

Panhandle Sun



The Newsletter of the Panhandle Library System

June/July 2009

Read an Award Winning Children's Book This Summer

Summer is a great time to relax and enjoy a good book. Why not try some of these award winners.



Golden Sower Award Winners

The Golden Sower Award is sponsored by the Nebraska Library Association's School, Children's and Young People's Section (SCYP). On behalf of 66,648 readers from across the state of Nebraska, the Golden Sower Award Committee is pleased to announce the 2008-2009 Award Winners and Honor Books:

Primary Winner: *If I built a Car* by Chris Van Dusen

Primary Honor Books: *Fancy Nancy* by Jane O'connor, illus. by Robin Preiss Glasser

Library Lion by Michelle Knudsen, illus. by Kevin Hawkes

Intermediate Winner: *Satch and Me* by Dan Gutman

Intermediate Honor Books: *Room One: a Mystery or Two* by Andrew Clements and *Rules* by Cynthia Lord

Young Adult Winner: *Twilight* by Stephanie Meyer

Young Adult Honor Books: *Heat* by Mike Lupica and *Life as We Knew It* by Susan Beth Pfeffer

Children's Choice Book Awards

Award winners were determined this year by over 220,000 online votes by kids across the country. Voting was open from March 16 through May 3 on the Children's Book Week website at www.BookWeekOnline.com. The 2009 Children's Choice Book Award winners are as follows:

Kindergarten to Second Grade Book of the Year: *The Pigeon Wants a Puppy!* written and illustrated by Mo Willems (Hyperion Books for Children/Disney Book Group)

Third Grade to Fourth Grade Book of the Year: *Spooky Cemeteries* by Dinah Williams (Bearport Publishing)

Fifth Grade to Sixth Grade Book of the Year: *Thirteen* by Lauren Myracle (Dutton/Penguin Young Readers Group)

Teen Choice Book of the Year: *Breaking Dawn* by Stephenie Meyer (Little, Brown and Company)

Author of the Year: Stephenie Meyer, for *Breaking Dawn* (Little, Brown and Company)

Illustrator of the Year: Jon J Muth, for *Zen Ties* (Scholastic Press)

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Panhandle library System Upcoming Events

June 8, 2009 Public Librarians Meeting

Southern Panhandle

Location: Oshkosh Public Library, 307 W. 1st Street, Oshkosh, NE

Time: 10:00 a.m. Topic: Policies

Register with the PLS office

June 25 and 26, 2009 Library Governance

Workshop. “Making Decisions: Who, What, How, When and Why.” Presenter: Pat Wagner with Pattern Research of Denver, Colorado.

June 25 - Alliance Public Library, 1750 Sweetwater Ave., Alliance, NE. Time: 5:30pm to 8:30pm

June 26 - WNCC-Sidney, 371 College Drive, Sidney, NE Time: 9:30am to 1:00pm

Food will be provided at both sessions!

Register by June 18 with the PLS office

July 14, 2009 Public Librarians Meeting

Northern Panhandle

Location: Chadron State College, Reta E. King Library, 300 E. 12th Street, Chadron, NE.

Time: 10:00 a.m. Topic: Tour the library and learn about its services for students & the public

Register with the PLS office

July 17, 2009 PLS Annual Meeting “A Touch of Class”

Location: The Harms Advanced Technology Center 2620 College Park, Scottsbluff

Time: 9:00 to 9:30 a.m. registration and coffee

Annual meeting: 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Lunch is at 12:30 p.m.

Cost: \$12.00 payable to PLS

Register with the PLS office by July 13, 2009

July 20 - 24, 2009 Nebraska Library Leadership Institute

Location: St. Benedict Center, Schuyler, NE

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

August 4, 2009 NEMA/PLS Annual Workshop “WWW @ Your Library ®”

Location: ESU-13, 4215 Avenue I, Scottsbluff, NE

Time: 9:00 to 9:30 a.m. refreshments and networking. Sessions run from 9:30am to 3:30pm.

Cost: \$15.00 payable to PLS

Register by July 28 with the PLS office.

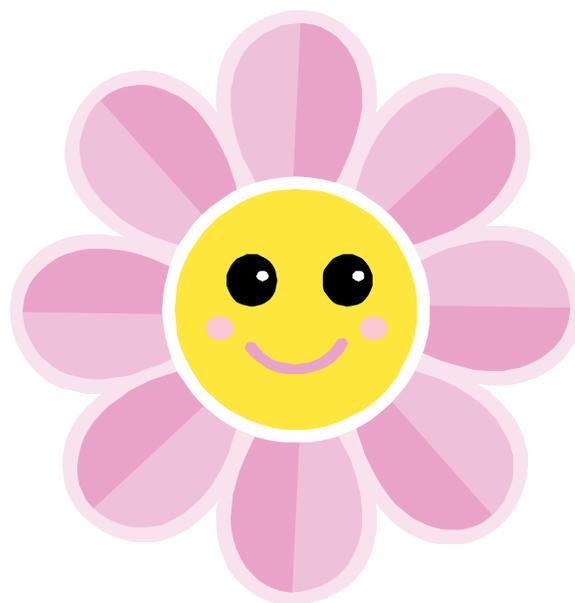
September 8, 2009 PLS Board Meeting, Lunch, and Committee Meetings.

Location: Bluffs Business Center, 1517 Broadway, Scottsbluff, NE. Time: 10:00am to 12 noon—PLS

Board Meeting; 12:00 noon—PLS will provide

lunch and drink; 1:00pm—Committee Meetings

Please RSVP to the System office by September 3 if you plan to eat lunch.



Have You Seen These Websites



<http://www.awesomehighlighter.com/>

This site is great to use when you want to share information from a website with other people. It lets you highlight text on web pages and then gives you a small link to the highlighted page. No more trying to figure out why someone sent you a link to a website because the information is highlighted!

<http://www.doodle.com/>

Doodle helps you schedule events or take a small poll. It's great to use when trying to schedule a committee meeting, especially for groups whose members come from different areas of the state/region. It can also be used to help the group makes choices, like what type of food to serve, or gift to give.

<http://www.tadalist.com/>

Tadalist lets you create a list for an event or project, and then you can access the list from any computer, anywhere. You can also share your lists with other people and give them permission to add to the list. This is another great tool for committees/groups to use to when trying to work on a project from afar. It is practical to use in your personal life, too.

<http://isbn.nu/>

Find unbiased price comparisons from over a dozen online bookstores. Type in the title or ISBN, and the website will give you a list of stores and prices. You can also view results by fastest overall shipping time.

<http://www.surprise.com/>

Don't know what to give that special someone? Go to surprise.com for a little help! It's not a store, so you won't see their inventory. Surprise.com is database of unique gift ideas from hundreds of different websites. The gifts are organized into hundreds of categories. You can find categories like, "gifts for the stressed out," and "gifts for the soccer mom."

<http://www.jdsupra.com/>

JD Supra is an online repository of legal documents. It is a community, in which members of the legal world post their court filings, decisions, and articles to a searchable database that is free for anyone to use. It also allows you to browse the portfolios of lawyers, law firms and legal professionals by practice.

The Panhandle Library System Board, staff, library members, NLC staff, and friends thank Debbie McCall for over 11 years of service to the Panhandle Library System.



Debbie seems to like the Husker watch she received from the PLS Board and Coordinator.



Richard Miller presents Debbie with a certificate of appreciation from the Nebraska Library Commission.



PLS Board President, Vickie Retzlaff, gives Debbie a cake. It was yummy!



The Panhandle Library System is going to miss Debbie - and so is Margie !



Best Wishes, Debbie



We'll miss you!



NLA Public Library and Trustee Spring Meeting Report

The Public Library and Trustee Section (PLTS) of the Nebraska Library Association (NLA) held Spring Meetings this year at Wahoo Public Library, Bridgeport Public Library, and the Lexington Public Library. The meeting included a program on **Nebraska's Open Source Integrated Library Systems Statewide Project**, presented by Greg Mickells, Assistant Library Director, Lincoln City Libraries.



Greg Mickells spoke about the option of open source software (OSS) for cooperative library catalogs. Open source software replaces the standard model of purchasing software and doing only what it allows you to do, with free software that allows you to change it to fit your needs. However, as it has been said, OSS is not free as in beer, but free as in kittens. There may be no up-front costs, but that doesn't mean there will be no costs in the long run. However, software customization and maintenance costs can be shared by partners using the system. This dynamic, flexible, affordable, Web-based option will be tested in Nebraska in the near future. Mickells described the pilot collaborative effort in Nebraska and the activities underway through the Nebraska Pioneer Project, including:

- A core group of seven libraries of all sizes (Omaha Public Library, Lincoln City Libraries, St. Paul Public Library, Gretna Public Library, Grand Island Public Library, Bellevue Public Library, and Holdrege Area Public Library) has been formed. This partnership will be formalized through interlocal agreements, currently underway.
- Koha (www.koha.org) has been selected as the software to use to build the system.
- The partnership wrote a \$100,000 grant and received funding through the Nebraska Library Commission's IMLS-funded Library Improvement grant process.
- The next step is a scoping study.
- The partnership expects to have a viable product available for testing by September.
- Additional Nebraska libraries will be invited to join the partnership at some time in the future.

Grants and Scholarships Available to Libraries



Broadband Grants Available

Nebraska library directors may want to contact local community officials about this grant opportunity. State and local governments, corporations, and Indian tribes are eligible to apply for grants from \$50,000 to \$1 million through USDA's Community Connect Grant Program, which was created to help rural residents tap into the tremendous potential of the internet. For more information, go to: AGRICULTURE SECRETARY VILSACK SEEKS APPLICANTS FOR BROADBAND GRANTS IN RURAL AREAS <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal?contentidonly=true&contentid=2009/04/0135.xml> Applications are due by the close of business on June 19.

Grants Available through the State Records Board

The Nebraska State Records Board sponsors a grant program for state and local* government for the development of programs and technology to improve electronic access to state government information and services. (*Local government includes libraries: a single library can ask for a \$10,000 grant, if two or more libraries collaborate on a project they can submit a grant proposal for up to \$25,000.) Grants will be awarded for one time funding of small projects (not to exceed \$25,000). The grants may used for the creation or enhancement of electronic access and delivery of government services and information, but not to fund ongoing operations.

Some projects funded in the past:

UNL: NE Public Documents Digitization Project

Supreme Court: Automation for Nebraska State Library

NE Volunteer Service Commission: Trainer/Trainee Online Database Search

Nemaha County Assessor: Digitizing maps/ records

The next deadline for grants: July 1, 2009 (Deadlines change and the next one will be 3-6 months from the July 1st deadline if funds are available.)

Grant Criteria

Projects requesting funding must meet criteria #1-3. In addition, criteria #4-6 will be considered when reviewing funding requests:

1. Enhance the delivery of state government agency services and improve access to those services.
2. Meet the state's technology access clause for providing equal access to services for persons with disabilities. A copy of the technology access clause is available at: <http://www.nitc.state.ne.us/standards/index.html> under 2. Accessibility Architecture.
3. If the project or service created or improved pursuant to the grant application involves the licensing, permitting or regulation of businesses, then the project or service must allow integration with the State of Nebraska's Business Portal at: <http://www.nebraska.gov/index.phtml?section=business> and the One-Stop Online Business Registration System at: <https://www.nebraska.gov/osbr/cgi/domestic.cgi?/OSBRApplication/init/init/None>
4. Improve the efficiency of state agency operations.
5. Facilitate collaboration between local, state and federal agencies and other public institutions (if applicable).
6. Support public/private partnerships in the delivery of public services through the Official State portal, Nebraska.gov.

For information and grant criteria see: <http://www.staterecordsboard.ne.gov/grants.html>. Please call Cathy Danahy if you have questions – (402) 471-2745



Future Search Discussion

If you've got it, flaunt it – or, at least, market it.

In a tough economy, libraries are more important than ever. Now is the time to show our communities why we are so valuable.

Vision statement to consider: Increasing the visibility of Nebraska libraries through listening, communicating, and delivering services to enhance our communities.

Note the similarities between this vision statement and the American Marketing Association's definition of marketing: "Marketing is the activity, set of institutions, and processes for creating, communicating, delivering, and exchanging offerings that have value for customers, clients, partners, and society at large."

This vision statement is all about marketing our libraries – informing our communities of the services, programs and resources that the public library offers.

Economics, Enrichment, Relationships: Why do people use your library?

There are numerous ways to market our "product." Because libraries offer such a variety of resources and services, it is best to first identify the key "offerings" that you want to promote. People use libraries for many different reasons. The American Library Association has identified three primary motivations for using the library: 1. Economics, 2. Enrichment, 3. Relationships. Learn how the people in your community use the library, and find out why it is important to them.

Activities:

- Visit ALA's @ Your Library website, www.atyourlibrary.org. Look at the information listed under the tabs at the top - "What's at the Library," "How do I use the Library," and "Why use the Library." Does your library provide the services, programs and resources identified by ALA? Do your patrons use the library for the reasons specified by ALA? Are there any issues affecting your community that may determine why/how the library is important?
- Discuss the trends and data outlined in the 2009 State of America's Libraries report by ALA. The report is at <http://www.ala.org/2009state>. How does your library fit into the report? Do the findings regarding increased library usage reflect your library's usage? If not, why do you think it is different? Are children your heaviest users, why or why not? Does your library support gaming, why or why not? Based on the findings, can you identify new ways to reach the people in your community to better market library services, programs and resources?
- Use the Nebraska Library Commission's Return on Investment Wiki to learn about ROI, and determine the value or economic impact of the library in your community. Create brochures or other types of promotional materials to publicize your findings.

Continued from page 8

Listen to the Community and Develop a Plan:

Libraries develop and initiate services and programs through strategic planning. This includes consulting with and listening to members of the community. The strategic plan is a guideline to follow for the future direction of the library. It addresses the goals of the library, and specifies the approach and activities the library will take to achieve its goals.

Activities:

- Use the Future Search focus group questions to initiate your own focus group. Invite community members, library users, library staff, and trustees to talk about libraries and library service. The questions have no right or wrong answers, and you may build off one another's responses. For each focus group, there should be a facilitator and a recorder. The facilitator will ask the questions, without additional commentary, except to help in clarifying the question. The recorder will record responses to the questions on a flip chart.

Focus Group Questions

1. As a customer, staff person, and/or library user what are your expectations of the library?
 2. How are the roles of libraries changing?
 3. What are the key trends and issues affecting libraries?
 4. What library service needs and wants will you and your community have within the next five years?
 5. What knowledge, skills and abilities do you and your community need to be successful?
 6. Beyond your community whom do you want or need to partner with to be successful?
 7. Other comments:
- Design your own survey using Survey Monkey, <http://www.surveymonkey.com>. Place the survey on your library's website and/or make a PDF copy and distribute the survey to patrons in your library.

Forums for Listening and Communicating:

Whether you are eliciting or disseminating information about the library and/or library usage, there are several paths to lead you to your audience. Try surveys, blogs, focus groups, communication plans, online town meetings, and trainings.



**Panhandle Library System
Board Minutes, Tuesday, March10, 2009
Bluffs Business Center, Scottsbluff**

President Vickie Retzlaff called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Board members present: Terry Christensen, Deb Finley, Vickie Retzlaff, Floyd Smith III, Beth Trupp, and Kathy Terrell. Board Members absent: Kendra Caskey, Dixie Riley, and Glenda Gamby. Also present: Margie Harrison.

Vickie Retzlaff asked to add *Policies & Procedures Modifications*, and *Summer Reading Program* under New Business. Margie Harrison noted that Rod Wagner will not be present today, however; he has submitted a report. The March10 agenda was approved with these revisions.

The minutes from the January 13, 2009 meeting were approved.

Round Table: Terry Christensen announced that Alliance Elementary School will automate this year. They will use Follett Destiny. In addition, the high School & middle school will upgrade to Follett Destiny. Alliance High School media center received a very large bequest. The money will be spent on upgrades and renovations. Kathy Terrell reported that walls have been erected in the Morrill Elementary School media center and they are trying to find room for a Smart Board. At the High School library, she is working on putting up a Picture America display. Floyd Smith announced that there was a waterline break at WNFRHC and the library was closed for about a month. On a positive note, most of their OPAC is completed. They recently received a free microfilm reader printer from Adam's County Historical Society.

PLS Committees: Nominating: No report. Annual Meeting: Margie Harrison reported that a speaker has been selected and the event will be at the Harm's Center. The theme is "A Touch of Class." There will be baskets for door prizes. CE/Tech: Floyd Smith talked about Librarian's Day at the State Genealogy Society conference, which is scheduled for April 30 at the Harms Center. He also mentioned that he will give PLS another wireless router to replace an older one. Public Relations: Beth Trupp reported that the group has not met since the author tour. Planning for the next author tour will begin this fall. They will look at possible author options while at the NLA conference this October. Scholarship: members not present.

Margie Harrison noted that the new Committee handout in the Board packet has some errors. A corrected copy will be given to everyone at the next meeting.

Nebraska Library Commission Report: Margie Harrison distributed copies of the NLC report submitted by Rod Wagner. The Board read & discussed various topics from the report.

PLS Coordinator's Report: Margie presented the PLS coordinators report from January 1 through February 28, 2008, which was included in the Board packets. In addition, she talked about the Automation Vendor Day workshop and the possibility of a PLS shared automation system. Margie announced that there are three PLS Board positions to fill beginning July 1, 2009. Nomination forms have been mailed.

Budget: Margie presented the year-to-date financial report.

Old Business:

Adoption of amended PLS Bylaws: Vickie Retzaff- PLS President, and Terry Christensen- PLS Secretary signed the revised PLS Bylaws. Margie will distribute copies to the Board in the next Board packet.

New Business:

Policies & Procedures Modifications: Policies & Procedures will need to be revised due to the recent Bylaws revisions. Margie Harrison will review the PLS Policies and Procedures and bring revisions to the next meeting for approval.

Summer Reading Program: The Board asked Margie Harrison to look into options for PLS to host a SRP event. There was discussion about budget and the possibility of hiring Mr. Conrad's Musicademy for the event. Margie will examine the PLS budget to determine the feasibility of providing a SRP event for our public libraries. She will email the Board ASAP with this information to determine if PLS should proceed with plans for a program.

Upcoming Events: The upcoming events were highlighted.

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

The next PLS board meeting will be May 12, 2009 at the Bluffs Business Center, 1517 Broadway, Scottsbluff – In the main conference room. 10:00 a.m.

Photos From PLS Workshops



The gals from Basic Skills Public Service are ready to booktalk their favorite books. The 3-day class met at the Alliance Public Library.



Students learn the basics of genealogy research and how to use the Heritage Quest database. Heritage Quest is free Nebraska Access database provided by the Nebraska Library commission.

Panhandle Library System
1517 Broadway, Suite 129
Scottsbluff, NE 69361

Coordinator's phone: 308-632-3168

Assistant's phone: 308-632-1350

Toll Free: 888-879-5303

Fax: 308-632-3978

Website: www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/panhandle



PLS Board of Trustees:

Vickie Retzlaff, President

Glenda Gamby, Vice President

Terry Christensen, Secretary

Jane Schlager

Kendra Caskey

Deb Finley

Dixie Riley

Floyd Smith III

Kathy Terrell

Beth Trupp

Counties Served:

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

Marjorie Harrison, PLS Coordinator

E-mail: mharrison@nlc.state.ne.us

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June/July 2009

JOIN US FOR
'A TOUCH OF CLASS'

...because you deserve to pamper yourself for a day!

PANHANDLE LIBRARY SYSTEM'S ANNUAL MEETING

Friday July 17th, 2009

**HARMS ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY CENTER
2620 College Drive, Scottsbluff, NE 69361**

**Registration and Coffee: 9:00 to 9:30 a.m.
Annual Meeting: 9:30 a.m. to 12:30p.m.
Lunch: 12:30 p.m.**



**SPEAKER: Craig Larson,
General Manager of KNEB Radio Station**

- GIFT BASKET GIVEAWAYS
- DRAWINGS & SHARING

Registration Form

Cost: \$12.00 per person
CE Credits: 3 hours

Names Attending _____

Library / School _____



PLEASE RETURN BY JULY 13th, 2009

**Mail to PLS Office, 1517 Broadway, Suite 128 Scottsbluff, NE 69361
Fax (308)632-3978 or Phone (308)632-1350**

WWW @ your library®

NEMA and PLS annually sponsored workshop 2009

WHO— are your vendors & how do you negotiate the best price?

WHAT— “delicious” websites do you use?

WHERE— are your contacts?



Spend a day with fellow librarians to find the answers to these questions, and more!

There will be a variety of speakers from all types of libraries.

- Alliance Public Library
- Bayard Public Schools
- Gering High School
- Gering Public Library
- Nebraska Library Commission
- Panhandle Library System
- Morrill Public Schools
- Rushville Public Library
- Scottsbluff Public Library

Tuesday, August 4, 2009



ESU 13
4215 Avenue I
Scottsbluff

Refreshments & Networking: 9:00a.m.
Sessions run from: 9:30a.m. — 3:30p.m.

Register by July 28 with the PLS office. Toll free 888-879-5303, Phone: 632-1350, Email Margie Harrison at: mharrison@nlc.state.ne.us **Cost: \$15 (includes lunch) + lots of prizes and take home items for your library. Pay in advance or at the door**

Name(s): _____

School/Library: _____

Summer Contact Info:

Address: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

Panhandle Library
System,
1517 Broadway,
Suite 129,
Scottsbluff, NE
69361

Making Decisions: Who, What, How, When and Why



A workshop on library governance for directors, trustees, library Friends, foundation members, and volunteers.

Presenter: Pat Wagner is a well-known educator, trainer, writer, and consultant with Pattern Research of Denver. Most of her current clients work with and for libraries of all kinds, plus library boards, foundations, Friends groups, and national, state and regional library organizations.

This workshop will be presented at
two locations:

- Alliance Public Library
- WNCC-Sidney

FREE C.E. training for
library staff and trustees

Evening Session: Thursday, June 25: 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
at the Alliance Public Library

Morning Session: Friday, June 26: 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at
WNCC-Sidney

Food and beverages will be provided at both sessions!

Call or email the Panhandle Library System by June 18 to register for this FREE workshop. Phone: (Toll free) 888-879-5303, or 308-632-1350; Email: debm@charterinternet.com

Funds for this program are supported in part through a Nebraska Library Commission Continuing Education Grant.