

Counties Served:

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

PLS Coordinator: Vacant

Debbie McCall, Administrative Assistant
E-mail: dmccall@panhandlelibsys.org

Jeralyn Clapper Assistant
jclapper@panhandlelibsys.org

Panhandle Sun is published 6 times a year by the Panhandle Library System. This publication was supported in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the State of Nebraska through the Nebraska Library Commission.

Logo photo CC-BY-NC [CoachPeterson](#).

May/June 2012