

Stacks of

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

September—October 2009

Rural and Small Libraries Conference a huge success!



Laura DeBaun, NEKLS, and Royce Kitts, Tonganoxie Public Library, board the Gatlinburg Trolley at the ARSL Conference.

Fifteen librarians from three regional systems in Kansas shared an amazing, extended bus trip to Gatlinburg, Tennessee September 9-14. We learned how small libraries can achieve staff training goals in 15-minute increments without leaving the library, and what free internet products enable even tiny libraries to hold online meetings with colleagues at other sites. The Director of *Library Journal's* Best Small Library in America described her community's economic, literacy, and employment situation and it was clear that she is in a much more challenging environment than that of any library we know in Kansas. Yet she and her staff work daily to be the best they can be for every customer. We were inspired by the story of the packhorse librarians of 1930s Kentucky who delivered books into the remote mountains for people poorer and more desperate than the patrons that any of us work with today.



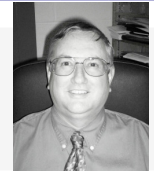
Wendy Morlan, Pleasanton Library, reads a story to a toddler as we wait for our replacement bus to rescue us from Nashville—long story.

Our days were filled with breakfast conversations with rural librarians who asked us how Koha worked in our consortium, and lunch exchanges with librarians who could share how their state library came to provide scholarships for attendance at this conference. We ate dinner with librarians from every corner of the United States and we found out that they all share our frustrations and problems but that when we compared notes, we were really glad to be returning home to our own challenges and not theirs.

The conference was exhausting but exciting, and we all returned with ideas and innovations to try out in our own libraries. We are worn-out from the travel but renewed by the new friendships and connections we shared. You'll be hearing more about the things we brought back from ARSL, and you can view the new website for the organization at <http://www.arsl.info>. Handouts from the sessions will be posted online. We'll let you know when plans are made for next year's ARSL conference in Denver, October 14-16, 2010. Maybe you'll be lucky enough to go.

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

BY ROGER CARSWELL



The Kansas Library Trustee Certification Program has been in place for two years now. I believe that this has been and will continue to be an excellent development for the Kansas library community. The program outlines five core skills for trustees. Trustees who receive education in all five of these areas receive certification.

There are several reasons certification is beneficial for trustees and the libraries they serve.

- ◆ Knowledgeable trustees are more effective board members, which usually translates into better library service.
- ◆ Certification can enhance the standing of board members in the eyes of others, including, perhaps most importantly, local government leaders
- ◆ Beginning in 2010, having certified trustees increases the money the library receives through the public library allocation.

Trustee training can be obtained in a variety of ways. The State Library has offered training twice a year, and with ELMER sites trustees may have a participating location closer to home than would otherwise be the case. SEKLS has provided trustee training opportunities, most recently at the June System Meeting. Local library directors can present training at board meetings.

The State Library and Kansas Library Trustee Association have prepared materials which can be used for local board training. SEKLS also can loan or copy the DVD *Trustee Trouble: The Misadventures of a New Library Board Member*. This is a well done production of the Wyoming State Library with discussion questions built in. SEKLS recently offered four sessions of "How To Train Your Library Board" to help prepare librarians to present board training.

So far, only 36 SEKLS trustees are certified. We hope to see that increase to well over 100.

For more information on the Kansas Library Trustee Certification Program, see the publication *Reaching for Excellence: The Kansas Library Trustee Certification Program*, which all public libraries received in 2007, or check the State Library's web site at <http://www.kslib.info/continuing.html#trustees>.

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STATEMENT OF PUBLICATION

SEKLS *Stacks of News* IS PUBLISHED SIX TIMES ANNUALLY BY THE SOUTHEASTERN KANSAS LIBRARY TRUSTEE ASSOCIATION, 66749. SUBMISSION OF NEWS, PRESS RELEASES OR OTHER MATERIALS FROM MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS IS ENCOURAGED. WE DO NOT SELL ADVERTISING SPACE. ARTICLES AND PHOTOS OF ANY ORIGINAL ARTICLE MAY BE REPRODUCED BY ANY NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION. IF YOU HAVE ANY COMMENTS, APPRECIATED, IS NOTIFICATION BY EMAIL, IF USING ALL OR PART OF THE ARTICLE, PLEASE CONTACT ROGER CARSWELL AT RCARSWELL@SEKLS.ORG OR KRUTTER@SEKLS.ORG

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NECESSARY, BUT
EMAIL EITHER

Around the System



Staff members at Eureka Public Library received an unexpected and very tasty thank you recently. One of their young patrons finally completed the last book in the “Thoroughbred” series (over 70 books!). She had been working on this series over the last three summers, and most of the books had to come through ILL. As a thank you for helping her achieve her goal, the young reader’s family had a delicious large cookie baked and decorated with the Thoroughbred logo. It was a race to get the picture taken before the cookie was sampled!

One of the fun and popular activities during the summer is the children’s summer reading programs at the public libraries. At the Parsons Public Library, the summer reading program is regularly attended by children and some of their parents to hear a story, have arts and crafts, and enjoy refreshments. The book was *Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge*, by Mem Fox. In two sessions, about 55 children, ages 3 to 6, and many parents attended to hear the story, read by the Children’s Librarian, Miss Willie, about Wilfrid who lives near an “old folk’s home.” During a visit, Wilfrid learns of one resident who has lost her memory. Not knowing what a memory is, Wilfrid asks other people at the facility about memories, and eventually plots a course to help Miss Nancy get

her memory back. An Alzheimer’s Association staff member attended the event to answer questions after the reading and to lead a short discussion about ideas from the book. Participants were enthusiastic about the book and readily participated in the discussion. One person asked, “How do you lose your memory?” Others suggested additional items that could have been given to help Miss Nancy get her memory back. For the arts and crafts portion, library staff prepared a memory card game as an activity related to the book and the game could then be put in a “memory bag” to take home. Similar reading events have been scheduled or held in other SEK public libraries including Chanute, Fort Scott and Columbus

changes to allocation criteria

Changes to the criteria for determining public library allocations were announced at the June System Meeting. These changes are effective for the 2010 allocations. Here is a summary.

One new criterion was added. Each trustee who is certified will earn the library 1% above the allocation base

amount, up to 7% maximum. Township libraries with five trustees earn 7% when all five trustees are certified.

Two criteria were dropped. Library director salary was dropped because it was based on state compensation guidelines which are old and are not being updated. Filing the state statistical report was

dropped as this became superfluous with the State Library's tying of completing the report to receiving state aid.

The percentage which could be earned was increased for four criteria: hours of operation on weekends and evenings; annual evaluation of the library director; offering wi-fi; and maintaining a web page.

QUESTIONS, QUESTIONS, QUESTIONS, QUESTIONS

Below are some of the questions we've had recently for which the answers may be useful to others.

Q. Who has ownership of library property, such as books and equipment? The mayor claims that the city owns everything in the library by proxy.

A. Library boards own library property. The statutes specify that boards may own both personal and real property. If purchased from library funds, which includes the Library Fund (tax income), state aid, the SEKLS allocation, donations to the library, or any other funds under the control of the library board, the items purchased are the property of the library board. An exception might be if the city purchased something from non-library funds and placed it physically in the library. The phrase "owning by proxy" is without meaning as far as we can tell. Proxy has to do with voting, not ownership.

Q. Our meeting room policy states that no admission fee may be charged, and that no product may be sold. The board has discussed changing these two things. Is there some reason the policy must contain these two prohibitions?

A. These are fairly standard components of meeting room policies. The reason most often cited for prohibiting admission fees is that a program in the library (whether offered by the library or not) should be offered on an equitable basis, and that those unable to afford an admission fee should not be excluded. The reason most often cited for prohibiting sales is that this is not consistent with the character of a public library. However, there is nothing requiring that the policy contain these two prohibitions. Please note that if anyone is allowed to sell products, then everyone must be allowed to sell. You cannot decide that some products may be sold, and others may not, or that some people or organizations may sell, and others may not.

Q. I am a library board member and was asked to take the place of treasurer of the city. Can I do this?

A. The law says that other than the mayor "no person holding any office in the municipality shall be appointed a member [of the library board]". So the city treasurer may not be on the library board.

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Read for the Record

Thursday, October 8, 2009 is the day to Read for the Record. This year's selection is Eric Carle's timeless *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. Begun in 2006 Jumpstart's Read for the Record is a world-wide endeavor to bring children and librarians, teachers, parents, daycare providers and others who will read the same book, on the same day and discover the power and importance of reading. Last year, *Corduroy* by Don Freeman was read to over 700,000 on the same day all around the world.

For more information visit the website: www.readfortherecord.org



AnnouncementAnnouncementAnnouncement

The Kansas Center for the Book at the State Library of Kansas is once again proud to promote the importance of reading to Kansas preschoolers and other youth. In its fifth year, Kansas Reads to Preschoolers is spotlighting this year's book, written by Doreen Cronin *Wiggle*. The website is up and running with new ideas for librarians and educators. Check it out today <http://www.kcfb.info/wiggle>

For more information contact Janie Rutherford, janier@kslib.info



November 15-21, 2009

At LARGE

by Beckye Parker
Special Needs Consultant

What does a special needs person look like? What do they sound like? Can you tell who has special needs and who doesn't? If you use a dictionary definition of special needs, we all have special needs. The definition of special needs is:

“The individual requirements (as for education) of a person with a disadvantaged background or a mental, emotional, or physical disability or a high risk of developing one”.

The Special Needs Collection at SEKLS has something for everyone, whether you have “Special Needs” or might develop them. If a patron has suffered a stroke, a Pastime game might help with their memory. For someone recovering from a broken hand, we have Tangle Puzzle to get that hand moving. We have a new item called the MonoMouse magnifier for those with vision loss.

The bottom line is that we don't know who is at risk for a physical, mental or emotional disability, so the special needs collection is for everyone. There are no eligibility requirements to borrow any of the listed items, so request them for anyone who might be able to use them.

Update: The distribution of the digital talking book machine has hit a snag and will be delayed for a month. It seems we have the machines but very few titles to go with them. Distribution of the digital machine is being held off until we have enough books and titles to use in the machine.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE.

STORYTIME SPARKS

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We like bugs, any kind of bugs...Beetle Bop and Pest Fest are two of the titles in this wonderful bug storytime kit. The kit also includes a green bug jar and 4 small bugs for your storytimers to enjoy. Wouldn't a buggie storytime be great this fall?

I love Grumpy Bird by Jeremy Tankard! Have you read this one to your storytimers? This kit includes a bird puppet and the story is so loveable that even the grumpiest of children will soon be laughing. Check it out today!

Sandy's Corner

by Sandy Wilkerson



Librarians love slogans. Aren't you the one who just recently put "fall in love with books" on your bulletin board and added some brightly colored leaves for effect? We love to wiggle the words around to "be creative" and "treasure your library". Libraries are the edge of adventure when patrons read beyond reality and a good librarian can help them to join the winners circle. Do you make a splash with your public relations? You never know what will catch your reader's eye! Have you tried a newsletter, newspaper article, bulletin board or a brightly colored flyer? How can your patrons discover new trails or even get a clue about the new books on your shelves without some PR? A well-placed book display will reach our littlest patrons. They will see the brightly colored books and want to check them out, no matter what. We want our readers to take a reading road trip to discover dragons, dreams and daring deeds

or paws, claws, scales and tales: whatever helps them to catch the reading bug. Express yourselves Librarians, your patrons await.

Can you identify the library slogans I used in this article? I have listed them below:

Wiggle-Kansas Reads to Preschoolers slogan 2009; Be Creative-CSLP slogan 2009; Treasure your library-summer 1999; Edge of adventure-summer 2000; Read Beyond Reality-Teen Read week 2009; Join the winner's circle-CSLP 2002; Make a Splash-CSLP 2010; You never know-CSLP 2007; Discover new trails-CSLP 2004; Get a clue-CSLP 2007; No matter what-KRP 2005; Take a reading road trip- CSLP 2001; Dragons, dreams and daring deeds-CSLP 2005; Paws, claws, scales and tales-CSLP 2006; Catch the reading bug-CSLP 2008; Express yourself-CSLP 2009.

5 Top Picks

These are the top 5 books/series to start this new school year.

Titles submitted by Marilyn Noonan at Anderson Co High School.

- 1) *Twilight* series by **Stephenie Meyer**
- 2) *Cirque Du Freak* series by **Darren Shan**
- 3) Anything by **Jodi Picoult**
- 4) *Keys to the Kingdom* series by **Garth Nix**
- 5) *Artemis Fowl* by **Eoin Colfer**

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STACKS OF NEWS



SEKLS Calendar

- Sept 24** MARC Cataloging workshop, pittsburg axe library
- 25** SEKLS directors' meeting, girard
- 28** executive board meeting, sekls
- 30** public library 3rd quarter allocation reports due

- Oct 7** kids @ your library, Humboldt
- 9** registration deadline, Westminster woods
- 14** sekls 13th annual Westminster woods inservice
- 26** Facebook on your website, Indy comm. college
- 30** lunch bunch book discussion, Fredonia