

MERIDIAN MONITOR

MERIDIAN LIBRARY SYSTEM

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2009

Your System Board:

Christie Behle
Linda Bowden
Linda Jelkin
Mary Koch
Laura Martinsen
Trine McBride
Christine Walsh
Janet Wilke
Joan Davis, Emeritus



Meridian Library System
Suite 6
3423 2nd Avenue
Kearney NE 68847

Phone: 800-657-2192
Phone: 308-234-2087
Fax: 308-234-4040

Email:
sosenga@frontiernet.net
Website:
www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/
Meridian

System Office Moving

As of February 10th, the System Office will be located at 3423 Second Avenue, Suite 6 (second floor)

Audio Book Raffle!

The System Board has decided that it is time to end our audio book rotation service. The ten existing audio book collections will be raffled off free of charge to interested libraries. If you would like to have your library entered into the raffle for a set of the audio books, please send an e-mail to meridian@frontiernet.net by March 15th.

What's Up Doc is a Blog

Times change, new technologies come along, and we use them to (hopefully) improve our services. What's up Doc?, our bimonthly newsletter listing state and federal publications received at the Library Commission, has gone 2.0! Sometimes doing something new means stopping doing something the old way. The print What's Up Doc will cease publication with the November/December 2008 issue. The 2008 annual compilation of state documents will also be published soon. A new What's Up Doc was launched as a blog in September 2008, and is accessible at <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/blogs/whatsupdoc>. The new Doc features all of the information provided in the old Doc, and more. Blog format allows us to post lists of newly received publications, make announcements about state e-pubs that we have downloaded to our server, and blog about "documents in the news" more frequently than was possible with the bimonthly compilation. The publications lists include OCLC catalog numbers and hotlinks to downloaded copies of documents that any library can use to add them to their catalogs.

Doc is also broadening in scope to feature updates about other projects documents staff are involved with: Nebraska Memories, collaborative digitization projects, scanning materials from the NLC Archives, information services, etc.

We welcome feedback and comments about the new What's Up Doc-pros and cons of making the change, need for future annual state docs compilations, comments on news postings, etc. Would you like to write a news article for us to post? How about using the blog to comment! Or contact Beth Goble, Government Information Services Director 402-471-4017 email bgoble@nlc.state.ne.us.

To sign up for What's Up Doc via RSS go to the site and click on the RSS link .

Nebraska Library Association Scholarship Opportunities

<http://www.nebraskalibraries.org>

Would you like to attend graduate classes or training to increase your library skills? Here's your opportunity to apply for financial assistance. These links include information on the Louise A. Nixon Scholarship (\$1,000.00) and the Duane Munson Scholarship (\$250.00). The application deadline is April 15th of the current year.

Louise A. Nixon Scholarship

Louise A. Nixon (1897-1989) worked constantly to enlighten the legislature about Nebraska's libraries' needs. She served as Assistant Director of the Nebraska Legislative Reference Bureau and as Legislative Council Librarian. Louise Nixon was head of the Nebraska Library Commission from 1950 to 1969. When federal funds were made available, she initiated book-mobile demonstration projects; public library construction; extension services; services to institutional residents and the physically challenged; and an inter-library communication network. Our lives have been enriched by her open minded, conscientious dedication to building library service in this state. When Nixon reflected on her life for the Lincoln Journal, the paper wrote, "There is no single figure of greater 20th century significance in developing Nebraska's contemporary system of community libraries – facilities, collections, trained personnel, cooperative networking."

This scholarship was established to help each recipient reach for Nixon's goals of dedication and vision.

The application deadline is April 15th of the current year. Scholarship recipients

will be announced in May.
<http://www.nebraskalibraries.org/nixonschol.htm>

Duane Munson Scholarship

Duane Munson, a well-known bookseller from Columbus, has been a long-time leader and solid supporter of library and educational activity in Nebraska. He desires to share his good fortune jointly with the NLA and NEMA communities. Munson has personally sponsored this scholarship since 1991.

The application deadline is April 15th of the current year. Scholarship recipients will be announced in May.
<http://www.nebraskalibraries.org/munsonschol.htm>

One Book for Nebraska's Kids

The system has 15 copies available of this year's title: *The Green Glass Sea* by Ellen Klages.

"It is 1943, and while war consumes the United States and the world, 11 year old Dewey Kerrigan lives with her father in a town that - officially - doesn't exist: Los Alamos, New Mexico. Famous scientists and mathematicians, including Dewey's father, work around the clock on a secret project everyone there calls only "the gadget." Meanwhile, Dewey works on her own mechanical projects, and locks horns with Suze Gordon, a budding artist who is as much of a misfit as she is. None of them - not J. Robert Oppenheimer, the director of the Manhattan Project; not the mathematicians and scientists; and leadt of all, Dewey and Suze - knows how much "the Gadget" is about to change their lives...

You may sign up for these by contacting the System Office.

New Book Bag Titles

The System Office has several new books for loan. Each set has 20 copies.

Dealing With Dragons by Patricia Wrede

Cimorene, tired of etiquette and embroidery, runs away from home and finds herself in a nest of dragons. Now, in Cimorene's world princesses are forever being captured by dragons. The difference here is that Cimorene goes willingly. She would rather keep house for the dragon Kazul than be bored in her parents' castle. With her quick wit and her stubborn courage, Cimorene saves the mostly kind dragons from a wicked plot hatched by the local wizards, and worms her way into the hearts of young girls everywhere. Ages 10-up.

Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key by Jack Gantos

In this rollercoaster of a ride, ingenuously and breathlessly narrated by Joey himself, readers are treated to an up-close introduction to life with attention deficit disorder -or being wired, as Joey puts it. Ages 10-up.

My Daniel by Pam Conrad

When she's 80 years old, Julia Summerwaithe decides to visit her grandchildren, Ellie and Stevie, in New York City, for the first time. She has something important to show them; in the Natural History Museum is the dinosaur she and her brother dis-

covered on their farm in Nebraska when they were young. But even more important to Julia than seeing the dinosaur is sharing her memories of the discovery and excavation with her grandchildren. Ages 9-12.

The Titan's Curse by Rick Riordan (Book 3 in the Percy Jackson series)

In this installment, Riordan continues to enliven ancient mythology with wit, contemporary staging, and teenage heroics. Percy Jackson is now 14, a bit older and wiser, yet still entangled with the Fates. Friends, monsters, dysfunctional gods, and the romantic stirrings of all things natural and mythological are encountered. Grades 6-9.

Talking Book Advisory Committee Seeks Nominees

One vacancy currently exists on the Advisory Committee to the Nebraska Library Commission Talking Book and Braille Service. The purpose of the committee is to represent the needs of talking book and Braille borrowers and to make recommendations concerning library policies, services, and programs. Membership consists primarily of library users but may include librarians, educators, health care providers, and others who understand the needs of individuals with disabilities. The committee normally meets twice a year.

The TBBS provides free talking books, magazines, playback equipment, and Braille to any resident of Nebraska who cannot see regular print, or hold a book, or turn its pages. Persons interested in serving on the committee should contact TBBS by March 1, 2009. Phone: 402-471-4038 or 800-742-7691, fax: 402-471-6244

Be Creative

@ YOUR LIBRARY

Summer Reading Program Workshop
March 20, 2009
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Oconto Community Center, Oconto NE

MORNING SESSION:

Sally Snyder will present book reviews on this theme, followed by a time to share your ideas on the theme.

LUNCH IS INCLUDED IN THE REGISTRATION FEE

AFTERNOON SESSION:

Be Creative @ Your Library will be presented by Alice Boeckman, Children's Services Librarian, Bellevue Public Library and Sally Snyder, Coordinator of Children and YA Library Services, Nebraska Library Commission.

- ◆ Be sure to bring your manual and craft kit (scissors, glue, etc.) to "be creative".
- ◆ The cutting machines will be available.
- ◆ 4 Continuing Education Units from the Nebraska Library Commission.



Registration is \$15 per person

Name: _____

Library: _____

City: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

In case of inclement weather, please call the System Office to see if the workshop will be held.

Mail check and registration to:
Meridian Library System
3423 2nd Avenue, Suite 6
Kearney, NE 68847
Phone: 1-800-657-2192
308-234-2087

Email: meridian@frontiernet.net

You can also register online at
the System Website!
[www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/
meridian/index.html](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/meridian/index.html)

One Book One Nebraska 2009 invites citizens across the state to read *A Lantern in Her Hand*, by Nebraska author Bess Streeter Aldrich. The Nebraska Center for the Book board selected *A Lantern in Her Hand*, a classic story of a pioneer woman who withstands the adversity of existence on the prairie to triumph in the joy of everyday life. Libraries across Nebraska are encouraged to join other literary and cultural organizations in planning for 2009 activities and events that will encourage Nebraskans to read and discuss this story. Support materials to assist with reading/discussion activities will be distributed in early 2009. See the Library Commission Blog, http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/blogs/NLC/books_reading for an ongoing discussion of library tools and programming ideas for One Book One Nebraska 2009.

One Book One Nebraska 2009 is sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book, Nebraska Humanities Council, Nebraska Library Association, Nebraska Library Commission, and the University of Nebraska Press. This year the reading celebration is hosted by the Bess Streeter Aldrich Foundation, www.bessstreeteraldrich.org. The Foundation will sponsor activities throughout the year to help highlight One Book One Nebraska, including:

1. Short Story Contest (<http://www.bessstreeteraldrich.org/contest.html>) for Nebraska authors (Adult, High School, and Middle School). Prizes will be awarded for original stories to winners in each age category. Deadline for submissions: February 17, 2009, Bess Streeter Aldrich's birthday.
2. February 15, 2009: Bess Streeter Aldrich Birthday Celebration and Open House at the Bess Streeter Aldrich House, 204 East F Street, Elmwood, Nebraska to kick-off the yearlong celebration of One Book One Nebraska 2009: Nebraska Reads A Lantern in

Her Hand.

3. April 18, 2009: Bess Streeter Aldrich Foundation Spring Banquet will feature Carol Miles Petersen's presentation of Bess Streeter Aldrich's story behind *A Lantern in Her Hand*. The winners of the Aldrich short story contest will be honored at the banquet.
4. A Summer Outdoor Event will highlight the beauty of the yard and garden of the historic Aldrich home.
5. Bess Streeter Aldrich Remembrance Day will be held in the fall. This day will be dedicated to celebrating the author's life.
6. The Journey into Christmas holiday event closes the year's activities, with the Aldrich House decorated for the holidays and open every Saturday and Sunday in December.

As part of the One Book One Nebraska celebration, the Foundation will also work with Nebraska Library Commission staff in a cooperative effort to digitize Aldrich-related materials and photographs of artifacts. They will make them available via the Internet through the Commission's Nebraska Memories online searchable database.

Additional resources for One Book One Nebraska 2009: Nebraska Reads *A Lantern in Her Hand* are in development and will be available January 1, 2009, including:

- Book Club Kit, with discussion questions, book bags and books (courtesy University of Nebraska Press) for libraries to borrow, and suggested resources.
- Website, as part of the Bess Streeter Aldrich Foundation site, www.bessstreeteraldrich.org, and linked from <http://www.onebookonenebraska.org/>.
- Press kit, including news release, downloadable poster, Governor's Proclamation, and other materials.

- Access to special library-discount pricing on books from University of Nebraska Press at <http://www.nebraskapress.unl.edu/pages/OneBookOneNebraska.aspx>

Support for programming from the Nebraska Humanities Council (NHC), including: A Video History of Bess Streeter Aldrich. Biography of native-Nebraska author Bess Streeter Aldrich. NHC videos are housed at the Nebraska Library Commission. To order videos directly from the Library Commission Reference Services, contact ready@nlc.state.ne.us, 402-471-4019, 800-307-2665.

Libraries, schools, and nonprofit organizations are welcome to apply for NHC mini and major grants to help support local One Book One Nebraska 2009 programming at <http://www.nebraskahumanities.org/speakers/hrceligibility.html>.

Carol Miles Petersen is available through the NHC Speakers Bureau for her program, "Bess Streeter Aldrich: Biography." This talk by Petersen is not a living history or Chautauqua-style presentation. See the NHC website, www.nebraskahumanities.org/speakers/speakerscat.html, for information and steps to apply. A description of her program follows:

Bess Streeter Aldrich: Biography, by Carol Miles Petersen. Petersen, Bess Streeter Aldrich's biographer, explores the writer's life and career in this program. From 1899 to 1950, Aldrich wrote and sold more than one hundred short stories. Through books that depict rural life, she also recorded the cultural and historic heritage of Nebraska.

- Other Speakers Bureau programs

are available on pioneer life and the westward migration. Some of these are Chautauqua-style.

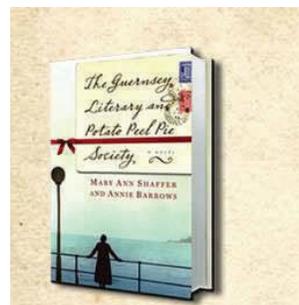
Book of the Month

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows

This charming book of letters takes place in 1946 in London and Guernsey (part of the Channel Islands).

Author Juliet cannot find inspiration for her writing. When she receives a letter from Guernseyite Dawsey Adams with an inquiry, she begins a correspondence with him. When she learns of their literary society started during the German occupation to avoid arrest, Juliet finds new purpose. Dawsey asks the various members to write Juliet with their stories. Through these letters, Juliet learns about life on Guernsey, the varied reading tastes of the people and the impact of wartime occupation.

This book is entirely character driven and in letter format. The mention of various authors and appropriate quotations will delight any person who loves books and reading. In addition, the story of the German occupation is one that is not familiar to most of us so this adds another layer of interest.



FACILITATORS

Together, Becky and John have facilitated leadership institutes in Utah, California, Alaska, North Carolina, Ohio, Texas, Nebraska and in Australia.

Becky Schreiber: For more than 25 years, Becky has been helping organizations reinvent themselves in response to customer expectations. Becky has established herself as a consultant who understands the needs of libraries and has the experience to work effectively within those systems. She is known for thorough preparation, dynamic presentation, and responsiveness to her clients. Becky has an M.Ed. in Counseling from the American University and a B.S. from Hood College.

John Shannon: Consulting since 1973, John's current focus is in helping his clients understand and develop their capacity to capitalize on the dynamic forces of change that are unleashed once an organization is in motion. He believes a key element in this process is the building of a critical mass of employees committed to the change; enormous gains are then possible. His clients rely on his intuitive process skills and conflict resolution. John has an M.S. in Applied Behavioral Sciences from Johns Hopkins University and a B.S. from the University of Dayton.

Librarians of all types are encouraged to apply for this unique experience!

Mentors

Outstanding library and community leaders will be mentors at the 2009 Nebraska Library Leadership Institute, including practicing librarians from academic, special and public backgrounds. These leaders are knowledgeable about libraries and care about providing library service in Nebraska. They will share real-life experiences, successes, failures, joys, frustrations, wisdom, perspectives and advice. They will also facilitate discussions, give brief presentations on topics of special importance to them and schedule time to meet with participants to discuss career goals.

Mentors

Nancy Busch
Robin Clark
Brenda Ealey
Mary Kay Nelson
Mary Reiman
Kathy Tooker
Rod Wagner

For four mid-summer days

in the *peaceful beauty* of a northeast Nebraska landscape,

an extraordinary union of *fresh ideas*

seasoned *experience*, self-discovery, & *sharing*

gives way to

boundless

vision . . .



Nebraska Library
Leadership
Institute

2009 NEBRASKA LIBRARY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

JULY 20-24, 2009

ST. BENEDICT
CENTER
SCHUYLER, NE

Beginning at 1:00 p.m.
on the 20th
and ending after lunch
on the 24th

Following the success of the 2001, 2003, 2005 and 2007 Nebraska Library Leadership Institutes, the Nebraska Regional Library Systems are pleased to offer the fifth Leadership Institute. It is a four-day institute for 30 librarians from across the state who will become our library leaders of tomorrow. During the coming years, incredible socio-economic, demographic and technological changes will continue to take place and our leaders must ensure that libraries continue to serve as a key element in the state's info-structure.

Purpose

The purpose of the Nebraska Library Leadership Institute 2009 is to provide future Nebraska library leaders a structured professional opportunity to:

- Examine in depth their own leadership styles.
- Gain knowledge and skills needed for effective leadership in a rapidly changing environment.
- Identify their professional and personal goals.
- Develop a network of professional peers with whom they will continue to work for years to come.
- Interact with a select group of outstanding library leaders who will serve as mentors.



Participants

The 30 selected participants will have demonstrated:

- Outstanding leadership potential.
- Excellent communication skills.
- Successful library employment experience.
- Initiative, commitment and reasonable risk-taking.

Requirements

All applicants must complete an application form.

Forms can be requested by contacting your System office or Kathy Tooker, Eastern Library System Administrator, 11929 Elm St., Ste. 12, Omaha, NE 68144

800-627-7884, ktookerk@alltel.net or online at any of the system webpages. Applications must be postmarked no later than **April 17, 2009**. The 30

Institute participants will be notified by May 31, 2009. The registration fee of \$200 from the 30 selected participants is due by June 30, 2009.

There is a limited amount of scholarship funding available; contact your system administrator for information.

Action from Future Search Discussion

Many Nebraska librarians, staff, boards and others participated in either the Nebraska Libraries Future Search conference, or in focus groups for the conference. We certainly want to keep the conversation going and provide follow-up information on some of the ideas that have come out of that conference. So, the Nebraska Regional Library Systems will share a topic bi-monthly based on 12 Vision Statements from that 2008 conference. If you want to use these for conversations with library boards, friends, or your community that would be a way to ensure the discussion continues. Nebraska Library Commission will provide continuing education credits including for library trustees if you put it on the agenda and discuss during a board meeting. A series of questions and activities to choose from in helping initiate the conversation are listed below the vision statement. We suggest choosing at least two questions and two activities, however you can choose as many, or all – and utilize throughout 2009, as a way of continuing the Nebraska Libraries Future Search discussion.

Vision statement to consider: *The library is a vital hub, woven into the fabric of the greater community, responding to and empowering people through local and global connections.*

Questions:

- Talk about ways your library is a hub within the community, or services that might reflect the library's involvement in the community as a whole locally and beyond.
- Let's say a newspaper wants to do a story on the library and the role it plays in the community, what would you list? Provide examples of how library services impact library customers in their day to day lives. Talk about connections made locally, regionally, statewide and internationally.
- List community and customer needs that are prevalent today. Are there ways library services can assist in responding to those, or perhaps are already responding to?

Library websites are one way of providing access to library services and information around the clock. Two of many are Holdrege Public Library at www.holdregelibrary.com, or Bennington Public Library at <http://library.bennington-ne.com/> where the possibility to chat or blog is available anytime. Libraries are also investigating the use of kiosks, or mall locations where the library is placed where people tend to congregate. Connecting the library to customers with particular needs such as ESL or finding a job, and partnering with organizations like a literacy council or Nebraska Workforce are examples of services provided as a direct response to a particular need while collaborating to make the most of community wide resources. List outreach services your library provides, or might consider developing, or partnerships with other organizations that reinforce the library as THE community center – the place that will “connect” individuals with product in response to customer need or desire, within or outside the walls of the library during the hours the library is open or closed.

Activities:

- Nebraska libraries include the Library Bill of Rights as part of policy which lists service to all people of the community not restricting access based on origin, age, background or views. Review the Library Bill of Rights at: <http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/oif/statementspols/statementsif/librarybillrights.cfm>.
- Veronda Pitchford, of the Urban Libraries Council, was the speaker at the Fall Colloquium October 2008. Their publication: *Welcome, Stranger: Public Libraries Build the Global Village* is a great resource for libraries of all types for strategies in welcoming and helping immigrants in transitions into the community. It also provides information on the major role libraries provide in this process. You can find copies of this publication to borrow, 17 pages, as well as the 25 page toolkit at the Nebraska Regional Library Systems' offices and the Nebraska Library Commission, or on the Urban Libraries Council website: <http://www.urbanlibraries.org/publications/print.html>. Review and discuss for insight in successfully serving a growing constituent in Nebraska.
- Nebraska Regional Library Systems and Nebraska Library Commission have copies of Kathleen de la Pena McCook's book: *A Place at the Table: Participating in Community Building*. It outlines methods for ensuring that librarians are a part of community discussions, planning and problem solving with tools for strengthening community partnerships and connections while promoting the library's assets. Use the book to begin discussion for building community collaboration and empowerment through library services and involvement. Or take a look online at McCook's – A Librarian At the Kitchen Table - <http://www.urbanlibraries.org/publications/print.html>. The blog provides great articles for discussion and consideration, as well as timely information on libraries building community in a variety of settings.
- *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community* by Robert D. Putnam was a national bestseller and provided provocative ideas on social change focusing on American behavior increasingly disconnecting from each other and social structures. Listen to an interview with Professor Putnam on NPR's All Things Considered: <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=1074874>. Listen as a group and use for discussion. What do you agree or disagree with? This program and book were published in 2000, how are things different or the same in 2009? For more information on the book or Putnam go to: <http://www.bowlingalone.com/>.

Please feel free to share your comments and feedback from these discussions and exercises. Nebraska Regional Library Systems will be posting bi-monthly discussions on system e-mail lists, newsletters and websites. We are also exploring ways of presenting the discussion in an interactive online format that could involve statewide participation. There is a Nebraska Libraries Future Search wiki hosted by Nebraska Library Commission where we can post discussion information and feedback: <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/wikis/fs/Whats%20Next.ashx>.



**Press Play @ Your Library® during
Teen Tech Week 2009**

Teen Tech Week 2009, which will be celebrated March 8-14, is about connecting teens with different technologies, especially those available through the library. Teens can literally press play on digital devices such as mp3 players, DVD players, gaming controllers and more. Press Play @ the library can be interpreted broadly to make it work for you in your own library. One way to interpret the theme is to emphasize the word "play." Play can be about teens creating and sharing their own content for the fun of it, like videos, music, and digital artwork. Play through games can be encouraged with tournaments, tech trivia contests, and video games. The theme can also take a more educational direction. Teens can "press play" on various digital devices to learn more about the world around them. They can press play to watch film documentaries, listen to an audiobook, get online homework help, learn a new language and more. YALSA encourages librarians and educators to be creative and take the theme in a direction that works for them and their teens

<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/yalsa/teentechweek/ttw09/home.cfm>

ALA Awards

Newbery Medal: *The Graveyard Book* by Neil Gaiman

Caldecott Medal: *The House in the Night* illustrated by Beth Krommes, written by Susan Marie Swanson

Printz Award: *Jellicoe Road* by Melina Marchetta

Coretta Scott King Awards:

New Talent: Shadra Strickland illus. for *Bird*

Illustrator Award to Floyd Cooper for *The Blacker the Berry*

Author Award to Kadir Nelson for *We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro Baseball League*

Odyssey Award (audio): Recorded Books for *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* written and narrated by Sherman Alexie

Margaret A. Edwards Award (lifetime achievement) to Laurie Halse Anderson

Carnegie Medal (video) to Weston Woods Studio for *March On! The Day My Brother Martin Changed the World*

Geisel Award: *Are You Ready to Play Outside* by Mo Willems

Siebert Medal: *We Are the Ship* by Kadir Nelson

Pura Belpre Awards:

Author Award: *The Surrender Tree* by Margarita Engle

Illustrator Award: Yuyi Morales for *Just in Case*



Starting February 28, 2009

**LIBR 1010
INTRODUCTION TO LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES**

Online

Spring Term, 2009

Thursday, March 5, 2009 - Thursday, May 21, 2009

Orientation: Saturday, February 28, 2009

(In Omaha or North Platte - please indicate to instructor)

This course will provide students with an understanding of introductory concepts in libraries and information services:

- A brief history of libraries
- Different types of libraries
- Typical functions in today's libraries
- Current issues in library and information science
- Key terms used in the library profession
- Resources useful to Library Technical Assistants
- Issues relevant to information literacy
- Technology in libraries
- Career options in libraries and information environments

General Registration Begins - January 21, 2009

Payment Deadline - February 9, 2009

There is no prerequisite required for this class. It is a prerequisite for all other coursework in the Library Technical Assistant, Associate of Arts Degree offered through the Nebraska Community Colleges.

For questions regarding course content and organization, contact:

Marty Magee, MSA MLS

Instructor, LIBR 1010

Metropolitan Community College

402-559-7076

mmagee@unmc.edu

For information concerning Admissions or Registration, contact:

Gretchen B. Schaeffer, M.A, MLS

Academic Advisor

Metropolitan Community College

402-457-2376

gschaeffer@mccneb.edu

<http://www.mccneb.edu/>

MERIDIAN LIBRARY SYSTEM BOARD NOMINATION FORM

Do you know someone who would be interested in serving on your Library System Board? The Meridian Library System is accepting nominations for one 3-year board term beginning July 1, 2009.

Nominees for the positions may be library employees or library customers. Nominees representing any of the System counties except Buffalo County are welcome. Buffalo County has the maximum number of board members allowed by our by-laws.

On the back of this form, you will find additional information about the System Board and its role.

Nominee information:

NAME

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE HOME

WORK

LIBRARY CONNECTION

E-mail address:

Please submit nominations by May 1, 2009 to:

Meridian Library System
3423 Second Avenue, Suite 6
Kearney NE 68847

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE SYSTEM BOARD?

The System Board is the governing body of the Meridian Library System; its function is similar to that of a public library board of trustees or any non-profit corporation. Board member tasks and accomplishments include:

- Be an advocate for the System and System services
- Budget preparation
- User satisfaction survey and evaluation of System services and programs
- Evaluation of progress toward meeting the goals and objectives stated in the System Strategic Plan
- Design of specifications for provision of System services

HOW OFTEN DOES THE SYSTEM BOARD MEET?

The System Board meets at least five times per year, at such time and place as may be designated. As a general rule, the Board meets every two months. Meetings usually last about two hours. Some meetings are telephone conference calls.

ARE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD REIMBURSED FOR EXPENSES?

Members are not permitted to receive a salary, wage or fee for their services. However, they are reimbursed for actual expenses incurred in carrying out their duties. The cost of travel to and from Board and committee meetings is reimbursed at the current Federal allowable rate; example of other reimbursed expenses are telephone charges and postage.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS CONCERNING PARTICIPATION ON THE MERIDIAN LIBRARY SYSTEM BOARD, CONTACT ONE OF THESE CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS:

Christie Behle—308/893-3093
Linda Bowden—308/398-7395
Linda Jelkin—308/468-5889
Mary Koch—308/537-2591
Laura Martinsen—308/754-5223
Trine McBride—308/728-3012
Christine Walsh—308/233-3283
Janet Wilke—308/865-8546

**Meridian Library System
Board Meeting Minutes
Kearney, NE January 9, 2009**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 10.44 a.m. by President Mary Koch.

ROLL CALL: Members present were Christie Behle, Linda Bowden, Mary Koch, Laura Martinsen, Trine McBride, Christine Walsh, and Janet Stoeger Wilke were all present. Sharon Osenga, Delilah Gillming and Laura Johnson (Nebraska Library Commission) were also present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: There were no changes or amendments to the agenda. Christine Walsh moved and Janet Stoeger Wilke seconded to approve the agenda. Motion passed

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: Trine McBride moved and Christie Behle that the minutes be approved. The motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE: Mary passed out correspondences for members to read.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Christine Walsh moved and Linda Bowden seconded that the Treasurer's report and bills through December 31, 2008 be approved. The motioned passed unanimously by voice vote.

NLC REPORT: Laura Johnson reviewed the written report from the Nebraska Library Commission.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: Sharon reviewed her written report with two date corrections.

SYSTEM BUSINESS:

Youth Services Grants: Fourteen applications were reviewed. Four were disqualified for not meeting grant criteria. Laura Johnson from the Nebraska Library Commission randomly withdrew four names from the remaining qualified applications. Grant winners were: Elm Creek Public School, Elba Public School, Centura Public School, and Nigel Sprouse Memorial Library, Callaway.

Office Move: The board discussed three office options. The first was two small offices separated from each other and it was decided that these would not work at all. Designs of the other two office spaces (Highway 30/Avenue E and 3423 Second Avenue) were considered and the pros and cons of each discussed. Based upon the size, location, number of windows, price and the fact that Meridian has rented at this address previously, the board decided that the 3423 Second Avenue, Suite 6 space was best suited for our current needs. Janet Wilke made a motion to enter into a lease at 3423 Second Avenue, Suite 6; seconded by Laura Martinsen. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Board Member Replacement: Carolyn Priebe has resigned from the Board. According to our by-laws, the board will give names of possible replacements to the President and the President will contact them to see if they are interested in serving. Charlotte Rasmussen from Elba Public Schools was mentioned as a possible replacement. Mary Koch will contact her.

Annual Meeting: Republican Valley Library System has invited us to meet with them at the White Hill Farm north of Minden in early June. The program has not yet been decided. All board members were in favor of a joint annual meeting.

Audit: Trine motioned and Janet Stoeger Wilke seconded that the Financial Review for 2007-08 be approved. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

NEXT MEETING: Our next meeting will be Friday, March 27, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. by phone conference call.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 11:48 p.m. by President Mary Koch.

Respectfully submitted,
Delilah Gillming
Administrative Assistant

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—Gustave Flaubert*

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