



# Stacks of News

Newsletter of the Southeast Kansas Library System

Southeast Kansas Library System  
218 E. Madison  
Topeka, KS 66749

May-June 2007

## State Library of Kansas Will Offer Certification Program for Kansas Public Library Administrators

by Shannon Roy  
KSL Newsletter - April 2007



On July 1, 2007, the State Library of Kansas will be launching an exciting new statewide certification program for Kansas public library administrators. A new publication called Reaching for Excellence: The Certification Program for Kansas Public Library Administrators will be printed and made widely available to librarians and trustees in the Spring of 2007. It has been placed on the State Library of Kansas website.

The new certification program will offer an initial certificate to every Kansas public library administrator who applies. The certification will be at one of four levels. Each level of certification will document certain credentials in education and/or continuing education. By choosing to become a certified public library administrator, a Kansas library administrator confirms their present credentials and indicates an ongoing commitment to their professional development.

The certificate confirming a Kansas public library administrator at the appropriate level will be valid for three years from the date it is issued. The certificate may be renewed or a new certification may be granted if the training requirements have been met.

The training requirement for all

levels is 45 contact hours of library training within the three year certification period. All contact hours must be in one of the seven categories in the Core Competencies for Kansas Public Library Directors.

The core competencies were created in 2006 by a task force of Kansas librarians appointed by State Librarian Christie Brandau. They are an essential part of the Certification Program. The core competencies will serve as a benchmark for public library administrative training and a blueprint for continuing education providers. The State Library, the regional library systems and the library associations will offer a wide variety of training programs that will help public library directors create excellent public libraries for Kansas citizens.

Certification programs are a growing trend in American librarianship at both the state and national levels, but certification programs may have different purposes and different target audiences. The first Kansas Certification Program is specifically for public librarians and it is designed to be an ongoing program for all public library administrators, regardless of their education level or the size of their library.

Over the past twenty years, Kansas librarians have shown a strong

*(Continued on page 3)*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Director's Corner	2
Minimum Wage Increase	2
KPERS Benefits Changes	3
J. Prideaux Maternity	3
2007 K-PLACE Grads	4
Oswego Tree	4
Rotation Reminders	4
Sandy's Column	5
Kansas Reads Feedback	5
S. Wilkerson Maternity	5
Storyteller's Tour	5
Around the System	6
Thru IRISH's Eyes	6
KLTA Certification	7
Lucile Wagner Obituary	7
Job Opening: Parsons	7

# DIRECTOR'S CORNER

BY ROGER CARSWELL

Public libraries find themselves preparing budgets at this time of year. I thought it might be interesting to share information about mil levies for public libraries.

In case you have wondered, mil means "per mil" and is used in mathematics, especially in economics, to indicate parts per thousand. Mil values are sometimes used to express the extent of an annual tax levy on a property, particularly real estate. For example, if the levy is 15 in a particular area, that means \$15 per \$1000 of assessed value. A \$300,000 house would thus be assessed an annual tax of \$300,000 x 15, or \$4500.

We have mil levy information available for 52 out of 55 public libraries; the other three libraries do not have a Library Fund.

Mil levies for SEKLS public libraries range

from a low 0.541 to a high of 11.254. Below is a summary of how many libraries are at various levels of mil levies. Where there is a library employee benefit fund, that levy is included.

Mil levy	Number of libraries
2 mils or less	8
2.001-3.0 mils	9
3.001-4.0	8
4.001-5.0 mils	14
5.001-6.0 mils	7
6.001-7.0 mils	2
More than 7 mils	4

The median mil levy is 4.182 mils. For city libraries, the median is 4.295 mils.

Definition of mil is from [http://whatis.techtarget.com/definition/0,,sid9\\_gci862852,00.html](http://whatis.techtarget.com/definition/0,,sid9_gci862852,00.html)



## Federal Minimum Wage Increases by \$2.10!

source: <http://www.laborlawcenter.com/federal-minimum-wage.asp?gclid=CNuch9mb5owCFR6AWAodsjaq7A>

President Bush has signed a bill that increased the Federal Minimum Wage rate. The increase is the first ever since 1997! In approximately 60 days, the new rate will take effect and employers must comply. States that are operating under the current Federal

Minimum Wage of \$5.15 will soon need to comply with the new rate. Although many states are currently operating under a State Minimum Wage that is already higher than the Federal Minimum Wage, they still must post the new notice reflecting the new rate.

3 step increase is scheduled as follows:

- \$5.85 - Summer of 2007
- \$6.55 - Summer of 2008
- \$7.25 - Summer of 2009

### STATEMENT OF PUBLICATION

SEKLS STACKS OF NEWS IS PUBLISHED SIX TIMES ANNUALLY BY THE SOUTHEAST KANSAS LIBRARY SYSTEM. 218 E. MADISON. IOLA, KS 66749. SUBMISSION OF NEWS, PRESS RELEASES OR OTHER MATERIALS FROM MEMBER LIBRARIES OR OTHER STATE OR LOCAL NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS IS ENCOURAGED. WE DO NOT SELL ADVERTISING SPACE. ARTICLES MAY BE EDITED FOR LENGTH, CLARITY OR ERRORS. ANY ORIGINAL ARTICLE MAY BE REPRODUCED BY ANY NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION USING PROPER CITATION. NOT NECESSARY, BUT APPRECIATED, IS NOTIFICATION BY EMAIL, IF USING ALL OR PART OF AN ORIGINAL ARTICLE. PLEASE EMAIL EITHER [RCARSWELL@SEKLS.ORG](mailto:RCARSWELL@SEKLS.ORG) OR [IJONES@SEKLS.ORG](mailto:IJONES@SEKLS.ORG)

# KPERS Benefits Changing for FUTURE Members

by **Carolyn Guernsey**, Business Operations, Southwest Kansas Library Systems

In April the Kansas Legislature passed and the Governor signed into law changes in the KPERS plan that affect ONLY future members, beginning with employees hired July 1, **2009**. These changes will in no way affect current members or current employees who have not yet completed their “year of service.”

KPERS Designated Agents have been urged to “remind current employees that

their retirement benefits are safe and guaranteed by Kansas law. The new plan design in no way affects current retirement eligibility.”

A few of the changes for *future* members include:

- 📖 First-day membership in KPERS (no “year of service” requirement).
- 📖 Five-year vesting (instead of 10 years).
- 📖 Normal retirement at age 65 with five years of service (currently no years of service re-specified), or at age 60

with 30 years of service (instead of age 62 with 10 years of service).

- 📖 Employee contribution rate of 6 percent (instead of 4 percent).

For more details about the difference between the current plan (which is not changing for current members) and the future plan (affecting only employees hired after July 1, **2009**) go to <http://kpers.org> and click on “KPERS Benefits Changing for Future Members” under “New @ KPERS”.

## SEKLS LIBRARIANS — DON'T DELAY! APPLY FOR CERTIFICATON TODAY!

WE HAVE MANY GREAT WORKSHOPS COMING UP. THEY CAN COUNT TOWARD YOUR RENEWAL ONCE YOU HAVE THE INITIAL CERTIFICATION. YOU WILL NEED 45 CE HRS IN THE NEXT THREE YEARS. THAT'S ONLY 15 CE HOURS PER YEAR. WATCH OUR FLYERS AND SEE WHICH WORKSHOPS WILL HELP YOU GET YOUR RENEWAL.

## Librarian Certification

(Continued from page 1)

commitment to their professional development. The certification project will foster a truly state-wide program of professional training for public librarians. It will also gain wider recognition

of library administration as a demanding field that requires sophisticated skills, continuous training and a strong commitment to the quality of life in Kansas communities.

**Reaching for Excellence: The Kansas Certification Program for Public Library Administrators** can be viewed at

<http://www.skyways.org/KSL/development/certificationprogram.pdf>. If you have any questions or concerns about this project, please call Shannon Roy, Continuing Education Coordinator, at 785/296-2148 or send e-mail to [shanroy@kslib.info](mailto:shanroy@kslib.info).

Copyright by YourSITE.com

## Talking Books: Temporary Changes

By **Jaime Prideaux**, Special Needs Consultant

Many of you have probably already heard that my husband and I are expecting a baby. Time has flown over the last few months, and it's hard to believe my due date will soon be here! Once the baby arrives in



late June or early July, I plan to be on maternity leave for about 2 months.

During that time, if you or any patrons need assistance with Talking Books, please contact the Wichita Subregional Talking Books Library toll free at 1-800-362-2869. If you want to order materials from the Special Needs collection here at SEKLS, you can continue to do so through Interlibrary Loan.



### Why Are These Women Cheering?

Becky Passauer, Independence Public; Carrie Laflin, Coffey County, Lebo; Kathy Schaefer, Coffey County, Waverly; Diana Huff, Bronson Public; Kim Simons, Pleasanton Lincoln Library; and Stephanie Arbuckle, Weir Public are the SEKLS graduates from the last K-PLACE training offered. The State Library is now offering the Librarian Certification program instead of K-PLACE. The State hopes to reach more librarians at one time through training events at Tri-Conference pre-conferences and special workshops. The torch has been passed to a new program, but our K-PLACE graduates are glad they were able to be K-PLACERS!

### A Tree Grows in Oswego



Artist Mark Pendergrass at work on the tree in Oswego Public Library's Children's Area



### ROTATION REMINDERS!

- 📖 Please pack green boxes neatly and in alphabetical and numerical order. This is the way you want them to come to you.
- 📖 Please do not put LARGE PRINT, WESTERNS, or NEW MATERIALS in Overflow.
- 📖 Please be sure to have your boxes ready on Rotation Day.

Thanks for your help!

**Kathryn Herder**  
**Rotation Department**



## Sandy's Column

by Sandy Wilkerson, SEKLS  
Youth Consultant

You Never Know what the summer will bring. The summer reading program will be

kicking off in libraries all over SEKLS this month.

Kids and teens will be searching and solving mysteries all summer long. There are even a few adult programs that will center around the mystery theme this year. The summer reading program was designed to keep kids reading throughout the summer months in order to maintain their reading skills during the long summer vacation from schoolwork. The program also helps develop a positive attitude about reading and books and motivates them to read for pleasure. By incorporating a summer reading theme the library attracts new users to the library and encourages regular use by our younger

patrons.

I hope that you have all set a library goal to increase your summer reading participation by 10% more children from last year. And I hope you can recruit more teen volunteers to help with your summer program. Both goals are positive and realistic ones that each library should meet.

Including a YA summer reading program benefits teens by helping them grow into healthy, responsible and caring adults. There are so many positives that summer reading gives all that are involved in the project. So come on, Get a Clue @ Your Library this summer!

## Be Heard! Give Your Feedback on Kansas Reads... The Learning Tree

From January 29 through April 30, the Kansas Center for the Book at the State Library of Kansas promoted **Kansas Reads...The Learning Tree** by Gordon Parks. The Kansas Center for the Book is seeking feedback about the program and your participation in it. They need to know about the programs at your institution and they need your input for planning future Kansas Reads projects. If you participated in **Kansas Reads...The Learning Tree** you can visit their website at [www.kcfb.info](http://www.kcfb.info) to find the surveys.

Watch for more information about the 2008 one-book/one-state project, **Kansas Reads...In Cold Blood** by Truman Capote!

## Sandy's Summer Plans

As the saying goes, babies come when they are ready and not a minute before. This summer youth services is operating on "baby time" and the best way to contact Sandy Wilkerson will be through e-mail at [swilkerson@sekls.org](mailto:swilkerson@sekls.org). For consulting issues during

July and August please contact Iris Jones or Roger Carswell.



## Storyteller's Tour June 25-29

SEKLS is hosting the annual storyteller tour June 25-29. Eighteen libraries are taking advantage of this opportunity to have Jo Ho visit their libraries as "Shirleylocks Holmes" as she tells mysteri-

ous tales of how things came to be.

Inquisitive minds will find out why monkeys live in trees, why the sun and moon appear at different times of the day, why dogs chase cats, and many more mind-boggling multicultural solution-solving stories.



# AROUND THE SYSTEM

📖 Congratulations to Mindy Westerman of Hamilton Public Schools! She was awarded The Ruth Carver Gagliardo award for the summer of 2007 at the KASL luncheon at Tri-Conference. This award is given to improve preparation of school librarians and is designed to be used for summer graduate level classes.

📖 We've seen library cats and library fish. Erie Public Library has a Library Bird named Beorn. He sings to the patrons and gives wolf whistles.



Beorn

📖 Does the nice weather give you an urge to be outside? Trundle over to the Hamilton City Library and check out a fishing pole. They have a good collection that sees steady circulation this time of year.

📖 You've seen the tree that's growing in Oswego. Trees are popular in our libraries.



Savonburg's Children's Area

They turn up in creative places. Savonburg Library has a tree that shades a host of activities in the Children's Area.

📖 Moran Library's tree greets you before you enter the door.



Moran's Cheery Entrance

📖 We wish Marcella Chapman of the Waverly Branch of Coffey County Library System a happy retirement!

📖 The Automation Project is going well. The Cataloging Team has entered 14, 993 items in the computer for Eureka Public and has put 3446 items in for Sedan. This isn't everything in either library's collection, but it is the bulk of the materials that circulate. Before moving to the next library, the Team teaches the staff where they have been working to

enter their own records so they can finish the collection and enter new materials. The Team's next stop will be Bronson Public.

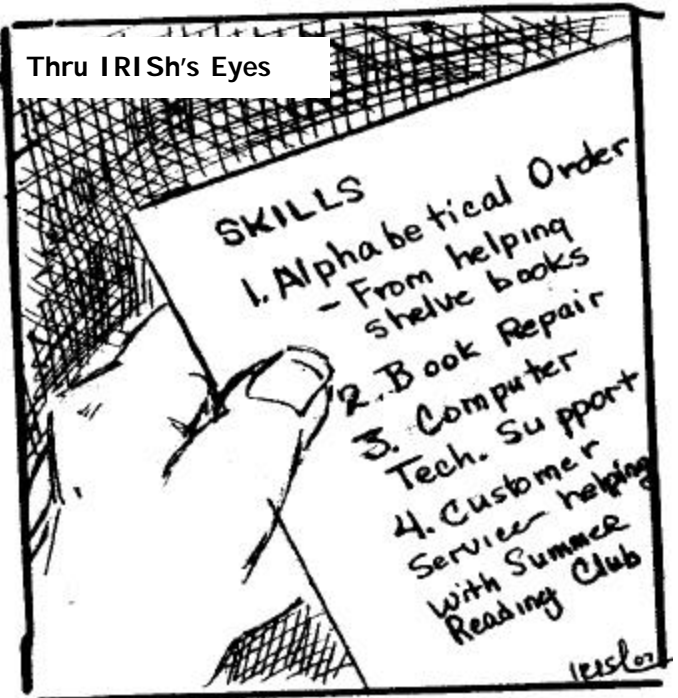


Chetopa's Handmade Flag

Independence Day is coming! The children at Chetopa's library have give the flag a big hand.

📖 What's going on in YOUR library? Please send Iris (IRISH) a note (and pictures!) of news in your library. We publish all the news that fits!

Thru IRISH's Eyes



The Librarian's Child's Resume

## Kansas Library Trustee Assn. Offers Trustee Certification

Libraries aren't run by librarians alone. There is a team of busy people standing behind the librarian that works with her to offer the best library service to a community. That team is the Library Board of Trustees.

The Kansas Library Trustee Association recognizes that willing as they are, many Board Members are new to their duties and need training in how to operate a Board effectively.

In order to encourage Board Members to get training and to recognize those who have, KLTA is offering a Trustee Certification Program. There are



five core areas that Board Members should understand. The core areas are:

1. The Library Director's Job
2. Board Operations
3. Budgets and Advocacy
4. Policies
5. Planning

Board Members who take training in these five areas and apply for certification will be certified for a 3-year period. Certification can be renewed by taking five additional hours of training. Training can be taken at the library, through SEKLS, state or national workshops, or through online courses.

For more information, go to <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/KLA/divisions/klta/kantep.html>

## Farewell to Lucille Wagner

Lucille Wagner, SEKLS' first System Director, passed away May 11, 2007. She administered the Iola Public Library from 1958 to 1978

and became SEKLS director in the mid 1960s. Lucille had been in declining health for several years.



Lucille was a dynamic woman, full of energy and enthusiasm. Her two passions were music and libraries. Even after her formal retirement, she worked part-time for SEKLS well into the 1990s.

### Job Opening: Library Director, Parsons Public Library

Responsible for planning, organizing, directing and coordinating all activities of the library consistent with the general policies determined by the Board of Trustees.

Prepares agendas and reports for monthly board meetings and special meetings. Provides timely notice of meetings to the public via media. Assists Board of Trustees in development and revision of policy. Prepares and recommends budget for board adoption. Administers budget as adopted by the board.

Recommends selection of staff

required to provide library services and activities. Establishes job assignments and work schedules for staff. Plans and conducts or provides training of staff. Evaluates each staff member at least once yearly and recommends retention or release.

Supervises the maintenance of personnel, financial, and statistical records and the maintenance and operation of the library building and equipment.

Required and Preferred Qualifications:

The candidate must have an MLS from an ALA accredited institution with a minimum of 5 years of library experience, some administrative



and public library experience preferred.

Salary starting in the mid 30's depending upon qualifications.. See a complete job description at [www.parsonslibrary.org](http://www.parsonslibrary.org)

Position is open until filled.

Contact Information: Send cover letter, resume and three professional references to Parsons Public Library, attn: Karissa Wilhoft, 311 S. 17th Street, Parsons, Kansas 67357.



# STACKS OF NEWS

NONPROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Toia, Kansas  
PERMIT No. 13



## SEKLS Calendar

### July

26 Library Policies (Girard)

### August

29 Grant Writing Workshop (Garnett)

30 Summer Reading Wrap-Up (Independence)

### September

11 \* Reference Interview Workshop (Burlington)

13 \* Reference Interview Workshop (Parsons)

26 SEKLS Bus Tour

### October

18 Westminster Woods In-Service

25 \* KLYC "Boys and Reading" (Wichita)

26 \* KLYC "Boys and Reading" (Topeka)

\* Identical workshops; pick the one closest to you