

MERIDIAN MONITOR

MERIDIAN LIBRARY SYSTEM

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2014

Your System Board:

*Jill Arnold
Kristi Hagstrom
Rochelle Krueger
Shawna Lindner
Ann Matzke
Debra Moninger
Megan Svoboda
Kathy Thomsen
Julia VanMeter*

There will be a Strategic Planning workshop on November 17th from 9:30-3:00 at Lexington Public Library. If you need to create or update your plan, please plan to attend.

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Childhood Favorites

Recently, I read on a blog post that Nancy Drew turns 84(!) this year. Like many, I read all of these books when I was a child and loved them. Nancy was a role model: she had her own car and was really smart. She was even smarter than her father, "world famous criminal defense attorney Carson Drew." It was Nancy and the Hardy Boys who started my love of mysteries. To this day, I read more mysteries than any other type of book. It's fun to figure out "whodunnit."

Other childhood favorites are Anne of Green Gables, Betsy Ray of the Betsy-Tacy series by Maud Hart Lovelace and Sue Barton. When I reflect on these characters, I see that they all have something in common: they are bright and want careers other than being a housewife. Most of them lived in times when women were not encouraged to work out of the home so they were unusual. In the Betsy-Tacy series, Betsy's parents encourage her to become a writer and she even spends a year travelling in Europe. Her sister becomes an international opera singer. This in the time period between 1910-1920. Almost unheard of! Sue Barton is a nurse and she works several years before marrying and starting a family and later on goes back to work.

As a child of the fifties and a teen in the sixties, it's probably not surprising that these were my favorites. It was such a time of change for women and they all would have fit right in!

System Reorganization Update

The transition team has met and we have updated the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws. The attorney is preparing a Plan to Merge. In early December you will receive a letter from us containing a ballot to vote for the Merger.

Meridian Library System will be merging with Republican Valley Library System. Our tentative new name will be Central Plains Library System.

Questions? Call or email the System Office.

Register Now for Fall Technology 101 Classes --
7 Locations across Nebraska
[http://nlc.nebraska.gov/scripts/calendar/
eventlist.asp?mode=search&search=Tech%
20101](http://nlc.nebraska.gov/scripts/calendar/eventlist.asp?mode=search&search=Tech%20101)

Upcoming Basic Skills Courses:

9/22 - 10/3	Programming & Outreach
10/20 - 10/31	Collection Management*
11/3 - 11/14	Readers Advisory
12/1 - 12/12	Library Finance

Book Club Kits: Don't forget that each Regional Library System has book club kits that you may borrow. Check out the listing at:
<http://libraries.ne.gov/mls/book-sets/regional-library-system-book-sets/>

The Cutting machines are free from October on. To reserve a month, please contact the System Office.

The voting period for the **2014 Teens' Top Ten** officially opened on Aug. 15, 2014. Teens ages 12-18 can vote for their favorites through the end of [Teen Read Week](#) (Oct. 18). Teens can vote at:
<http://www.ala.org/yalsa/>

One Book For Nebraska Kids and Teens 2014

Kids: *Lawn Boy* by Gary Paulsen

Teens: *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children* by Ransom Riggs

PDF files to help you setup a book discussion may be found at:

<http://nlc.nebraska.gov/Youth/OBOK/>

Louise Erdrich, the Minnesota novelist who has written about Native American life, is this year's winner of the Dayton Literary Peace Prize's distinguished achievement award.

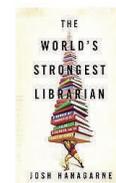
The [Richard C. Holbrooke Distinguished Achievement](#)

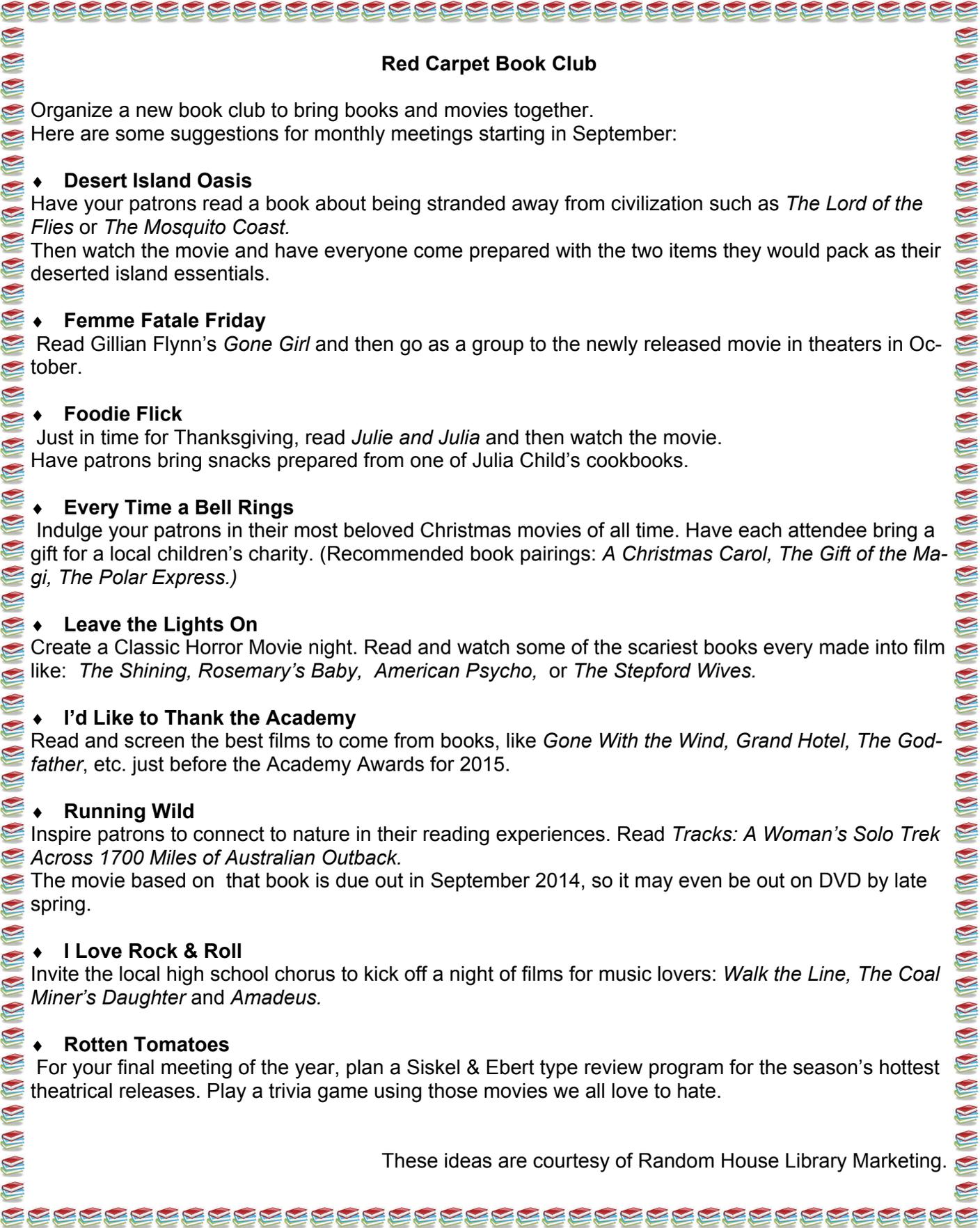
promotes peace and global understanding. Holbrooke was a diplomat who worked on the 1995 Dayton peace accords on Bosnia. According to the Associated Press, Erdrich says she isn't a "peaceful" writer but rather a "troubled" one longing for peace. Her novels have explored sexual violence on a fictional Native American reservation.

One Book, Many Librarians

At the Nebraska Library Association conference this October, Southeast Library System will host the 11th annual "One Book, Many Librarians" book discussion. It will be held Thursday, October 9th at 3:30pm; see the conference program for room details. This year's discussion title is Josh Hanagarne's *The World's Strongest Librarian: A Memoir of Tourette's, Faith, Strength, and the Power of Family*.

As part of the book discussion, there will be free wine! Stop by for good conversation and a bit to drink while exploring a good book!





Red Carpet Book Club

Organize a new book club to bring books and movies together.
Here are some suggestions for monthly meetings starting in September:

◆ **Desert Island Oasis**

Have your patrons read a book about being stranded away from civilization such as *The Lord of the Flies* or *The Mosquito Coast*.

Then watch the movie and have everyone come prepared with the two items they would pack as their deserted island essentials.

◆ **Femme Fatale Friday**

Read Gillian Flynn's *Gone Girl* and then go as a group to the newly released movie in theaters in October.

◆ **Foodie Flick**

Just in time for Thanksgiving, read *Julie and Julia* and then watch the movie. Have patrons bring snacks prepared from one of Julia Child's cookbooks.

◆ **Every Time a Bell Rings**

Indulge your patrons in their most beloved Christmas movies of all time. Have each attendee bring a gift for a local children's charity. (Recommended book pairings: *A Christmas Carol*, *The Gift of the Magi*, *The Polar Express*.)

◆ **Leave the Lights On**

Create a Classic Horror Movie night. Read and watch some of the scariest books ever made into film like: *The Shining*, *Rosemary's Baby*, *American Psycho*, or *The Stepford Wives*.

◆ **I'd Like to Thank the Academy**

Read and screen the best films to come from books, like *Gone With the Wind*, *Grand Hotel*, *The Godfather*, etc. just before the Academy Awards for 2015.

◆ **Running Wild**

Inspire patrons to connect to nature in their reading experiences. Read *Tracks: A Woman's Solo Trek Across 1700 Miles of Australian Outback*.

The movie based on that book is due out in September 2014, so it may even be out on DVD by late spring.

◆ **I Love Rock & Roll**

Invite the local high school chorus to kick off a night of films for music lovers: *Walk the Line*, *The Coal Miner's Daughter* and *Amadeus*.

◆ **Rotten Tomatoes**

For your final meeting of the year, plan a Siskel & Ebert type review program for the season's hottest theatrical releases. Play a trivia game using those movies we all love to hate.

These ideas are courtesy of Random House Library Marketing.

2014 Hispanic Heritage Month Essay Contest

For our theme, we have chosen quotes from two influential Hispanic leaders: Jaime Escalante and Frida Kahlo. Please choose one of the quotes below and tell us what their words mean to you:

Jaime Escalante: Educator - "One of the greatest things you have in life is that no one has the authority to tell you what you want to be. You're the one who'll decide what you want to be. Respect yourself and respect the integrity of others as well. The greatest thing you have is your self-image, a positive opinion of yourself. You must never let anyone take it from you."

Frida Kahlo: Artist - "I used to think I was the strangest person in the world but then I thought there are so many people in the world, there must be someone just like me who feels bizarre and flawed in the same ways I do. I would imagine her, and imagine that she must be out there thinking of me too. Well, I hope that if you are out there and read this and know that, yes, it's true I'm here, and I'm just as strange as you."

ESSAY: When writing your essay, please answer one or more of these questions: Both quotes deal with self-reflection. How does your heritage and culture reflect who you are as a person? How has society or current events impacted your self-image as an ethnically diverse individual? What do Frida's or Jaime's words mean to you and have they influenced your opinion of Hispanic Heritage Month?

ELIGIBILITY: The contest is open to Nebraska students of all ethnicities and backgrounds currently enrolled in a Nebraska public, private or magnet school (grades 6 - 12). Entries are welcome in English or Spanish and must be submitted with an entry form.

RULES: Essay content must be original, typed or legibly handwritten, and double spaced. The word length is 250 - 400 words for middle school students and 500 - 700 words for high school students. The Hispanic Heritage Month State Planning Committee reserves the right to disqualify submitted essays that contain offensive language, political messages, and derogatory statements. A blind jury will judge the essays based on writing style, grammar, content and cohesion to the theme.

AWARDS: Cash prizes, certificates, Kindle Nooks, and McDonald's gift cards will be given to six winners. Winning students will be recognized at the Hispanic Heritage Month State Commemoration scheduled for **October 10, 2014** at the Nebraska Capitol Building in Lincoln. First place winners will be asked to read their essay at the Commemoration and McDonald's will publish first place winning essays on their tray liners. The Commission reserves the right to edit essays for fitting purposes.

SUBMISSION: All essays due by **Thursday, September 18, 2014** at 5 P.M. Essays and entry forms may be submitted by email, preferably as a PDF, to Jasel.Cantu@nebraska.gov, via fax at 402-471-4381 or mailed to:

**Nebraska Latino American Commission
Hispanic Heritage Month Essay Contest
P.O. Box 94965
Lincoln, NE 68509-4965**

LIBRARIANS/EDUCATORS: For background information and teaching tools on Hispanic Heritage Month, Jaime Escalante and Frida Kahlo, visit the links below:

Hispanic Heritage Month: For teaching materials on Hispanic Heritage Month with links to the Smithsonian, Library of Congress, and more, click [here](#). We will be sending additional information in the near future.

Jaime Escalante (1930-2010) was a high school math educator from Bolivia of [Aymara](#) ancestry. He achieved fame after introducing and teaching AP Calculus at Garfield High School in Los Angeles, CA in 1978. His students would go on to ace AP Calculus and helped build an exceptional Advanced Placement program in the school. At the height of his influence, Garfield High School graduates would go on to attend the University of Southern California in more numbers than all graduates from the working-class East Los Angeles area combined.

For classroom-friendly teaching material, educational videos with interviews, and background information on educator Jaime Escalante, click [here](#).

Recommended 1988 film "Stand and Deliver" on Jaime Escalante starring Edward James Olmos, family friendly, rated PG. [View trailer](#).

Frida Kahlo (1907-1954) was a Mexican artist of German and Indigenous ancestry from Mexico City. Her artwork was among the first to include Mexican and Indigenous culture, tradition and religion. She is also known as the wife of painter Diego Rivera and was influential in his art as well. She is the first contemporary Mexican artist to have artwork displayed at the Louvre in Paris. Her artwork would come to influence modern art and bring attention to the culture and art of Mexico.

Recommended PBS Documentary "The Life and Times of Frida Kahlo" which can be requested from your local library, it is also available for free online. A NOTE: It is recommended that educators view the film and observe Frida's paintings first and decide which elements to present in class as conflicting yet contiguous mix of politics, social unrest, and cross-cultural elements influenced her art and life. A Parent's Guide and Teacher's Guide is available for the film.

Traveler Samantha Brown has posted photos of her favorite libraries on her website:

<http://samantha-brown.com/ideas/7-of-the-worlds-most-stunning-libraries/>

August is Read A Romance Month. Follow this link for information and to read interviews with romance authors:

<http://www.readaromancemonth.com>

Grants from the Kreutz Bennett Donor-- Advised Fund

Nebraska public libraries located in communities of fewer than 3,000 residents are eligible to apply for grants in 2015. Grants will be made in three areas:

- Planning Grants (leading to accreditation);
- Enhancement Grants (leading to improvement of library services and/or programs); and
- Facilities Grants (contributing toward new facilities or the renovation, restoration or rehabilitation of current libraries).

Community leadership must be exhibited in grant applications indicating the likelihood of the sustainability of improvements.

Short applications received on or before October 1, 2014 will be considered for the grant cycle awarded in March 2015. If approved, the full application is due 5:00 p.m. on January 5, 2015.

<http://www.nebcommfound.org/affiliated-funds/find/details/2446/>

2014 National Book Festival

House Held Up by Trees, by Ted Kooser with Jon Klassen (Illustrator), will represent Nebraska at the 2014 National Book Festival in Washington, DC. The book is the state's selection for the National Book Festival's "Discover Great Places through Reading Map."

Each state selects one title about the state or by an author from the state that is a good read for children or young adults.

Ted Kooser was U.S. Poet Laureate from 2004 to 2006 and won a Pulitzer Prize for his book of poems *Delights and Shadows*. He is the author of twelve full-length volumes of poetry and several books of nonfiction, including Nebraska Book Award winner *Local Wonders*, *Seasons in the Bohemian Alps*. Kooser lives in Garland, NE. For more information see <http://tedkooser.net>

Jon Klassen is the author-illustrator of *I Want My Hat Back*. The first picture book he illustrated, *Cats' Night Out* by Caroline Stutson, won the Governor General's Award for illustration in his native Canada.

The National Book Festival will be held in Washington, DC on August 30, 2014. It will feature authors, poets and illustrators in several pavilions. Festival-goers can hear firsthand from their favorite poets and authors, get books signed, have photos taken with storybook characters, and participate in a variety of activities. The Pavilion of the States will represent reading and library programs and literary events in all fifty states and U.S. territories. Children attending the festival are given maps to take to each state's table to be stamped to receive a prize. Representatives from the Nebraska Library Commission and Nebraska Center for the Book will staff Nebraska's table in the Pavilion. For more information see loc.gov/bookfest.

BOOK OF THE MONTH

An Irish Doctor in Peace and at War by Patrick Taylor

I was lucky to receive an advanced copy of this novel. I love the Irish Country Doctor series. Like the last book, this one moves back and forth between the present day in Balleybucklebo and the early years of WWII when Fingal was a military medical officer. We finally get to meet Dierdre, although most of that story will apparently be covered in the next book.

This is a more serious book than those before it. The focus is on the war story and (a downside for me) has a lot of description of various war vessels and battles. The upside is we learn more of Fingal and Kitty's separate histories. Occasionally there is a chapter in 1960's Balleybucklebo, but the usual supporting characters are mostly missing this time around. This weakened my enjoyment of the series so I only gave it a three star rating.

Worth reading but not nearly as fun and interesting as other books in the series.

Annual Update:

In January, author Cowgirl Peg Sundberg visited four schools and two public libraries in Meridian Library System. Total attendance was just under 500. Peg's presentations focused on two things: how the characters in her books develop positive character traits (with an emphasis on bullying) and the process of writing and editing books. Here is a great anecdote from a teacher showing that the kids listened and understood:

The day after Peg's visit, one of her students arrived in class with three notebooks. When she was asked why three, her answer was: one notebook to write the rough draft of my book, one for the book illustrations and one notebook for the edited book.

Discussion after Peg's talk indicated that the kids understood the messages related in the books. Many of the teachers did follow-up discussions, art projects and writing assignments.

Workshops sponsored or co-sponsored were: Winter Workshop, Summer Reading Program, E-Rate and Strategic Planning. Topics included Teen Book Review, Affordable Care Act, biographies for kids and booktalking vs. book reviewing. The Regional Library Systems sponsored the 7th Leadership Institute in July with 36 in attendance and a Customer Service Pre-Conference at NLA/NSLA in Kearney with 45 people in attendance.

I worked with a number of schools and public libraries on weeding projects. The Week of Weeding 2014 was in April with 4005 items weeded this year. Shelton Public Library won the Nook E-Reader.

There were 26 book set circulations in 2013-2014.

The cutting machines were scheduled each month through July 2014.

Consultation visits with libraries around the system with emphasis on those with new directors. Topics are wide ranging from technology training to strategic planning to problems with boards. Training with new librarians includes creating and editing Nebraska Libraries on the Web websites, NebraskaAccess, collection management and general library administration.

Meridian Library System
Board Meeting Minutes
Annual Business Meeting
Lexington Public Library
July 28, 2014

CALL TO ORDER: President Ann Matzke called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL: Members present were Ann Matzke (Cozad), Jill Arnold (Cozad School), Kristi Hagstrom (Ord), Shawna Lindner (Kearney Public), Debby Moninger (Arnold School), Kathy Thomsen (Lexington Public), Julia VanMeter (Gibbon), and Rochelle Krueger (UNK). Member absent was Megan Svoboda (Broken Bow Public). Richard Miller from the Nebraska Library Commission, Ashley Bruha (Ord children's library intern), Emily Smith (Cozad intern), and Director Sharon Osenga were also present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Addition to minutes: financial report. Kristi Hagstrom moved and Julia VanMeter approved as amended.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Sharon pointed out that the financials came out in the black for the first time in a while due to her health care reduction and the change in communications carrier. Julia VanMeter moved and Shawna Lindner seconded to approve the bills through June 14, 2014. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBER: Rochelle Krueger from UNK's library.

RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING BOARD MEMBER: The outgoing board member is Janet Wilke. We appreciate her service over the terms she served and Sharon will take her an appreciation card.

CORRESPONDENCE: No correspondence this quarter.

NLC REPORT: Richard Miller reported. See his report dated July 27, 2014 and this is what his emphasis included:

Summer reading NEST 529 College Savings Plan Scholarships available for patrons who did attend summer reading.

Internship Grants awarded (had one former and one current in attendance).

Free Health Information for Refugees takes very limited source videos related to health and puts it in 33 different languages including Spanish.

Various Book Awards – RITA (romance), Agatha (mystery without excessive violence), DILYS (mysteries), HUGO and Nebula (sci-fi). Check his website for updates on winners.

Discussion groups set up by United for Libraries on facebook and twitter.

Throwback Thursdays feature historical libraries on the website.

System Directors will be meeting with attorneys for the next steps of system reconfiguration. Richard passed out the map that was approved at the May 16th meeting.

The major reason for the change in systems is the funding has been flat for a number of years. Need to determine how we want to do the board where Meridian and Republican Valley are consolidating. Sharon emphasized having some board members from the libraries we're gaining so they feel welcome and that since the Republican Valley and Meridian have worked together in the past, it should be workable. Richard believes a new name would be beneficial. We will have 2 professionals representing us for a while and 3 board members representing the board reconfiguration (Kathy, Janet, and Gail).

SYSTEM ANNUAL REPORT (oral report):

Sharon said that the regional library systems co-sponsored the leadership institute in July and had the reunion last week. There was a discussion in how they wanted to step back and look at how it's done and what is needed. We are not planning on having anything next year, which will help with the reorganization of the systems.

The winter workshop was COLD, but good.

Ann's section on the biographies was great, teen books, affordable care.

Summer reading program was in Lexington and was very good for "not a scientific person" confidence.

Conferences that were had were discussed. Need for another reaccreditation process conference.

Weeding done at Overton School and Farnam. Weeded and packed North Loup Scotia and Greeley Wobach for the combined school. The building is behind schedule and there will be one librarian instead of two. The new name will be Central Valley. K-8 in Scotia and 9-12 will be in Greeley. Spalding will be consolidating with Cedar Rapids and will be called Riverside. Spalding will be K-8 and Cedar Rapids will be K-12.

Meet with the Gibbon board on personnel policies.

Richard and Sharon met with St. Paul library on planning and accreditation. Has a school/public library which helps for the combination of requirements.

Retirements: Ord School (a coach will be taking over), Rock County: Phyllis retired, Gothenburg Elementary: Angie is working on her doctorate, Linda Bowden from CCC in Grand Island, Cathie Cure from Starr Elementary in Grand Island, and Sue Divan at YRTC in Kearney. New directors: Farnam, Bassett, Ravenna, Arcadia, Loup City. This fall will be busy with the new peo-

ple and upcoming accreditations.

Book sets still doing well. Cutting machines aren't being used as much as they have been in the past. Suggestion to place them strategically in libraries in the system area.

Cowgirl Peg Sundberg came back and visited Valentine School, Cody Kilgore, Ainsworth, and Kearney before heading towards Republican Valley System.

She is retiring so probably the last time she will visit Nebraska.

NLC grant used to purchase laptop and balance will be used for Arizona MPLA Library meeting.

Upcoming: Our car is now 10 years old and was supposed to be replaced at 5 years. Would like to lease it for 3 years. Will update the car search this fall.

BUDGET: Only a 6-month budget due to system realigning. Auditor is aware of the reconfiguration. Office space will be discussed in the future. Motion to accept the budget by Julia VanMeter and seconded by Kathy Thomson. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

NEXT MEETING: TBD

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Debby Moninger
Secretary/Treasurer