

Panhandle SUN

The Newsletter of the Panhandle Library System

June / July 2006

PLS Coordinator's Message

Recently I read the description of a training session called "Creating an Extraordinary Workplace: It's So Simple." Concepts to be discussed were *respect*, *help*, and *attitude*.

It does sound simple, doesn't it? In a world that often seems so complicated and demanding, is it possible that the simple things can still make a difference? That theme has popped up in other places lately. A keynote speaker at the Public Library Association conference, Paco Underhill, has built a successful corporation by teaching others how to simply observe their customers. Those who take his advice, respond to what they see by creating wider aisles so that people don't bump into each other, providing signs that actually help them find what they want, and stocking less merchandise, so that what's there is easy to see and looks attractive.

Another PLA speaker, Karen Hyman, humorously suggested that when you're on a dead horse, the simple strategy is to dismount. Unfortunately, we are more likely to get a committee to study the dead horse, or do a survey to find out how other agencies ride dead horses, or at least take comfort in the fact that it's cheaper to feed a dead horse. Her simple idea about people in service professions is "change your approach – not the customer."

As simple as it seems, all of these ideas come down to a genuine willingness to *help*, an honest *respect* for others, and a positive *attitude* that makes customers feel good.

Think for a minute about the last time *you* encountered outstanding customer service – in any setting. What made the difference? Something as simple as a friendly smile and greeting? Help beyond what you expected? A feeling that someone understood – even cared – about what you needed and found a way for you to get it? Now observe the interactions between customers and workers at your library. What do you see and hear? What do your customers see and hear? A library manager on a recent College of DuPage broadcast said, "We simply will not tolerate employees who cannot work well with customers."

I have always believed that you can teach a person almost any skill, but you can't change a bad attitude. Simply put, there is no room in libraries for workers who do not care, do not want to help, do not show respect for those they work with, as well as every person who walks in the door. If they are not excited about connecting people of all kinds with the wonder and excitement of libraries, they need to work somewhere else. Simple.

Cherie Longmuir

Panhandle Library System Upcoming Events

June 2, 2006 College of DuPage

"Information Literacy for the 21st Century Learner: Reaching at-Risk High School and Community College Students"

Time: 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

View at WNCC-Sidney or Chadron.

Video available from PLS.

Register with the PLS office

June 9, 2006 College of DuPage

"Confronting the Crisis in Library Education"

Time: 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

See info above.

June 12 through 23, 2006 – Summer Reading Performances

Storyteller and naturalist Cherrie Clarke will share truth and tales about Nebraska wild life.

Contact PLS for more info.

June 20, 2006 Database Roadshow

Location: WNCC, Scottsbluff Room D-5

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Register at:

www.nlc.state.ne.us/nebraskaccess/toolbox/roadshow.html

July 17 and 18, 2006 – Digitization Workshop

Location: Holiday Inn Express, North Platte

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (CST)

Cost: \$10 per person includes lunch

Register at:

http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/nebraska_memories/digitizationworkshops.html

July 21, 2006 PLS Annual Meeting "It's Greek to Me"

Location: Prairie Winds Community Center, 424 N Main, Bridgeport, NE

Time: 9 to 9:30 – Registration &

Coffee / 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 –

Meeting & Featured Speaker /

12:30 p.m. Greek Lunch

Cost \$10 per person, includes lunch.

Make checks payable to PLS, pay in advance or at the door.

Register by July 10, 2006 with the PLS office.

August 2, 2006 NEMA/PLS Summer Institute

Location: Bayard High School, 726 4th Avenue, Bayard

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Cost: \$10 per person, includes lunch. Make checks payable to PLS.

Pay in advance or at the door.

Register by July 24, 2006 with the PLS office.

September 12, 2006 PLS Board Meeting / Lunch / Committee Meetings

Location: Bluffs Business Center, 1517 Broadway, Main floor conference room

Time: 10:00 a.m.-Meeting / Noon-

Lunch / 1:00 p.m. – Committees

Contact the PLS office

October 17-19, 2006 – Author Judy Schachner visits all 2nd and 3rd graders, plus 2 public programs!

More information at our web site:

<http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/panhandle>



INSIDE OUR LIBRARIES

Gering Public Library has a new look. The Friends Group designated funds for furniture, which includes some very comfy “library-upholstered” reading chairs, a cushiony couch, a new table and a work desk. The “living room” will be set off by a new area rug. It’s cozy and inviting. Director Diane Downer and the staff have also been busy weeding and shifting books to make the reference section smaller and more relevant, and other non fiction areas more current. They have instituted a new homebound delivery service. Their recent book sale during National Library Week, held at the Gering Civic Center, netted \$800.

Kimball Public Library will have a new underground sprinkler system installed, thanks to the presentation that director Carolyn Brown made before the city council. She emphasized the importance of the library as a community resource that is used by many groups as a meeting place. And thanks to a generous donation from the estate of a local resident, the library will soon have new carpet and shelves.

Bridgeport Public Library now has an artist’s rendering of expansion plans that will create an enclosed computer lab, a new teen area, an expanded children’s area, and a new look. They will use it to inspire the community to provide funding. New director Connie Arrellano has made it a priority to have as many books face out as there is room for – every shelf top and display rack has covers tempting readers as they walk through the library.

Nancy Fawcett Memorial Library in Lodgepole received a \$900 donation from the Cheyenne County Ladies Chamber Dress Down Project. It has been designated for improvements to the young people’s area. The collection has been extensively weeded, and Norma Michelman had already added a table and chairs for little folks, surrounded by a white picket fence. Now she has plans for fun rugs, fresh paint with colorful designs, comfy seats for teens, posters, and some exciting new materials.

Paxton Public Library has two new maroon upholstered reading chairs donated by the book club in honor of one of their long-time members. During National Library Week they had a newspaper columnist from North Platte come to speak about her writing career. Director Jill Schroeder, who also works part time as music instructor at the school, is anticipating another big summer reading program, complete with a hog calling contest!



NEWS YOU CAN USE

Pam Scott, former administrator of Panhandle Library System, and for the last 7 years Continuing Education Coordinator for the Nebraska Library Commission, is leaving her position to pursue new paths in Wyoming.

Several others in our region have also made job moves: **Leslie Roseberry** is the new library assistant at Grant County Library; **Roberta Mueller** is the new library assistant at Bridgeport PL; **Patti Dean** and **Ruby Tiensvold** are both leaving their positions with Rushville Schools; **Sherri Hausmann** is leaving Creek Valley School in Lodgepole to move to North Platte; **Stephanie Norton** is leaving Sidney schools for South Dakota; **Ronda Larson** has joined the staff at Alliance PL; **Scott Kinney** is the new library director at Chadron PL; **Diane Davis** is the new director at Rushville PL.

Cindy Mielke of Goodall City Library in Ogallala, and **Jim Soester**, president of the Crawford Library board are the newly elected members of the Panhandle Library System Board. You can meet them and the rest of the Board at the annual meeting, July 21.

Some new additions to the NLC library, which you are encouraged to borrow, are Guiding Students from Cheating and Plagiarism to Honesty and Integrity; The Library Board's Practical Guide to Finding the Right Library Director; Roberta's Rules of Order (sail through meetings with stellar results); Secrets of Successful Fundraising.

This year's **Golden Sower winners** are **K-3**: Substitute Teacher Plans by Doug Johnson; **Gr.4-6**: Escaping the Giant Wave by Peg Kehret; **Young Adult**: High Heat by Carl Deuker.

The next Public Library Association conference is in Minneapolis on March 25-27, 2008.

If you are looking for a program, consider **Greg Vest**, graphic artist, writer and teacher. He published a book last year titled Lifeline, which has an environmental theme. At one time he was an editor for Dark Horse Comics, which would make him especially interesting to teens. He lives in southeast Nebraska. Find out more at www.bigmoodybooks.com

The **2006 Nebraska Book Festival** will be October 6-8 in Lincoln on the Nebraska Wesleyan Campus. It will include readings and other events featuring Nebraska writers of poetry, fiction and non fiction. Friday is devoted to developing young writers of high school and college age, with writing workshops and opportunities to read their work. On Saturday, children may attend storytelling and craft sessions. Get details at <http://www.unl.edu/NCB/2006.html>.



MORE NEWS

The Board of the Ft. Vancouver, WA, library, voted to require **filters** on all library computers and to prohibit any patron from viewing pornography online. The decision was made after the loss of a capital improvement bond issue, followed by public feedback that indicated residents wanted a more stringent filtering policy.

Shelf Life is the name of a small New Jersey branch **library located in a mall**. It offers books for adults and teens, graphic novels, DVDs, children's programs, and express e-mail.

According one library data survey, the growth in circulation of audio cassette book from 2002-2005 was 3.2%. For audio CD books: 376%.

The update of Microsoft's Windows operating system, called Vista, is expected in early 2007. One of its features is enhanced security against spyware. New computer purchases should be compatible with the 802.11n wireless standard, expected to be released soon from the IEEE.

A survey by ALA conducted in January indicated that 2/3 of adult Americans visited their public libraries last year; 7 of 10 reported being very or extremely satisfied with their libraries; 8 in 10 believe the library needs more funding; 92% feel that libraries will still be needed in the future; 96% agree that because public libraries provide free access to materials and resources, they play an important role in giving everyone a chance to succeed.

The PLS office now subscribes to **VOYA: Voice of Youth Advocates** journal. It includes articles and book reviews for those working with teen readers. Other new items: The 2006 Intellectual Freedom Manual from ALA; Best Children's Books of the Year 2006. Call the office to borrow them.

The Paraprofessional Section of NLA will take nominations for Paraprofessional of the Year Award until July 31. The award is presented at the fall NLA/NEMA conference. Find details at <http://www.nebraskalibraries.org/PARA/Paraofyear.html>

If you are looking for library grants, go to the Library Grants Blog at <http://www.librarygrants.blogspot.com>. The list includes all types from all sources, with a description and a link to the application site.

BITS AND PIECES

Check out the new web page at Western Nebraska Community College Library: <http://www.wncc.net/library/> It even includes “ask a librarian” chat reference.

A new video game, “Bully,” produced by the creators of “Grand Theft Auto,” has players participating in school yard beatings, and creating ways to get back at teachers and kids who pick on them. At least one school board has urged retailers not to sell the game to minors and has issued warnings to parents.

The Oklahoma Legislative House passed a bill that prohibits local authorities from funding public libraries unless the libraries place all children and young adult materials that contain homosexual or sexually explicit subject matter in a special area and limit distribution to adults only. The sponsor of the bill stated: “The American Library Association is out to sexualize our children.”

Jackson, Wyoming, has a neat idea for summer reading fun: live musical lunches. Each Friday from 12-1, a different regional music group performs on the library lawn, while the locals bring their picnics, blankets and books, to listen.

Those of you who want to brush up on the Dewey Decimal system may want to sign up for a 3 session online class with NLC cataloger Devra Dragos. It is being offered this summer especially for those who cannot take a class during the

school year. It will be on Wednesdays from July 26-August 9. Call the Library Commission for details: 800-307-2665.

In May, the Ogallala High School Spanish students came to Goodall Library for preschool storytime to read bilingual stories to the children.

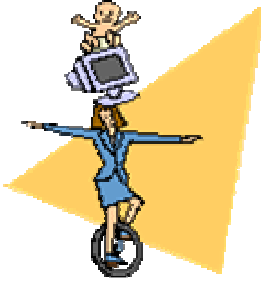
If you need ideas for what DVDs and audiobooks to purchase for your teen section, look at YALSA’s 2006 picks, featured in the April School Library Journal. “Invasion of the Space Lobsters” looks like a winner! Call the PLS office if you want a copy of the list.

How’s this for a library mission statement: “Satisfy and delight.”

The first Carnegie Library in the U.S., located in Pittsburgh, has been closed after lightning struck the 115-year-old clock tower. Several tons of rock tore holes in the roof, smashing into the lecture hall and the children’s room beneath it. Luckily the building was empty; the clock is still working.

Some bookmarks from the Boston Public Library: “Books are Just the Beginning”; “Shhh... Zam! The BPL is Magical!”; “Download a New Version of Yourself Today.”

The first students in the Library Technical Assistant program have graduated! Attendance is growing every term. Contact PLS if you want information about this great new library education program.



GIVE THEM WHAT THEY WANT

A community technology survey was done in some Nebraska communities last year. Between 25 and 50 percent of households (varying by community) said they would like to have computer training. Here are some of the classes offered recently in libraries: email; searching web sites; making greeting cards; finding tax information; e-agriculture; e-Bay selling; beginning Word; photo editing. Have you asked residents in your community if they'd be interested in a class? Is there someone (maybe a student) who would like to teach a class?

ARE WE LISTENING?

In OCLC's publication "Perceptions of Libraries," 3300 U.S. residents said this: They want libraries to be clean, bright, comfortable, warm and well-lit; staffed by friendly people; have hours that fit their lifestyle; advertise their services; and provide ways to get materials without coming to the library. Most information consumers are not aware of, nor do they use, libraries' electronic resources.



Always a River...

If you haven't seen this College of DuPage program, featuring Rick Anderson from Reno, Nevada, as a librarian who seems to be paddling upstream – check it out. He helps us look at library service from the customer point of view, suggesting that we weave our services into what users need. He feels our duty as librarians is to get the barriers out of the way, so customers can get what they need and want. Sounds reasonable...



Conflict of Interest

Library Boards should have a strict policy that prohibits libraries from dealing with a board member's business or the business of any member of the person's family. This should remain in effect for a year after the member leaves the Board. Why? No matter how much you might save in dollars through this relationship, it will not cover the cost of the loss of the library's reputation if the public thinks something inappropriate is going on.

Trustee Manual

Thanks to all of the board members who took time to look at the draft of the new trustee manual. Many of you sent comments on paper or electronically to the Library Commission, and will receive an hour of Board CE credit for your efforts. Those comments will be used to make the final changes this summer, and a new manual will be sent to your library in the fall. We hope that it will be useful to answer questions that come up regarding your board activities.

Censorship

There have been several news stories lately about library boards or government officials requiring books that they feel might not be appropriate for young people to be placed in a separate area of the library, requiring parent permission for check out. Look at your selection policy and review the Library Bill of Rights, as a reminder that libraries support freedom to read for all patrons. Many young people see the library as a safe place to get information that they may not feel they can talk to anyone about. Trust your librarian to use good judgment about what young customers want, and be prepared to work through concerns that may arise.

Thanks

As I visited most of the PLS library boards over the last few months, I've been so impressed with your commitment to your libraries. Being a library board member is a much bigger volunteer job than most people realize. Thank you for giving your time to help obtain financial resources, plan the library's services, be an advocate for the library every chance you get, write policies, and represent your community to the library and the library to your community. Please remember that the Panhandle Library System is here to help you – call anytime!

PUBLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE 2006

After 3 days of solid conference sessions and activities, it's hard to pick out highlights. But I wanted to share some of the ideas that I thought were especially significant, and hopefully I'll be able to share many others as things come up in our libraries.

- A researcher from the Pew Institute gave some insights on Internet use by “millennials” (those born from 1982-2000). He described them as tech-embracing, but not necessarily tech-savvy. They often participate in a behavior called “continuous partial attention” – in which people are partially tuned in to messages all the time, waiting for something to catch their interest. This is not the same as multi-tasking, which implies you are actually accomplishing something. He noted that some companies have instituted “e-mail free Fridays” so that workers will interact in person. He said the lack of concern for privacy (for example what people post on blogs and community forums, like MySpace) could prove to be a problem in the future for those who may not realize their employers can read it, too. He said that libraries have a tough job trying to maintain a balance between using (and teaching) the newest technology to get people connected with information, while also providing a quiet space for contemplation.
- A representative from Google explained how “Book Search” works. The books they are scanning fall into 3 categories: those in the public domain (20%) which are available online in their entirety; copyright protected books that are **in print** (5%) where you can see a 5-page chunk and then you are referred to the publisher or bookseller; copyright protected books that are NOT in print (75%) – for which the access is unclear. At this point they are providing a “snippet” – up to 3 pages per item. The magic is the searching capacity provided by Google. Any search you do could potentially take you to one of these books if there is anything at all in the book on the subject of your search. If the book is cataloged in WorldCat, you can be connected to a library that has it. In spite of the controversy, it's amazing.
- The results of a research survey of Canadian children to determine how they felt about and used public libraries, revealed some things that can help us shape our services to children: their highest priority is that the library have more new books (plus good stories and series); borrowing for fun is the highest usage; they mostly find books by looking at the shelves; their fiction preferences are adventures (boys) and mysteries (girls), then funny and scary stories; tops in non fiction were legends, how-to, war, sports, poetry; books need to look exciting to get their attention; their best library experience is when they find what they were looking for – esp. in series books; they appreciate a space that is bright and colorful; they LIKE the library and like staff who are patient and will get up and help them; the more televisions in the home, the less time children spend reading; the amount they read is strongly associated with summer reading clubs; most depend on an adult to get to the library (need to market services to parents, care givers); kids like to be asked what they want- they like to feel that someone cares.



WHO SAID THAT?

“Don’t reinvent the wheel; just make it fit your wagon.” Sue Gosnell, librarian

“Libraries offer the mental food the society really needs, especially for those who want to be educated but can’t afford it. When I was a poor student or a struggling writer, the library in my neighborhood was my real home.” Anchee Min, author

“Let volunteers know what the rescue priorities are after a disaster so they don’t save the best sellers.” Tom Clareson, disaster consultant

“Only those relatively mature students who exhibit the ability to understand the context of the materials and will not be adversely impacted by reading the book will be allowed to check it out.” Referring to Calvin and Hobbes (c 1987), which parents said should be removed from the school library due to its allusions to murder and sex.

“I’d rather take (readers) to the edge and leave them, because I believe their imaginations are much scarier than anything I can put into words.” Alex Kava, author (as seen on the PLS Blog: <http://plssunblog.blogspot.com/>)



TECH TALK

Trillion is **free** software that allows you to do Instant Messaging (IM) reference at your library. It works in conjunction with Yahoo!, MSN, and America Online, with messages going from the sender’s computer to the library. In one library it is available from 3-7pm, on weeknights, to help students with homework.

MySpace.com is at the center of controversy. Teens see it as a space to communicate freely with others through words and pictures. But after recent school shootings were foiled because the perps had bragged about it at My Space, it is being monitored by authorities. Adults may be shocked by what they see there. As with many potential dangers on the Internet, educating kids is probably more effective than trying to stop them from using it.

A new product, Microsoft Shared Computer Toolkit, is said to perform the same functions as Centurion Guard and the Gates PAC Security Tool. Check in at WebJunction to get more information and to see how it’s working for others: <http://webjunction.org/do/>



BOOKS

Here are the latest numbers for **book prices**. In the first half of 2006, for children's and YA titles, average hardcover for all titles: \$21.60 (\$20.52 last year); paperbacks: \$8.95. For adult hardcover, in 2005, fiction: \$24.95 (\$24.81 in 2004); nonfiction: \$36.86 (\$41.07 in 2004); paperback fiction: \$18.63 (\$14.95 in 2004).

The Wyoming State Legislature has approved a one-time **\$10 million to improve library collections** – to be used exclusively for materials, both print and electronic.

Do you remember that there is a list of **books in series** on the Nebraska Library Commission website: <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/ref/booksinseries/index.html>

Don't wait another day to try **Fiction Connection** – the newest addition to the NebraskAccess databases. It is similar to Novelist® as a reader's advisory tool. It allows a person to explore book webs using series, similar style or plot characteristics, topics, setting, timeframe, characters, awards – about any way a person might look for a book except color. It searches adult, children's, forthcoming, in and out of print. If you connect it to your online catalog, it will give the searcher location information. You could use it to create very specific annotated booklists for that very picky reader.

Here's a fun way for kids to "hear" about books. At pbskids.org/readingrainbow/books, they can listen to an adult, or a "kid like YOU" tell about RR books they like. Another booksharing site for children is www.rif.org/readingplanet/bookzone/default.msp. Here they can search by author, title, or keyword, read comments left by other kids about specific books, and even listen to a story while they see the book on the screen.

Here are some titles recommended for Latino youngsters: Chato's Kitchen and Chato and the Party Animals by Gary Soto; Mice and Beans and Esperanza Rising by Pam Muñoz Ryan; Butterfly Boy by Virginia Kroll; Faith and the Electric Dogs by Patrick Jennings.

Capstone Press has a new line of "ultra-low" reading level books in a series called "Blazers." Topics like race cars, extreme sports, and special forces provide high interest. They are also publishing a "graphic library" using the popular comic book style for biography and history topics. www.capstonepress.com

Have you read **One False Move** by Alex Kava? This "One Book One Nebraska" reading experience is spreading across the state. Be a part of it!

Nebraska Library Commission Interlibrary Loan Frequently Asked Questions

In 2001 the Nebraska Library Commission began working with libraries to provide interlibrary loan services for your customers. As we near the end of our fifth year, we've collected questions which are asked with some regularity. If you have any concerns about our Interlibrary Loan Services, please don't hesitate to ask us – we're happy to help. Our staff includes Lisa Kelly, Beth Goble, Julie Pinnell, Belinda Fanning, Evelyn Kubert, Bonnie Henzel, Susan Knisely.

You can reach us by:

Voice: 800/307-2665 Email: ready@nlc.state.ne.us Fax: 402/471-6244

ILL request form: <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/ref/ill/>

1. Is it possible to request VHS, DVD, and Books on Tape through ILL?

Yes. There are many libraries that generously lend these materials. On occasion, there are very few possible lenders with policies that prohibit lending.

2. May we request multiple copies of a book for a book club?

Yes. However, we will not be able to place requests for bestsellers, books that have been out for less than one year, or other popular titles i.e. the Oprah book club. It's best to ask for the number of books you might think you'll need from the start so that all your books will arrive at about the same time. Generally book club libraries request 3-7 copies of a title.

3. How long does an ILL take to arrive at my library?

One-two weeks generally. If the book is provided from a library in-state, it will arrive more quickly and if it comes from out of state, it may take a little more time. Encourage your patrons to ask for items two weeks in advance.

4. Is there such a thing as an ASAP ILL?

No. Once a request is in the OCLC system, it's up to the five lending libraries to respond to your request. There isn't anything we can do that speeds things along.

5. Why do we have to let you know when we receive and return items?

ILL has its own circulation system to track where items are. Libraries who lend their items need to know when materials have reached their destination and when they have been returned. The process of updating all of these records is part of our daily ILL circulation. It helps make everything run more smoothly for all the libraries involved in getting materials to you.

6. What books are too new to request?

Any book, fiction or non-fiction that's less than 12 months from its release date. If you're uncertain about a book's publication date, you can check amazon.com or Books in Print. Many libraries restrict lending their newer materials through Interlibrary Loan.

7. Why won't you accept my request to borrow the Da Vinci Code?

Because it's still on the bestseller list and the movie release in May 2006 will increase the popularity of this title and keep it amongst those hard-to-borrow titles. Any book that has recently been a movie is generally on our "do not place" list as are all bestsellers (fiction and non-fiction), Oprah books, and other titles in high demand. Locate the Publisher's Weekly Bestseller list here: <http://www.publishersweekly.com/> and click on Bestsellers.

8. Can I ask for renewals on ILL items?

Yes, from most lending libraries. Libraries prefer to be asked for renewals before the due date. If an item has been recalled by the lending library, we will not be able to request more time. When asking for a renewal, please contact the Nebraska Library Commission.

DISASTERS!

Parts of Massachusetts got 17 inches of rain in 2 days this May. What happened to the library collections when the flood waters were several feet deep? Disasters can occur anytime, anywhere – from a broken pipe, to a fire caused by faulty wires, to a tornado. Tom Clareson presented a two-day workshop in Scottsbluff to provide us with information to be aware and prepare for potential damage to our library buildings and collections. Here are a few key points:

- Have an inventory and assessment of your collection (including equipment and furnishings) for insurance and replacement. Many city officials have no idea how much the library collection is worth, and may be underinsured. Read the policy.
- Create a plan detailing how you will respond when a disaster occurs. A sample format is available at the System office. Soon an online planning tool will be provided at www.dplan.org. Give the plan to the fire department; keep your copy (in paper format) offsite. Update it to deal with changes.
- Do regular inspections of your facility, looking for signs of leaks, potential fire hazards, infestations of insects or animals, condition of emergency equipment.
- Learn where the water and power shut-off controls are.
- Identify the irreplaceable materials in your collection.
- Evaluate the location of irreplaceable materials – are they stored in the area most likely to be flooded?
- Have your facility inspected regularly by fire officials and maintenance personnel.
- Include staff from nearby libraries in your planning so that you can help each other during recovery, share a cache of emergency supplies, and redirect your patrons to another library if yours is out of service.
- Don't let the lack of response create a second disaster; if the roof blows off, cover the hole first, so that otherwise unharmed materials aren't soaked by rain.
- The first 48 hours are crucial for removing materials to minimizing damage.
- Don't put people in danger to save materials (be sure power is off before walking into any wet area; watch for symptoms of respiratory problems).
- It's okay to be a little paranoid about potential disasters. Be prepared!

For more information, call the PLS office to borrow the book [Disaster Planning for Libraries](#)



Panhandle Library System Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 14, 2006 - 10:00 a.m.
Bluffs Business Center Main Floor Conference Room

President Diane Downer called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Present were board members Diane Downer, Lillian Diedrichsen, Allison McBride, Maryruth Reed, Vickie Retzlaff, Sue Gosnell, and Ruth Walker. Absent were Kathy Terrell, Jill Ellis and Dena Crews. Also in attendance Pam Scott, Cherie Longmuir, and Debbie McCall.

The agenda was approved. Sue Gosnell moved that the minutes from the previous meeting be approved. Allison McBride seconded. The motion carried.

There was a round table from the school librarians. Ruth Walker reported that her new assistant is working out very well, her new Golden Sower books that were purchased by the parent organization are in and requisitions will be finished soon. Lillian Diedrichsen reported that she has new shelving at the elementary school, and her requisitions are due soon. Allison McBride reported that for Read Across America she had Star Books Coffee House and served over 700 cups of Cappuccino. It was featured in the Omaha World Herald.

Pam Scott gave an update on the Nebraska Library Commission. She reported that 30% of those signed up for the Gates workshops are trustees. A discussion was held about the new pass word for the NebraskaAccess. Pam shared the handout that was given out on Legislative Day. It was suggested that during National Library Week, the media be given something similar to this handout. There are scholarships available for people who are getting library degrees including masters, endorsements, and associate of arts degrees.

There was discussion about whether we should apply for a System CE grant. One suggestion was a Follett session by a Follett trainer; some felt our own local "experts" are good enough, without the big expense. We probably need more web page training, as this requires more than a "one shot" session. There was not a strong feeling that we needed to apply for a grant.

Committee reports: The scholarship committee clarified that the leadership award is for a person in a management position. The advocacy award is for paid and non-paid people who promote libraries. There have not been any applicants for scholarships this year. The continuing education committee had evaluations from the past workshops, indicating that the workshops were very good. The author committee has not met. The annual meeting committee is having a hard time finding a speaker. The nominations committee reported that they had two Board member nominations for District A, and a nomination for the Public Library position.

Coordinator's report: Cherie Longmuir reported that the Follett workshops went very well. Cherie made several visits to different libraries. Dalton Public Library continues to have some difficulties with the village board. Statistical reports came in from all but one public library in our system. She attended a community planning meeting in Ogallala, and reported that the library is doing a great deal of community outreach, and getting lots of community support. A PLS blog has been set-up. The System received LSTA funds for digital audio equipment. Cherie is meeting with all the library boards. She has let the trustees know about the on-line training sessions and other materials that will help them. She recommends that we continue to work more with library boards, and provide training for library directors on the new trustee manual. The "One Book One Nebraska" book bag is being circulated at this time. It contains ten copies of One False Move in the bag, plus discussion questions. The PLS fax machine broke. A new fax machine was purchased and Nebraska Library Commission paid for it, after amending the funding contract between NLC and PLS. The youth grant was received for the Summer Reading Program. Cherie, Pat Gross, and Laurie Bauer are planning the NEMA/PLS summer institute.

Technology Plan: The Technology plan was reviewed for the next year. Maryruth Reed moved to accept the Technology Plan for the upcoming year. Sue Gosnell seconded the motion. The motion carried.

There was a discussion about needing a filter to qualify for additional E-rate discounts. It would save the system 70% for the internet. Allison McBride moved to purchase a filter and apply for E-rate for internet. Maryruth Reed seconded the motion. There were seven yes votes from Vickie Retzlaff, Sue Gosnell, Lillian Diedrichsen, Allison McBride, Maryruth Reed, Ruth Walker, and Diane Downer, and three members were absent which were Dena Crews, Jill Ellis, and Kathy Terrell.

There was a discussion about the budget and programming. Fundraising possibilities were discussed as well as programs that may need to be cut. It was suggested that a fee be charged for workshops. There was general agreement not to continue adult author tours – only children's. We might consider eliminating the PLS summer program, and using that money for the author tours. It was suggested that several items be brought up at the annual meeting or have a survey to find out how the members would feel about possible changes, plus put on the blog for discussion.

Cherie provided a list of upcoming events.

Because of the election, Grant County Library will not be available for the next meeting. It was decided to meet at WNCC in Sidney on May 9, 2006. Cherie encouraged ride sharing.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon. Ruth Walker, Secretary



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