

## *PLS Coordinator's Message*

**Trustee: one to whom management is entrusted.**

Sounds like a big responsibility. We are entrusting the management of our libraries to a group of community volunteers who are qualified by virtue of their willingness to serve. Those who wrote Nebraska laws thought the best people to oversee the library were the local citizens who use it. If we expect them to take on that kind of responsibility, the least we can do is provide them with some on-the-job training. Last year a survey of library trustees was conducted to determine what they needed to know. Participation was high, suggesting that our trustees care enough to get involved – and that there are plenty of things they want to know! Based on their responses, a new plan for trustee training has been developed. It will be a joint effort of the Nebraska Library Commission, the Nebraska Library Association and its trustee section, the regional library Systems, and the local library directors. A four-year plan will allow us to focus on one area of information each year:

**Year 1** – “how to get money” and related issues such as grants, fund raising, Friends groups, foundations, planning and program evaluation;

**Year 2** – creating policies;

**Year 3** – intellectual freedom, copyright, fiscal responsibility, legal issues, political awareness;

**Year 4** – Board management, community relations/PR, advocacy;

In the 5<sup>th</sup> year, we will review and evaluate, do another survey, and determine where to go from there. The theme for each year will be supported in several ways such as online mini-classes, System newsletter articles, fact sheets for Board meetings, web site information, workshops and conference sessions. We realize that trustees differ in their ability to participate in additional activities, so a variety of options will be provided, all of which will earn credits toward the Board's certification.

Another need identified by both library directors and Board members is an orientation for new members. An orientation packet and/or an online session or video will be developed that includes basic information that all trustees need. In addition, an annual calendar will be provided that highlights library activities, such as deadlines for statistical reports, schedules for accreditation, conferences and workshops, grant application periods, etc.

In conjunction with these activities, the trustee manual will be reviewed and revised as needed. A condensed version will be written that highlights key areas and can be used as a “ready reference” during Board meetings.

We hope that this plan will provide a focus and result in a more informed and confident library Board. We are grateful to have Board members who are willing to give their time and support to the library, and we hope these activities will encourage even greater involvement.

Cherie Longmuir



## Panhandle Library System Upcoming Events



**August 23, 2005 Bibliostat™  
Connect Training:  
Using Statistics to Compare  
Libraries**

Location: University of Nebraska,  
Learning Center Computer Lab,  
4502 Avenue I, Scottsbluff

Instructor: Pam Scott

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

No Cost 3.00 CE Hours

**Register by August 13, 2005** with  
the PLS office (toll free) 888-879-  
5303, (308) 632-1350, Email:  
[clongmuir@nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:clongmuir@nlc.state.ne.us)

**September 5, 2005 – PLS Office  
Closed-Labor Day**

**September 9, 2005**

Teen Videoconference: "Writing  
Grants for Youth"; Panhandle  
Research & Extension Center,  
4502 Ave I, Scottsbluff

1-3pm. Contact: Jacque Crocker:  
800-307-2665

**September 13, 2005 PLS Board  
Meeting, Carry-In Lunch and  
Committee Meetings**

Location: Bluffs Business Center,  
1517 Broadway, Main Floor  
Conference Room

Time: 10:00 a.m. **Board Meeting**

Noon: **Carry-in Lunch**

1:00 p.m. **Committee Meetings**

PLS will provide sandwiches/drinks.

Bring a salad or dessert to share.

**September 20, 2005**

Duane Munson Book Exhibit  
Gering Civic Center

**September 27, 2005**

Preconferences to NLA/NEMA  
See flyers in newsletter.

**September 28 – 30, 2005**

**NLA/NEMA Convention**

Theme: Libraries Heart and Soul of  
Communities

Location: Cornhusker Hotel, Lincoln

Web site: [http://www.nla-  
nema2005.info/](http://www.nla-nema2005.info/)

**October 7-8, 2005**

Nebraska Book Festival, Lincoln

**October 12-15, 2005**

MPLA Conference, Jackson, WY  
See flyer in newsletter.

**October 15, 2005 NEBASE Annual  
Meeting – West**

Location: Center for Business and  
Individual Training (CBIT), 250587  
Airport Road, Scottsbluff

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Contact: Jeannette Powell, 800-307-  
2665, Email: [jpowell@nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:jpowell@nlc.state.ne.us)

**October 17-21, 2005**

Teen Read Week

**October 26, 2005**

Basic Skills: Collection Development  
Scottsbluff Public Library



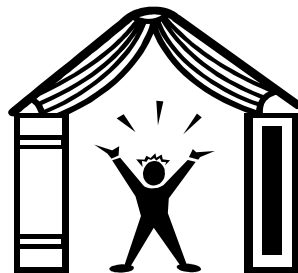
## INSIDE OUR LIBRARIES

**Morrill PL** held a quilt exhibit and presentation by a quilting expert at an open house on July 16. They have an extensive collection of quilting books for their many quilting customers. Ann Kuncl, Board President, coordinated the affair. While she was looking for items to include in the display, **Judy Howell**, library director, found some pieces that her mother had cut out many years ago that were intended for a bicentennial quilt. Judy will soon have time to do some quilting herself, as she has decided to retire from her position at the library. For the last 9 years, she has been committed to providing programs and materials that reflect the interests of her community. The library has been expanded and upgraded in many ways under her leadership. Thank you, Judy – enjoy the future!

**Vicky Dunn** and her volunteers at **Sioux County Library** in Harrison, have downloaded 4000 records from the Library of Congress into their Follett automation system. They estimate they are about  $\frac{3}{4}$  finished. When that part is complete, they will set up the circulation system. In spite of their vast and sparsely populated service area, they had 30 children in the summer reading program. Wet-haired kids walk from the swimming pool across the street to the library – a perfect summer afternoon. Vicky and her Board have decided that Fridays will be amnesty day – no fines for overdue items. They feel that they would rather get the book back and forfeit the money (instead of losing the patron).

**Deb Finley** at **Hemingford PL** must have been inspired by Vicky, because she is also downloading LC records into her new Follett system – has completed 500 in just the last few months. Library use and circulation have increased dramatically this summer – enough that they are making plans for a summer reading program for next year. She is thrilled to have a new copy machine, and the final touches are being put on a 6 foot long library sign for the front of the building. There will also be a directional sign on the highway. Deb will complete her last set of Basic Skills classes this fall.

After she got her Follett system fine-tuned at **Garden County HS** in Oshkosh, **Carol Luna** decided she needed a new challenge. She has accepted the full-time position as media specialist at **Kimball Junior/Senior High**, and coordinator of the Kimball elementary school libraries. **Melva Stahlecker**, who was in that position, has moved back to Colorado. Good luck to both of these school library leaders.



FIND THE BEST @ your library ®

## NEWS YOU CAN USE

PLS Board member **Allison McBride**, and husband Ty are the proud parents of Kaigan Ann, born June 24<sup>th</sup>. Apparently the trip to the hospital was wild, but they at least made it as far as the emergency room before Kaigan appeared. Congrats!

Long-time library assistant **Alice Evertson** has left Kimball PL, replaced by **Schatzie Gillming**, and student assistant, **Suni Calise**.

**Sue Gosnell** at **WNCC-Sidney** has been shopping. At year's end, the school had some funds remaining, and gave them to the library to upgrade computers and buy new furniture. You'll have a hard time leaving once you burrow into the overstuffed oversized chairs. The library has become the cool place to go on campus. Earlier this year they rebuilt the circulation area to be more efficient. This is a beautiful, welcoming facility.

**Ellyn Renken** and **Jo Fisher** have added a new set of shelves at **Crawford PL**. They are labeled "wholesome fiction" to meet the growing demand for this genre in their community.

Three Nebraskans were selected to be included on the ALA/ALTA National Library Advocacy Honor Roll for their outstanding library advocacy efforts: **Wally Seiler**, Alliance Library Foundation director and former Library Commissioner; **Kathy Tooker**, Eastern Library System Administrator and coordinator of Library Legislative Day; **Doug Roesemann**, President of InfoUSA (Omaha) and president-elect of Friends of Libraries USA.

**Morrill PL** is seeking applicants for the part-time library director position. For information, contact the library or the village office.

**Scottsbluff PL** has new hot pink library cards! No one will have trouble finding the "Smartest Card" in their wallets. And hopefully they will also open their wallets to help with the fundraising campaign for the library expansion.

The **Farm and Ranch Museum** now has available [The Farm and Ranch Book](#) and the video "Farming in Western Nebraska: 1938-1945." Both document the history of farming and ranching in this area. Call to inquire about purchasing them before they run out again! 308-436-1989.

If you need **library signs in Spanish**, try the Texas State Library online Signage Library, which provides translations of common library signs for both adult and youth collections: [www.tsl.state.tx.us/ld/projects/bilingualsign/index.html](http://www.tsl.state.tx.us/ld/projects/bilingualsign/index.html)

**Dixie Bloom** at **Alliance PL** recommends a local **magician** who performed during their summer reading program. He is Steven Crabb, whom you can contact at 308-762-4049. He is reasonably priced and kept the audience spell bound. Another presenter who has done several well-received programs in Nebraska is Dean Jacobs. He has traveled the world and tells about his experiences through words and pictures. He charges \$150 plus expenses and works with both student and adult audiences: [www.travel4life.org](http://www.travel4life.org)

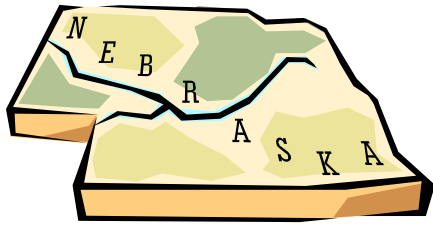
## KIDS' BOOKS WITH A NEBRASKA CONNECTION



J. Gordon Schrempp has written the book **Lickety-Split**, which is a coming of age novel that takes place in the early fifties in the farming community near Wynot, Nebraska. Mr. Schrempp grew up in Northeast Nebraska and graduated from Wynot High School in 1949. While teaching reading to junior high students, he invented stories to stimulate his student's imaginations. Those that he perfected became chapters in the book. The book jacket cover is illustrated by Jolene Steffen of Crofton, NE. Find out more at [www.xlibris.com/bookstore](http://www.xlibris.com/bookstore).

A resident of Fremont, Nebraska, author N.L. Sharp has published a new book, **Effie's Image**. It is about an 82-year old woman who has lost interest in life, until she becomes a school volunteer. The illustrator is Doroitha Rohner, another Nebraskan: <http://www.NLSharp.com>

Students in grades 4-7 would enjoy **Worth**, written by A. LaFaye. It is about a family of Nebraska settlers who take in a boy from the orphan train after their own son is hurt in an accident and can no longer do farm work. Storms, stampedes, fights and feuds keep the action going in a story that depicts the hardships of our ancestors.



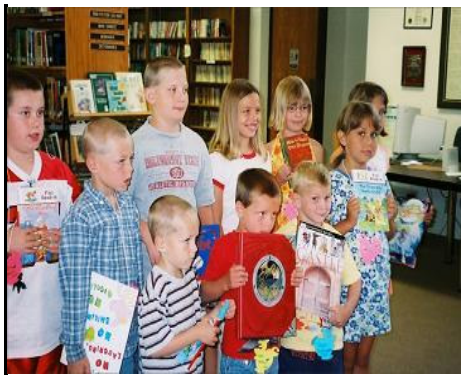
**C is for Cornhusker**, written by Nebraska resident Rajeane Shepherd, tells the story of Nebraska through the alphabet. Bright illustrations, some one page, others double spreads, depict trains snaking through the prairie, the sea of Red at Memorial Stadium, Arbor Day, Kool-Aid, and mammoths. The short rhymes are accompanied by text boxes filled with fascinating Nebraska facts.

**Going North** is written by Janice Harrington, who used to live in Lincoln and now is a children's librarian in Illinois. The lyrical text and moving illustrations depict the journey of a Black family from their home in Alabama, driving to Nebraska, which they hope will be the land of opportunity.

Bayard author Ruth Foreman wrote **Free to Drink the Wind**, a mystery for middle schoolers, set in the Sandhills. This modern ranch family encounters many adventures revolving around a herd of wild horses. It won the Nebraska Book Award last year.

**Prairie Whispers** by Frances Arrington is set in the 1860's on the Nebraska prairie. A 12-year old girl struggles with her conscience after switching her mother's stillborn baby with the baby of a woman who died alone in a covered wagon. Grass fires, rattlesnake bites, and stolen money all add to the adventure.





## Summer Reading Program Highlights

What could be better than spending a warm lazy summer afternoon at the library? It's rewarding to find how many adults have fond childhood memories of their summer reading programs. Librarians plan for months to provide activities, stories, incentives, and programs that will attract children to the treasures in the library. This summer the PLS libraries had record attendance, as they hung dragons from the ceilings, built castles in the corners, and inspired dreams about the past and the future.

- Over 1000 children attended a performance provided by local actors from their areas, sponsored by PLS. Those in the northern Panhandle were entertained by Elaine Bleisch and her Main Street Children's Theatre Group. The central area libraries watched the antics of Jim Simmonds and his theatre students from WNCC in Scottsbluff. Libraries along the I-80 corridor joined the fun with Kate Diaz and her students from Ogallala High School. We thank all of them for the effort and creativity they put into their performances, and for traveling across the region to delight our children.
- These are a few of the many activities that awaited the children who entered the world of Dragons, Dreams, and Daring Deeds:
- A group of teens in Gordon built a working catapult which they demonstrated in medieval games for the young knights – not to mention sword fights and jousting;
- Children in Alliance got to guess how many beautifully colored dragon's eggs filled a jar – and made crowns that any royalty would be proud to wear;
- Chappell readers made a treasure chest and went on a treasure hunt to fill it with jewels – each had a photo taken sitting in a royal chair;
- Chadron's participants checked out books in a castle – and drew dragons of every shape and size;
- Scottsbluff's jolly jesters were invited to enter a costume contest to win prizes for the best dragon, knight, or princess;
- Ogallala youth ended the summer with a medieval faire in the park, complete with games, stories, and activities;
- And special thanks to Chadron State College, whose director of admissions, Tena Cook, provided hundreds of colorful dragon-embossed plastic bookmarks for libraries to give away. This is their way emphasizing how important it is for children to read during the summer to support their learning in the future.



## LIBRARY EDUCATION: THE LTA PROGRAM

Have you heard about library science courses that are now being offered through the Nebraska Community College system? You can either take the courses to enhance your education in various subject areas or obtain an associate of arts degree in Library Science Education with the Library Technical Assistant emphasis. This degree option has been developed through a partnership of the Nebraska Community College System, Nebraska Library Commission, and the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

The courses are mainly being made available through the online format so that a student anywhere in Nebraska will have access to this type of library science education. As of spring 2005, 62 students have participated in one or more of the classes that are being offered through the community colleges. Who has been signing up for these courses? working librarians, a hotel manager, school paraprofessionals, college library staff, school media specialists, and individuals who are interested in pursuing a library career.

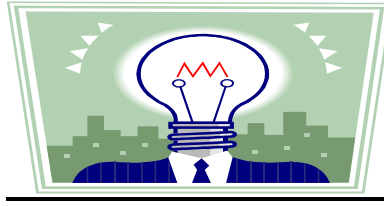
This summer two additional courses were provided through Central Community College: *Reference Services in Library & Information Environments* and *Introduction to Children and Young Adult Services*. The first course has 13 registrants and the second has 9. This fall, Northeast Community College will offer *Administration of Library and Information Environments*, and Western Nebraska Community College will offer *Introduction to Technical Services-Cataloging*. Metropolitan Community College will also be providing the *Introduction to Library and Information Services* this fall. The *Capstone Practicum* course will be added to the offerings through Metropolitan Community College this coming January 2006.

Are you looking for financial assistance to help you with the LTA coursework? Remember the Library Technical Assistant Coursework Scholarship that has been established by the Nebraska Library Commission for the purpose of supporting students pursuing community college level library science education. Information about the scholarship and application requirements is located at this website: <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/LTA/lta scholarship.htm>. We have awarded 24 scholarships so far. We will be reviewing our guidelines pertaining to the scholarship program in late summer. Also contact the financial aid department at each community college for other financial assistance that might be available through their institution.

You may have heard about the scholarships and other information related to the library technical assistant courses through your regional library system newsletter and other publications, the course flyers from the individual community colleges, or electronically through email or a website. We will expand the coverage for promoting these courses by developing a booklet to be distributed through the community colleges as a part of student recruitment. The content of the booklet will be reviewed by members of the Library Technical Assistant Task Force. The current brochure for the LTA coursework will also be updated in the near future for re-distribution. In addition, the Nebraska Community College Association (NCCA) will host a section on their website devoted to statewide programs including the Library Technical Assistant option.

If you are interested in enrolling in any of the LTA courses, contact your regional library system administrator, or Pam Scott, Continuing Education Coordinator, Nebraska Library Commission: email [pscott@nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:pscott@nlc.state.ne.us) or call 800-307-2665.





## **BITS AND PIECES**

Here's a new idea for a **wedding registry**: the library! Instead of buying an unneeded gift for the bride and groom, the guests log onto a web site where they buy specific books that the library has on its wish list, or make a donation to the Friends' fund. A book plate in each item recognizes the donor and the occasion. View the website at: [www.thefriends.org/patharris/index.html](http://www.thefriends.org/patharris/index.html)

A new angle for a **book club**: men only. One group selects books from Sports Illustrated's list of the top 100 sports titles. Their leader is a coach. Women are welcome, but men are enjoying discussions geared to this special interest.

Republican Valley Library System has hired a new administrator. **Sherry Houston** started on June 1. Her previous position was media specialist at Sutton Public Schools. She earned her MLS from Emporia State University. Welcome, Sherry!

The Golden Sower web page has been updated by Mary Ehlers. Check it out! <http://www.nol.org/home/NLA/golden/sower.htm>

Nebraska Library Commission provides funds for innovative programs that serve young people in public libraries through **Youth Grants for Excellence**.

Applications will be accepted from August 17 until October 21. Details: [www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/grant.html](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/grant.html)

Remember the rules for using the slogan in the nationwide **@ your library®** campaign to promote libraries. The ® symbol must follow "library." There can be no words between "your" and "library". "your library" must be in lower case standard print. The preferred color is red for the @ sign, and blue for the words, or black and white. Why? Because it's important to maintain a consistent look, a recognizable "brand." Creative uses of the slogan across the country are projecting a message that gives all libraries more visibility.

Nebraska Governor Dave Heineman recently awarded \$56,000 in **Community Development Block Grants** to seven communities. The target is revitalization of communities with low-income populations, and can include public libraries, removal of architectural barriers for accessibility, neighborhood centers and other projects.

Seward Librarian Charlotte Baldinger gave a \$5 bill to anyone she stopped downtown who could show her their **library card**. The "losers" got a sticker saying "I got carded" and an invitation to visit the library.

*The \$martest Card. Get it. Use it.  
@ your library®*

**Waterloo's Citizens to Enjoy New Library, Meeting Room Facility**  
(reprinted with permission from Nebraska Municipal Review, May, 2005)

Note: Waterloo, Nebraska – population 728

Waterloo's citizens soon will be enjoying a new library and meeting room facility thanks to a generous donation from longtime residents, Ed and Donna Robinson. The new library, a 5000 square foot single level building with storage and a storm shelter in the basement, will be built on property owned by the Robinsons on the corner of Cedar Hollow Drive. Donna Robinson said that she and her husband sold their family business, Robinson Seed Co., last summer. The company has been owned by the family since 1888. The Robinson's are donating about \$1million and creating a foundation for the library's operation and other needs. "We felt we were able to do this and it's something we've wanted to do for a long time," Mrs. Robinson said. "Waterloo is very special to us. My husband has lived here all of his life and we've lived all our married lives here. We wanted to give something back to the community."

Since Waterloo's school closed, the community needed a structure as a focal point – a place for people to gather. A lobby and meeting room will be at one end of the new facility while the main library will be at the other end along with an office for the librarians. There will be a kitchen in the meeting room.

The library's meeting room will fill an important and unmet need in the community by providing senior citizens with a place to gather, she said. "There is nothing here for the senior citizens," she said, adding that the meeting room will have a table, comfortable chairs and a place where they can come to read magazines or books, or perhaps play cards and put together puzzles. It also will likely be used for other community gatherings, such as the library's summer reading program, which includes story hours. The summer reading program has about 100 children participating in it, Mrs. Robinson said. In the library area itself there will be a children's corner.

The Robinsons also are creating a foundation to use for the operation of the library and meeting room facility and to cover other expenses, including furnishings, bookshelves and computers. The foundation will allow for tax-free contributions to be donated.

Mrs. Robinson said the current library is one of many this community has had since 1880, when a group of women in Waterloo first started a small library with 75 donated books. After that, a women's club was established that maintained the library. During the 1930s, the WPA built a community building that included space for the library. Later the library was moved to the county fairgrounds, and most recently to a telephone exchange office. "We are bursting at the seams," she said.

Mr. Robinson said that as a boy, he enjoyed spending many hours in the local library. "Our family believes in the necessity of a strong library in a community. A library is the avenue to young people's minds. The Waterloo library has been such a destination for years."

*\_\_ \_ and in case someone gives YOUR library a million dollars*

Here are some ideas from the Bricks and Boards workshop held in Seward in June:

- Think ADAPTABILITY! – prepare for the unknown future by providing flexible spaces, flexible signage, moveable information kiosks, computers scattered around (not in labs), and plenty of social space and children’s space.
- You will generally need less non-fiction space because of online information.
- Use the “greeting desk” concept – low, open, small.
- Create spaces using lighting, furniture arrangement, color, and nooks.
- Never forget that services for the community are the number one priority; find out what they want the library to be and to provide.
- When planning for needed space, remember that 25% of your space is “unassignable” – hallways, rest rooms, etc.
- Projecting your collection needs 10 years into the future does not necessarily mean it will be bigger.

And if we had any doubt about the future need for libraries, this is from a new report from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation:

- ✓ 98.9 % of public libraries offer free public access to computers and the Internet, a growth of 400% since 1996.
- ✓ 85% of libraries say they are unable to meet demand for computers.
- ✓ The public uses library computers to access government services, research health databases, communicate via e-mail, and search for all types of information.
- ✓ Visits to public libraries have doubled in the last 12 years. 64 % of libraries offer technology training for patrons. 18% of libraries have wireless access, with 21% planning to add it within the next year.
- ✓ Unfortunately, most library budgets for technology have stayed level in the past year, with no increases for expanded service. 70% of libraries have no schedule to upgrade hardware or software.

**The Panhandle Library System Board Meeting**  
**Tuesday, May 3, 2005**  
**Bluffs Business Center Upper Level Conference Room**

The meeting of the Board of the Panhandle Library System was called to order by President Maryruth Reed at 10:00 a.m.

Present were board members: Maryruth Reed, Ruth Walker, Jill Ellis, Carolyn Brown, Lillian Diedrichsen, Diane Downer, Allison McBride, Vickie Retzlaff, Kathy Terrell. Dena Crews was absent. Cherie Longmuir and Debbie McCall from the system office were in attendance, and Pam Scott from the Nebraska Library Commission. Also attending was Sharon Ulbrich from Bayard Public Library. The agenda and the minutes were approved. It was suggested that guests should be identified in the minutes as to what library they are from.

The roundtable discussion was from the public libraries. Maryruth stated that she is getting ready to promote her Spanish collection. She has had a bilingual high school student help her. Sharon Ulbrich is getting ready for the summer reading program. She is also weeding her collection. Carolyn is getting ready to promote her Spanish collection. She is hosting the NLA spring meeting. Vickie reported that she is getting ready for the summer reading program. Vickie's assistant is taking the basic skills classes. Vickie is thinking about taking the LTA classes. Grant County computer usage is up. Diane reported that there has been a change in the staff. Gering's new library assistant is Kathy Wasserman. The SMILE program is finishing up. Summer reading program will also include an adult program.

The libraries that received the LSTA Grants for English Language Learners are Scottsbluff, Morrill, Mitchell, Alliance, and Kimball. This shows a recognition that there is an unserved group in the community that the library may not have the resources to help. Cherie congratulated these libraries for the effort they have made to move in a new direction.

Pam Scott from the Nebraska Library Commission reported that a video conference is coming up with the focus on teens. Nancy Escamilla will be one of the presenters. The Continuing Education Grant application period will be from May 16, 2005 through August 1, 2005. The LTA continuing education classes are going to be available this summer through Central Community College. This fall Western Nebraska Community College will present one of the classes. The classes are all on-line. There are scholarships available through the Nebraska Library Commission. "Reaching Teenagers" is a free class being offered on line for all librarians. Heritage Quest will continue to be available in NebraskAccess. The Nebraska Library Commission is adding a position to help with technology in the libraries. E-books subscriptions will probably be the same as last year.

Cherie Longmuir gave the Coordinator's report. In addition to the written comments, she noted that Craig Hicks was given a fifty dollar honorarium for the workshop on computer troubleshooting. Potter Public Library has a new director. On July 14 and 15, a joint meeting of the SACL and NLC Commissioners will be in Scottsbluff. Area librarians are encouraged to attend this open meeting. A welcome dinner is planned at the Feed Barn in Mitchell on July 14.

Cherie gave the budget report. The end of this budget year is in June 30. It is also the end of the two-year budget cycle. There will be money left over so Cherie has contacted the Nebraska Library Commission to see how much money can be carried over, or encumbered. There was discussion about ways to use the funds. Cherie will contact Board members with specific amounts and ask for feedback on a plan.

Cherie has checked on the car lease. There was a discussion on the amount to pay for the down payment on the new car. Allison moved that \$5000.00 be put down for the car lease. Carolyn seconded the motion. The motion carried with eight yes votes, Kathy Terrell voting no (she recommended a higher amount) and Dena Crews was absent. The Technology Plan was reviewed. Lillian moved and Jill seconded the motion to accept the Technology Plan. The motion carried with nine yes votes and Dena Crews being absent. It was also decided to begin a cycle to review the Technology Plan in November and approve the plan in March.

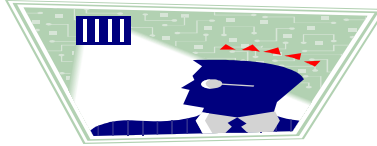
Committee reports were given. Jill reported that she toured the North Platte Museum that will be the subject of the program for the Annual Meeting, which will be at ESU 13 on July 22. The agenda for the annual meeting was discussed. The Nominating Committee has recommended Diane Downer for President; Vickie Retzlaff, Vice President; Ruth Walker, Secretary; and Jill Ellis, Treasurer. The Scholarship Committee reported that there were no nominations yet for the new awards and the scholarship money has not been used.

The Summer Reading Program update was given and all the areas are covered for the theater productions. Cherie Beam-Clarke has been contacted to set up a possible schedule for the program for next year. She would do it for 10 days at 21 libraries for \$3500. Kathy moved the System sign up Cherie Clarke to do the summer reading program. Vickie seconded the motion. The motion carried with nine yes votes and Dena Crews was absent.

The System plan was reviewed in small groups with each group making recommendations for additions and changes.

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Ruth Walker, Secretary



## **Intellectual Freedom: What Does It Have to Do with Me and My Library**

By Bob Boyce, Lincoln City Libraries, for the NLA Intellectual Freedom Committee

“Intellectual Freedom is the right of every individual to both seek and receive information from all points of view without restriction.”(ALA Intellectual Freedom Office) Doesn’t that sound central to every library and every librarian?

Are you ready for requests to withdraw material from your collection, or requests for information about what your users have read?

NLA’s Intellectual Freedom Committee is working to make more people aware of the issues, and to help them be prepared if and when questions arise. Two ways we are doing this are a newly revised Intellectual Freedom Manual and a panel discussion on intellectual freedom at the NLA/NEMA Conference this fall. A public librarian, a school librarian, and an academic librarian will lead a panel discussion about being prepared on intellectual freedom issues when NLA meets in Lincoln in September. We hope you’ll find it of value.

The new edition of the Intellectual Freedom Manual was revised by NLA’s Intellectual Freedom Committee last year and is available online at  
**[www.nlc.state.ne.us/freedom/intellectfree.html](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/freedom/intellectfree.html)**

Before the concerned citizens appear at your door, telling you they want you to withdraw something from your collection, or the FBI asks for your check-out records, you should read this Manual and follow its suggestions. It includes the following sections:

- a checklist of questions on how prepared you are to handle censorship issues;
- a list of records which may be withheld from the public (but may be subpoenaed by the authorities);
- how to create a mission statement and a materials selection policy;
- how to handle reconsideration requests (with a sample form from ALA and a procedure to follow);
- links to various statements (The “Library Bill of Rights,” ALA’s “Freedom to Read, View, and Access Electronic Information” statements, a Guide to the USA PATRIOT Act);
- a list of contacts – addresses and phone numbers of the regional library systems, the Nebraska Library Commission, and NLA- which can offer advice or help.

For more information, come to the panel discussion at conference in September.



Kansas authors Gary and Margaret Kraisinger, of Halstead, KS, will be the featured authors at the **Goodall City Library** during Rendezvous Days, September 15-18. They will present a book talk, sales and signing on Saturday, September 17 from 9am to 11am at the library. Their book, The Western: The Greatest Texas Cattle Trail, 1874-1886, shows the conflicts between the drovers and the homesteaders, the Indian encounters during a time when Indians were being relocated to reservations, and the movement of the trail routes in response to the Kansas quarantine laws. They describe it as “tales and true accounts about cowboys, cattle, saloons, and watering holes on the trail north as related by cowboys and homesteaders.”



ALA has put together a national list of books, with 2 recommended from each state. The idea is to “celebrate the diverse voices in the literature of our nation and the unifying role that libraries play in building a literate nation.” Nebraska’s titles are Delights and Shadows, the Pulitzer prize-winning poetry of Ted Kooser, Nebraska’s own U.S. Poet Laureate; and Holding up the Earth, a young adult title by Nebraskan Dianne Gray.



The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Plum Creek Children’s Literacy Festival will be held on September 22-24 in Seward. The event is designed to foster interaction between nationally-acclaimed authors/illustrators and the children and adults of Nebraska. This year’s presenters are Janet Stevens, Pam Munoz Ryan, Elisa Carbone, W. Nikosa-Lisa, and Stephen Swinburne. For a program schedule and registration info: <http://www.cune.edu/>

Elsie Eiler is the ONLY resident of Monowi, Nebraska, but she has established a library honoring her late husband. To visit the library, pick up the key from Elsie at the Monowi Tavern, the only business in town, which she runs.



The International Reading Association announced their 2005 **Children’s Book Awards**:  
Primary-Fiction: **Miss Bridie Chose a Shovel** by Leslie Conner  
Primary-Nonfiction: **Eliza and the Dragonfly** by Susie Caldwell  
Intermediate-Fiction: **The Golden Hour** by Maiya Williams  
Intermediate-Nonfiction: **Buildings in Disguise** by Joan Marie Arbogast  
Young Adult-Fiction: **Emako Blue** by Brenda Woods  
Young Adult-Nonfiction: **The Burn Journals** by Brent Runyon

Why do we celebrate Labor Day? Because 149.1 million of us go to work everyday. Thanks to Pres. Grover Cleveland for signing the bill in 1894 to give us a day off.

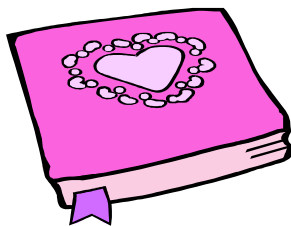


## **10 REASONS NOT TO MISS THE NLA/NEMA CONFERENCE SEPT 29-30---**

- 1. It really starts on Sept.28 with your choice of 3 preconferences:**
  - a. Bridges out of Poverty: Strategies for Professionals and Communities**
  - b. Caring for the Mind @your library ® (mental health issues)**
  - c. AASL: Leading Through Collaboration (schools)**
- 2. Another chocolate basket will be raffled off.**
- 3. There's a banquet, with a program by Mark Twain, and a dance Thursday.**
- 4. Trustees can learn about sales tax, raffles, ethics, & meet the leader of FOLUSA.**
- 5. Awards will be presented, including Golden Sowers.**
- 6. Vendors will have all the latest products – and free stuff.**
- 7. Lincoln is a great place to visit.**
- 8. You can get together with hundreds of other Nebraska librarians.**
- 9. There are over 60 session choices.**
- 10. It's fun and you'll learn a ton.**

**Early bird discount registration is August 1-31. Regular registration is Sept. 1-24.**

**Get all the information at the conference web site:  
<http://www.nla-nema2005.info/>**



*Libraries: Heart and Soul of Communities*

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