

Photos from the Past



Above photo is not of Richard Miller and Sally Snyder. The photo was taken in Cozad on April 18, 1939, for Dawson County Achievement Day. The gentleman was J. C. Adams, county agent for Dawson County, and the woman was Clara B. Johnson, the assistant in charge of extension work at the Library .



University of Nebraska Library—Date unknown

*Photos found as slides at the PLS office storage unit

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**PLS Board Meeting
Panhandle Library System Board Minutes
10:00 AM Tuesday, May
Railway Office Plaza
115 Railway Street, Scottsbluff, NE 69361 Revised 5-14-13**

I. The PLS Board Meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by President Floyd Smith III.

Board members present were Floyd Smith III, Beth Trupp, Terry Christensen, Roberta Boyd, Dixie Riley, Sue Shaver, and Merrilene Wood. Absent were Kendra Casky, Rick Caudillo and Sara Brenneman. Also present were Eric Green, Debbie McCall, Jeri Clapper and Rod Wagner.

II. Review and Approve Minutes from March 12, 2013, Board Meeting

The March 12, 2013, PLS board minutes were corrected. Under District Reports, first paragraph, there is symbol that needs to be removed. On page 2 under Scholarship, “and soon will be the technical person” needs to be stricken. On page 3 third line down from the top, attend should be changed to attended.

A motion to approve the March 12, 2013, minutes as corrected was made by Merrilene and seconded by Dixie. The motion carried.

a. District Reports: Public Lib. (Roberta), Public Lib. (Kendra), Other District Reports
Roberta said she called Sharon Ulbrich from Bayard Public Library. Sharon told Roberta the Bayard library is doing very well and does not do the formal summer reading program since they do AR at the schools. Roberta also called the Mitchell Public Library and talked to Priscilla Carrillo. Mitchell Public is starting their Summer Reading Program on May 20, 2013. She told Roberta they are having speakers from Wildcat Hills Discovery Center and Riverside Zoo. They are trying to get the paleontologist from WNCC. Mitchell Public Library also received a \$20,000.00 grant from the Kruetz Bennett Foundation for building improvements. Roberta said Gering Public Library had a successful book sale. Roberta talked to Ali at Morrill Public Library. Scottsbluff is gearing up for SRP. The Reta E. King Library does not have a new library director at this time.

b. Committee Reports:

Corrected committee’s chairs.

i. Annual Meeting (Kendra & Sue)

Sue said the Annual Meeting is at Valentino’s in Ogallala on Friday, July 19, 2013. PLS will also need a speaker for the annual meeting. The theme is Re-connect.

ii. Nominating (Dixie & Roberta)

Roberta said Allison McBride from Alliance High School, Michele Parks from Regional West Medical Library and Sara Brennemann were elected to the PLS Board.

PLS Board Meeting

iii. Public Relations (Beth & Floyd)

Floyd said Julia Cook will be the next PLS author. She lives in Fremont, NE. She has over 42 books published. She will be here in the Panhandle October 15,16,17, 2013. She is accustomed to doing her own traveling. Her cost is \$1000.00 per day plus expenses.

iv. Scholarship (Merrillene & Terry)

Merrillene had nothing to report. \$200.00 is remaining in the scholarship fund through June 30, 2013. Merrillene said Curtis from WNCC in Scottsbluff is leaving to teach at Wartburg College in Iowa.

v. Technology (Sara & Rick)

c. PLS Coordinator Report: Eric Green

Eric made a hand out of his visits and consultations for the meeting. He asked if there were any questions.

d. Nebraska Library Commission Report: Rod Wagner

Rod shared his report at the meeting. Rod, too, asked if there were any questions.

IV. Old Business

Budget / Financial Status / Audit

Went into Executive Session at 11:01 and returned to general session at 11:45. Floyd said the auditor didn't find a discrepancy. Floyd said the board must have the budget summary by the first of July.

b. Review / Discuss Jeri's Employment Status

Floyd said today is Jeri's last day.

V. New Business

I. Upcoming Events / Announcements

Vii. Adjournment at 12:00 PM

Next Meeting: Friday, July 19, 2013, after the PLS Annual Meeting, Valentino's in Ogallala.
Secretary,
Terry Christensen

"A counterfeit peace exists when people are pacified or distracted or so beat up and tired of fighting that all seems calm. But true peace does not exist until there is justice, restoration, forgiveness. Peacemaking doesn't mean passivity....Most communities that have been around a while identify "straight talk", or create an environment where people do not avoid conflict but speak honestly to one another, as one of the core values of healthy community. Straight talk is counterculture in a world that prefers politeness to honesty."

Martin Luther King JR (August 28th was the 50th anniversary of the *March on Washington and I got a dream speech.*)

***Panhandle Library System
Scholarship Application***

The Panhandle Library System has established a scholarship fund to facilitate the professional development of librarians within the system. Librarians, Media Specialists, and those connected with member agencies within the System may use these monies for attendance at professional meetings, classes, workshops, or other beneficial academic activities.

Provisions of the Scholarship include:

1. Each applicant must submit an application letter and form any time prior to or two weeks after the event for which the scholarship is intended.
2. The Scholarship Committee will review each application received.
3. The Scholarship Committee has the right to adjust the amount requested depending on the budget and the number of applications received during the fiscal year.
4. Scholarships will be evaluated on a first come, first serve basis.
5. Priority will be given to those events within the state.
6. Individual applicants will be limited to requesting scholarships once in a three-year period.
7. Budget, event, amount requested, and the number of applicants will dictate approval or denial of the scholarship requests. More than one scholarship request from the same library agency during a two-year period will need to be reviewed by the Scholarship Committee.
8. Scholarship recipients are requested to provide a brief article in the System Newsletter as a form of resource sharing within one month of completion of the activity. The article is submitted to the PLS office.

Scholarship Committee
Panhandle Library System
115 Railway Street
Scottsbluff, NE 69361

***Panhandle Library System
Scholarship Application***

Name: _____

Library/School/Agency: _____

Complete Address: _____

Phone: _____

Scholarship Activity: _____

Requested Amount: _____

Please describe the activity, why you want to attend this activity, and how it will contribute to your professional growth. Be as specific as possible with the date, location, and function of the activity.

Upcoming Events

**September 4th, WED - 10:00-11:00 NCompass Live session (Central time)
Affordable Care Act update.**

Sept. 10th - PLS Board meeting . PLS office conference room 10am

Sept. 25-28th – Association for Rural Small Libraries – Omaha

Oct. 9-11th – Annual Conference Nebraska Library Association- Kearney

Sept. - Library Card sign - up Month.

Sept.22-28 - Banned Book Week

**Oct. 9th-11th - Nebraska Library Association / Nebraska School Librarians
Association Annual Conference. Younges Conference Center—Kearney**

**Oct. 26th - *A Celebration of Nebraska Books*—Nebraska History Museum
Lincoln**

Basic Skills for Nebraska Librarians Schedule

9/9 - 9/20	Customer Service*	8/2 - 8/30
9/23 - 10/4	Readers Advisory	8/16 - 9/13
10/21 - 11/1	Collection Management*	9/13 - 10/11
11/4 - 11/15	Programming and Outreach	9/27 - 10/25
12/2 - 12/13	Library Governance	10/25 - 11/22

For further information, contact Laura Johnson, Continuing Education Coordinator by phone, at 402-471-2694, or 800-307-2665 or Email: laura.johnson@nebraska.gov

“Thinking is the best way to travel.” - The Moody Blues



HOW CAN WE HELP? : THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT, HEALTHCARE MARKETPLACE, AND THE NEBRASKA LIBRARY COMMISSION

As almost everyone is aware, the next phase of the Affordable Care Act, and more specifically the Healthcare Marketplace Open Enrollment, goes into effect October 1st of this year. The Nebraska Library Commission has been pulling together resources to aid libraries and librarians in guiding patrons to the information they will need for Open Enrollment. The list of questions and resources is growing, as the Commission continues to talk to the various departments and agencies that oversee the ACA process here in Nebraska. To get you started, here are a few of the most important websites to become familiar with.

<https://www.healthcare.gov/> -- The Federally run Health Insurance Marketplace for Nebraska
[Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services FAQs](#) – The top Health Insurance Marketplace questions.

[Nebraska Department of Insurance ACA](#) – information for consumers, health care providers, agents and navigators, companies, and small businesses. <http://marketplace.cms.gov/> -- Under “Get Official Resources”: publications, articles, and brochures for professionals, librarians included.

http://www.webjunction.org/events/webjunction/Libraries_and_Health_Insurance_Preparing_for_October_1.html -- WebJunction recently hosted a webinar on Libraries & Health Insurance: Preparing for October 1

These are just a few of the resources available, so stay tuned to the Nebraska Library Commission webpage for updates. If you have any questions, please call or email us at any time!

KEY DATES TO REMEMBER

AUGUST

MARKETPLACE IS OPEN

[Healthcare.gov](#) (English)

[CuidadoDeSalud.gov](#) (Spanish)

Many languages available

1-800-318-2596 TTY: 1-855-889-4325

SEPTEMBER

ONE-ON-ONE ASSISTANCE CENTERS OPEN

OCTOBER 1, 2013

OPEN ENROLLMENT BEGINS

JANUARY 1, 2014

INSURANCE COVERAGE BEGINS

MARCH 31, 2014

OPEN ENROLLMENT ENDS

How the Health Care Law is Making a Difference for the People of Nebraska

Because of the Affordable Care Act, the 87% of Nebraskans who have insurance have more choices and stronger coverage than ever before. And for the 13% of Nebraskans who don't have insurance, or Nebraska families and small businesses who buy their coverage but aren't happy with it, a new day is just around the corner.

Soon, the new online Health Insurance Marketplace will provide families and small businesses who currently don't have insurance, or are looking for a better deal, a new way to find health coverage that fits their needs and their budgets.

Open enrollment in the Marketplace starts Oct 1, with coverage starting as soon as Jan 1, 2014. But Nebraska families and small business can visit **HealthCare.gov** right now to find the information they need prepare for open enrollment.

The health care law is already providing better options, better value, better health and a stronger Medicare program to the people of Nebraska by:

Better Options -The Health Insurance Marketplace

Beginning Oct 1, the Health Insurance Marketplace will make it easy for Nebraskans to compare qualified health plans, get answers to questions, find out if they are eligible for lower costs for private insurance or health programs like Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and enroll in health coverage.

By the Numbers: Uninsured Nebraskans who are eligible for coverage through the Marketplace.

- 195,714 (13%) are uninsured and eligible
- 164,622 (84%) have a full-time worker in the family
- 76,209 (39%) are 18-35 years old
- 135,898 (69%) are White
- 15,225 (8%) are African American
- 29,515 (15%) are Latino/Hispanic
- 4,700 (2%) are Asian American or Pacific Islander

105,635 (54%) are male

181,025 (92%) of Nebraska's uninsured and eligible population may qualify for either tax credits to purchase coverage in the Marketplace or for Medicaid if Nebraska takes advantage of the new opportunity to expand Medicaid coverage under the Affordable Care Act.

Nebraska has received \$6,481,838 in grants for research, planning, information technology development, and implementation of its Health Insurance Marketplace.

New coverage options for young adults

Under the health care law, if your plan covers children, you can now add or keep your children on your health insurance policy until they turn 26 years old. Thanks to this provision, over 3 million young people who would otherwise have been uninsured have gained coverage nationwide, including 18,000 young adults in Nebraska.

Ending discrimination for pre-existing conditions

As many as 767,878 non-elderly Nebraskans have some type of pre-existing health condition, including 105,921 children. Today, insurers can no longer deny coverage to children because of a pre-existing condition, like asthma or diabetes, under the health care law. And beginning in 2014, health insurers will no longer be able to charge more or deny coverage to anyone because of a pre-existing condition. The health care law also established a temporary health insurance program for individuals who were denied health insurance coverage because of a pre-existing condition. 421 Nebraskans with pre-existing conditions have gained coverage through the Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan since the program began.

Better Value -*Providing better value for your premium dollar through the 80/20 Rule*

Health insurance companies now have to spend at least 80 cents of your premium dollar on health care or improvements to care, or provide you a refund. This means that 42,036 Nebraska residents with private insurance coverage will benefit from \$2,000,151 in refunds from insurance companies this year, for an average refund of \$82 per family covered by a policy.

Scrutinizing unreasonable premium increases

In every State and for the first time under Federal law, insurance companies are required to publicly justify their actions if they want to raise rates by 10 percent or more. Nebraska has received \$3,000,000 under the new law to help fight unreasonable premium increases.

Removing lifetime limits on health benefits

The law bans insurance companies from imposing lifetime dollar limits on health benefits – freeing cancer patients and individuals suffering from other chronic diseases from having to worry about going without treatment because of their lifetime limits. Already, 701,000 people in Nebraska, including 257,000 women and 192,000 children, are free from worrying about lifetime limits on coverage. The law also restricts the use of annual limits and bans them completely in 2014.

Better Health***Covering preventive services with no deductible or co-pay***

The health care law requires many insurance plans to provide coverage without cost sharing to enrollees for a variety of preventive health services, such as colonoscopy screening for colon cancer, Pap smears and mammograms for women, well-child visits, and flu shots for all children and adults.

In 2011 and 2012, 71 million Americans with private health insurance gained preventive service coverage with no cost-sharing, including 477,000 in Nebraska. And for policies renewing on or after August 1, 2012, women can now get coverage without cost-sharing of even more preventive services they need. Approximately 47 million women, including 306,915 in Nebraska will now have guaranteed access to additional preventive services without cost-sharing.

Increasing support for community health centers

The health care law increases the funding available to community health centers nationwide. In Nebraska, 6 health centers operate 33 sites, providing preventive and primary health care services to 63,532 people. Health Center grantees in Nebraska have received \$23,658,080 under the health care law to support ongoing health center operations and to establish new health center sites, expand services, and/or support major capital improvement projects.

Community Health Centers in all 50 states have also received a total of \$150 million in federal grants to help enroll uninsured Americans in the Health Insurance Marketplace, including \$678,562 awarded to Nebraska health centers. With these funds, Nebraska health centers expect to hire 13 additional workers, who will assist 23,115 Nebraskans with enrollment into affordable health insurance coverage.

Investing in the primary care workforce

As a result of historic investments through the health care law and the Recovery Act, the numbers of clinicians in the National Health Service Corps are at all-time highs with nearly 10,000 Corps clinicians providing care to more than 10.4 million people who live in rural, urban, and frontier communities. The National Health Service Corps repays educational loans and provides scholarships to primary care physicians, dentists, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, behavioral health providers, and other primary care providers who practice in areas of the country that have too few health care professionals to serve the people who live there. As of September 30, 2012, there were 65 Corps clinicians providing primary care services in Nebraska, compared to 18 in 2008.

Preventing illness and promoting health

As of March 2012, Nebraska had received \$7,300,000 in grants from the Prevention and Public Health Fund created by the health care law. This new fund was created to support effective policies in Nebraska, its communities, and nationwide so that all Americans can lead longer, more productive lives.

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A Stronger Medicare Program - Making prescription drugs affordable for seniors

In Nebraska, people with Medicare saved nearly \$44 million on prescription drugs because of the Affordable Care Act. In 2012 alone, 23,049 individuals in Nebraska saved over \$15 million, or an average of \$661 per beneficiary. In 2012, people with Medicare in the “donut hole” received a 50 percent discount on covered brand name drugs and 14 percent discount on generic drugs. And thanks to the health care law, coverage for both brand name and generic drugs will continue to increase over time until the coverage gap is closed. Nationally, over 6.6 million people with Medicare have saved over \$7 billion on drugs since the law’s enactment.

Covering preventive services with no deductible or co-pay

With no deductibles or co-pays, cost is no longer a barrier for seniors and people with disabilities who want to stay healthy by detecting and treating health problems early. In 2012 alone, an estimated 34.1 million people benefited from Medicare’s coverage of preventive services with no cost-sharing. In Nebraska, 177,050 individuals with traditional Medicare used one or more free preventive service in 2012.

Protecting Medicare’s solvency

The health care law extends the life of the Medicare Trust Fund by ten years. From 2010 to 2012, Medicare spending per beneficiary grew at 1.7 percent annually, substantially more slowly than the per capita rate of growth in the economy. And the health care law helps stop fraud with tougher screening procedures, stronger penalties, and new technology. Over the last four years, the administration’s fraud enforcement efforts have recovered \$14.9 billion from fraudsters. For every dollar spent on health care-related fraud and abuse activities in the last three years the administration has returned \$7.90. ***Last updated: Aug. 1, 2013***

Reminder: Wednesday, September 4th, 10:00-11:00 NCompass Live session (Central time), which is a further Affordable Care Act update.



PLS Annual Meeting—Ogallala July 19th



NE Leadership Institute Conference - Schuyler - Aug -5-9th



Library Director Vickie Razlaff speaks at the Grant County Library (Hyannis) Open house and computer demonstration - June 28th

PANHANDLE SUN

Country singer/songwriter Marty Stuart and his band the Superlatives at the Five Rocks Amphitheater in Gering on August 29th to raise funds in support of the **Legacy of the Plains.**



Article from the Past – 2006

Lamar Community College – Lamar Colorado

OBSERVATIONS FROM CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

By Eric R Green MLS MA

As a college librarian and I have attended many librarian conferences in of Colorado over the years. Inevitably, in these conferences there is always one session on something that sound vaguely sociological and with a social science background I go; these types of sessions are always presented by a motivational speaker. There is also a pattern to their presentations that always seem vaguely familiar. They always pride themselves on being great readers of individuals just by seeing that person or meeting them in a few seconds. This “ability” always covers people whose emotions seem to be more closed than most, which is of course opposite of their out-going-smiley-perky morning TV show types of personalities. They always pick on the seemingly quieter people as if they are potential serial killers. Once in a Denver Public Library meeting, a hired motivational speaker was asking us library folks, “Where do you think your library can save money?” I had to bite my tongue from not saying, “By not hiring motivational speakers!”

What about the diversity of American cultures? Knowing the complexities of human behavior you can’t always tell a persons culture much less size up a personality type in an instantly. It seems these motivational speakers get influences from our popular culture like that of Dr. Phil. Our entertain driven youth culture of in-your-face, MTV type of loudness seems to be infiltrating other aspects of our culture especially like the business and media cultures.

Now how does this apply to libraries and especially academic libraries like mine? When patrons come in to the library, we have the opportunity and obligation to size up what the individual might want by a glance. The obvious thing to do is to ask, but as many library personnel know, some patrons don’t really know what they want or can express it in a manner that is understandable. Many of the patrons that come in are from the young MTV-texting-skateboarders-iPod generation who has the apparent verbal range of “Yea” and “Uh”. If an open-ended reference interview is done properly there is sometimes hope in getting through the initial caveman-type of communication that some in our society seem to be stuck in. In these situations I sometimes find myself become a motivational type of speaker and work on getting out what the patron really wants. When a connection is made and they find exactly what they want there is that moment of discovery some-time I find myself even uttering the much outdated phrase “Cool Man.”

After all, I do find I’m a motivation speaker of sorts. Some of my students do tell me I’m one of the more passionate instructors on campus, both in the classroom and in library instruction. Before this revelation I never really thought myself the librarian, as an “information cheerleader.” Library science is a very hard profession in many different aspects, which the public might not always appreciate. One of our biggest challenges is to motivate more of our patrons to become information junkies and critical thinkers. So I guess I’ll continue to attend these motivational sessions and keep an open mind and yes, try to smile more.



*Please submit your articles, letters and library updates to the *Panhandle Sun* for the next issue ; November/December. Thanks, *Eric Green*

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Gering — Photo taken by Eric Green *

PLS Board of Trustees:

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Roberta Boyd

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Kendra Caskey

Rick Caudillo

Allison McBride

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Dixie Riley

Sue Shaver

Counties Served:

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

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