

NCKLS Directors' Meeting
March 12, 2010
Abilene Public Library

Judy Burgess, served as hostess and Carol Barta chaired the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 10:12 AM.

Present:

Judith Cremer – Pott/Waub	Judy Burgess – Abilene
Maribeth Turner – Pott/Waub	Kay Osthoff – Clay Center
Kim Clark – Wamego	June DeWeese – Enterprise
Sue Blechl – Emporia	
Lee Dobratz – Council Grove	Fred Atchison –NCKL/MPL
Jamie Kelley – Marysville	Carol Barta –NCKL
Barbara Lee – Leonardville	Ann Pearce - NCKL
Janice Lyhane – Marysville	Richard Miller – NCKL
Kara Cromwell – Abilene	Marcia Allen - NCKL

Tour of the Newly Renovated Abilene Public Library

Judy conducted a tour of the newly refurbished facility. Everyone was duly impressed with the finished product. Abilene patrons will be able to enjoy this building for many years to come. There will be an Open House on April 7. Congratulations to Judy and her staff for a job well done.

Better World Books Literacy Partner

Better World Books is an organization that partners with libraries to sell weeded books. Libraries earn a commission on every book sold. Books are kept out of the landfill and your library designates a literacy non-profit that will also benefit from the books sold. NCKLS designated National Center for Family Literacy. Not all books are taken. Once your library has an account, you then scan the ISBN to see if they will take the book. Better World Books pays for the shipping to their facility and they sell the books. The books that are unable to be sold are recycled or sent to other countries. NCKLS has participated for three months. At this time, NCKLS has not received a check. They wait until you have \$50 in your account before they send a check to you. We have sent them approximately 50 boxes of books. We have a volunteer that is scanning the books in for us. They require six boxes to be shipped at a time. They do take paperbacks. This is a great place to go to purchase an out-of-print book. Kathy Marks is the Account Representative for the state of Kansas. She can be reached at 1-800-894-0242 ext. 797 or you can find out more by going to www.betterworldbooks.com.

Overdue Notices

What works best – phone calls, e-mails, or letters? Marysville sends out three notices and then it goes to a collection agency after sixty days. For Emporia, the first notice is a phone call after the item has been overdue for a week. Two weeks later is a paper notice. Final notice is three weeks after the second notice. Manhattan generates an e-mail reminder that an item is due. This has proven to be very beneficial. Can Verso do this? Carol will check on this.

Snapshot Day

This idea is from the State Library and is coming together quickly. This is a cooperative promotional effort to tell the story of local libraries and compile the data along with photographs, and video in a state databank. This will then be used for promotional purposes. This effort is entirely voluntary. You can look at other states and what they are doing by going to the Snapshot Day on the ALA website. A lot of libraries already do some type of promotion during National Library Week. System administrators are supportive of the efforts by the State Library in this endeavor. The idea is to take one day where you collect statistics, take photographs, videos and then share it with the larger library community. The website address is <http://snapshotkansas.wordpress.com/>. All data should be in by April 16.

Tumble Books

TumbleBookLibrary is an online collection of children's e-books. TumbleBooks are animated, talking picture books which are accessed from every computer in your library, or from home through a direct link on your website. A subscription allows your library unlimited remote access to the entire collection. Manhattan is participating in their free trial. Jennifer feels this would be a good way to supplement children's books in the system. For more information on TumbleBooks, go to www.tumblebooks.com. If you are interested in joining a consortium, please contact Carol.

Using Volunteers in the Library

Do you have a formal policy or procedure regarding volunteers? Volunteers are now being utilized at Enterprise to help with preschool story time. Carol introduced June DeWeese as the new librarian at Enterprise. June worked for the Red Cross and before that June was a teacher. Abilene has a successful book on wheels program utilizing volunteers to take books to local nursing homes. The new volunteer has worked hard to find out what books the residents want to read. Circulation for this program has gone up. There is one librarian responsible for checking out the books. There are six or seven deliveries. Emporia delivers to approximately 50 homebound individuals per month. The program is losing volunteer drivers. This means that a staff person is now running one of the routes. Changes will have to be made for the program to continue. Some libraries have a volunteer form on their website. One issue is finding suitable jobs for volunteers. NCKLS has three libraries that run on just volunteers. Vermillion is probably the one with the best track record. All board members are required to take a shift and are trained to do the work of the library. They decided to expand the reach of the library by putting a museum upstairs. Burns has a paid librarian, but the library is staffed mainly with volunteers. Marysville has had a moderately successful teen volunteer program. They conduct formal interviews with the teens. For Manhattan, it is up to the Department Head to keep track

of hours and be responsible for volunteer training. Friends of the Library volunteer for the book sale, and other Friend activities. The issue for Pott-Waub is the board wants to replace staff members with volunteers as a cost-cutting measure. One issue for the mini libraries is that the volunteers would be by themselves and staff would not be available for questions. There is a different relationship between employer and employee; and organization and volunteer. Another issue with volunteers is how do you communicate necessary information about the library to your volunteers? Keeping them in the loop is sometimes challenging.

Everyday Ethics Workshop Series

Carol handed out a schedule for the cooperative statewide training at the KLA conference, ELMER session, and Wimba sessions. This training is sponsored by the State Library and the Regional Library Systems. The first session will be at the conference on April 8 at 4:30 p.m. NEKLS Consultant Brenda Hough will explore issues of privacy and more when using Facebook to promote libraries. On April 27, there will be an ELMER session with Pat Wagner discussing four library themes of transparency, equal treatment, privacy, and access of information to all. Wimba sessions will follow in May and June.

Next Meeting

Next Director's Meeting will be Friday, June 11 at 10:00 a.m. in Hillsboro.