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Special points of interest:

- ◆ Tara Kindle, Lavonne Owen, and Megan Gunther have joined the team!
- ◆ Eric Benson has been elected the director of the executive committee.
- ◆ Look for events on the Calendar Page!

2012 Legislative Update

By Linda Knupp

The General Affairs Committee (GAC) of the Kansas Library Association has posted the 2012 legislative priorities on the KANLIB-L listserve. The handy bookmark format outlines three top needs that librarians and library advocates will want to discuss with their elected officials this spring. The three priorities are:

- Maintain current levels of state funding to libraries.
- Fully fund \$800,000 for library research services and databases to be accessed by anyone across the state, as recommended in the Governor's budget.
- Support library connectivity, meeting national bandwidth standards.

The GAC's statistics for Kansas libraries show that on a single day, 25,164 people use library computers to connect to the Internet. Obviously, online connections and resources have become increasingly important to library users. Libraries provide an essential service connecting people to e-government resources, medical information, distance education resources, and business. Rural areas and urban areas alike can have access to shared resources. The common need is broadband infrastructure. Still, not all citizens in all communities can connect to the online world. Hard to imagine, isn't it? Commercial providers have not covered all areas of the state or the North Central Kansas Library System. The United States Commerce Department's National Telecommunications and Information Association (NTIA), recommends broadband access speeds of 4MB for rural areas, far higher than the T-1 lines most of our libraries have. The NTIA also reports that 60 percent of working Americans use the Internet daily as an integral part of their job, and that 1 in 3 households lack high-speed Internet access. In Kansas that number is 1 out of every 4 households. Access and online skills are necessary to compete in today's economy. Libraries help fill that gap, providing connections and assistance to use the technology, so users can find and interpret information.

I am optimistic that state aid will be maintained and that funding for library research and databases will be approved. I believe that suggested changes in Kan-Ed will strengthen libraries' connections with legislative support. It is important for every Kansan to have equitable access to shared resources to meet the everyday needs in life, through print and online collections. Libraries are good at cooperative sharing and making resources widely available, providing citizens and our communities with a lot of value for the dollar.

Take time to print a few copies of the bookmark to share with library advocates in your community. Talk to your legislators, and please ask for their support for the 2012 priorities for libraries.



Manhattan Public Library Assistive Technology Center Grant

By Ann Pearce

2012 is the third and final year for Pilot International and the Little Apple Pilot Club's grant to the Assistive Technology Center. The award is for \$2,500, and the focus this year is on children. Devices and software will soon be added to the inventory used by children at school and at home.

Both the ATC and the outreach component will benefit from this year's grant. Interest in the iPad has already been expressed, so we look forward to adding to our "apps" list for the iPads.

Pilot International is a service organization whose mission is to further humanitarian efforts throughout the world through charitable, educational, and research programs. The service focus of Pilot International is to achieve universal awareness and prevention of brain-related disorders and disabilities. The mission of the Assistive Technology Center is to provide access to adaptive computer technology for persons with disabilities and their advocates. It continues to be a positive and rewarding partnership.

In 2010, the Manhattan Public Library was the recipient of the Pilot International Foundation Grant with matching funds from the Little Apple Pilot Club. The \$10,000 grant was used to purchase three adjustable desks, four task chairs, two Dell computers, an iMac, and software upgrades.

The second year of the grant was awarded to the library in early 2011. An outreach component was added to engage and inspire the twelve counties of north central Kansas in the area of assistive technology. The \$5,000 grant purchased a Sony laptop, a portable projector, an iPad, adaptive software, and a Karaoke machine.

Last year a letter and information were sent to each NCKLS library concerning the outreach component of the grant. Presentations or demonstrations at your library are available. I encourage questions and look forward to working with NCKLS libraries in the area of assistive technology.

Book Fair 2012

By Marcy Allen

Please join us again this year for a fun-filled day of library activity! The 2012 NCKL Annual Book Fair will take place on Thursday, May 10th, in the Manhattan Public Library auditorium. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m., with coffee and snacks to follow. Booktalks begin at 10:00, followed by several authors introducing their latest titles. Our vendors will offer you the opportunity to browse the newest and the best in great reads. And the wonderful ladies of Seven Dolers Church will once again serve a mouth-watering lunch. Plan to spend as much of the day as you can with us: we'd love to share library talk and book recommendations with all of you!

KS EZ Library

By Marcy Allen



So many questions! What downloadable device is the best for me? Would I rather have ebooks or eaudiobooks for my own use? How difficult will the downloading process be? Will there be fees for using content?

If you are one of the many who are fascinated with ebooks and eaudiobooks, your library has free options available for you. Any Kansas resident who has a Kansas Library Card (easily obtainable at your local library) can access content from the state's Kansas EZ Library. Already in place is the state's OneClickDigital, a site that offers downloadable audiobooks. Though the project has not been finalized by a signed contract and it is yet in beta testing stages, readers can access and download books from a wide range of choices. And those same readers can renew books if there are no other requestors, and they can return books before the due date if they desire.

3M Cloud Library, an ebook resource for Kansas Library card-holders, is still in formative stages. The state, in conjunction with systems' libraries, is currently working on ways to purchase titles to add to the ebook collection. User with iPads can already access content and the process is moving very smoothly.

Questions? Access the website for the State Library of Kansas. Click on "Kansas EZ Library" on the left side of the homepage for frequently asked questions. The newly created "Beta Progress Page" is also a great resource for related question and issues.

Summer Reading

By Ann Pearce

Don't forget the little ones! This year, the summer reading manual has a great section on early literacy. With the theme "Dream Big READ!" the list of books highlighted focus on that all important time of day – bedtime. *Off to Bed* by Michel Blake is short on text, and filled with photographs of all things needed to get ready for bed. Many a parent will nod in agreement as Big Bear tries to comfort *Little Bear in Can't You Sleep, Little Bear?* by Martin Waddell. Big Bear brings more light into the cave until finally taking Little Bear out of the cave and showing him the beauty of the moon and stars. And my all-time favorite, *Goodnight Moon* by Margaret Wise Brown needs no introduction. Plenty of activities, songs and rhymes are included. Take a peek!



Town Hall Meetings to Discuss Broadband Internet Access

By Carol Barta

Adequate Internet access is a continual challenge to libraries and their patrons. In an effort to create a long-term plan for providing access to our communities, NCKLS has organized this series of town hall meetings.

We know that communities thrive, grow, and attract and retain business when citizens' access to the Internet is at broadband high speeds. Broadband Internet access increases the capacity of Kansas communities to build on their economic base and strengthen tax revenues, yet many citizens of our state are still under-served.

Libraries help overcome access gaps by providing computers and broadband connections to the public, but increasing demand and changes in funding for library broadband require a community response.

Please join your neighbors and fellow citizens for an evening of information and discussion on the future of broadband access in our communities. In order to include as many participants as possible, forums are being offered in every county with NCKLS. Meetings are open to all, and we welcome discussion from different viewpoints.

Each of the meetings will begin at 6pm with a light supper, followed by information and discussion from 6:30 to 8:30.

Town Hall Dates

02/28	Marysville	03/27	Wamego
03/01	Junction City	03/29	Clay Center
03/06	Abilene	04/17	Council Grove
03/08	Alma	04/19	Peabody
03/12	Emporia		
03/13	Manhattan		

These events are sponsored by the NCKLS and the Institute for Civic Discourse and Democracy of Kansas State University, with the support of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.



KAN-ED

By Carol Barta

The Kan-Ed Advisory Council met on Friday, January 26, 2012, to discuss the results of the Legislative Post-Audit Report. Andy Tompkins, Regents CEO, was present at the meeting and recommended that we not spend time refuting the details of the report, but focus on where we are going. He talked about how the original charge to Kan-Ed from the legislature was to get every eligible entity connected, but that in this time of perceived scarcity, managing the operation for cost minimization is now the goal.

It is clear that Kan-Ed will not be operating in the future the same way it has in the past. They have already moved to stop providing any content to the four constituencies, though the LPA indicated that the content was needed, but said it should be provided for elsewhere. This is why the Governor included \$800,000 in the Regents' budget for databases. Dr. Tompkins indicated that the Regents fully expect to have the State Library administer these funds if they remain in the budget.

The LPA recommended that most Kan-Ed members be moved from the current network of T-1 connections to the commercial Internet. They based this recommendation on a survey of usage conducted by Kan-Ren (the entity Kan-Ed contracts with to administer the network). The usage survey shows that most smaller libraries do not need the upload capabilities of the T-1 lines as much as they need faster download capabilities. The Kan-Ed staff will be contracting with an outside body to create a "needs analysis assessment tool" to help libraries, schools and hospitals figure out what kind of bandwidth they really need.

For the foreseeable future, Kan-Ed will continue to file e-rate on behalf of the libraries and schools. One potential role for them, as we move forward, would be to provide more training and support for e-rate filing in the future.

Another proposal they are working on is the possibility of subsidizing libraries and schools for the broadband costs not covered by e-rate. The figure "50% of the cost up to \$600 per month" was thrown out as a possible goal. The program would be reviewed annually. This option would only be for currently connected members. Kan-Ed has stopped connecting libraries to the network and is not accepting new members at this time. Senate bill SB398 has been introduced to make this change.

House Bill 2390 from last session, which calls for the dissolution of Kan-Ed, is still in the Senate Utilities Committee since this is a carry-over year. Its future is uncertain. House Bill 2527 has been introduced in the House Energy Committee. It would revise the Kan-Ed statute to allow Kan-Ed to charge membership fees. The idea for every Kan-Ed member to have some "skin in the game" came out of October's hearing by the Kan-Ed Legislative Study Committee. At this point, no proposals for a membership fee structure have been presented to the Advisory Council.

If these changes are not acceptable to the Legislature, Kan-Ed has asked for funding for an 18-month transition period to allow libraries and schools to file for their own e-rate. That transition period would end June 30, 2013.

So, while the LAP report was not good, the Kan-Ed staff, with input from the Advisory Council, is moving forward with planning for a transition to a yet-to-be-defined entity. For those of you familiar with Kan-Ed 1.0, we are back to building the airplane while in flight. Librarians interested in maintaining Kan-Ed in some form will need to be proactive about educating their legislators on the value of Kan-Ed to their libraries and communities.

Workday Wednesdays

By LaDonna Clark



Cricket Expression

Late in 2011, we started an event we call Workday Wednesdays. We had such a great turnout that we wanted to offer it again in 2012. On Workday Wednesdays, NCKL staff is available for you to come and ask your library-related questions. Ask questions of Carol, Ann, Marcy, Richard, Megan or LaDonna. If you need to ask a question of additional staff, we can arrange for them to be available as well. Types of questions previously addressed are board-related questions, cataloging and Verso questions, KLOW, hardware and QuickBooks questions. The sky is the limit on the question, as long as it is work-related!!

Workday Wednesdays Dates

March 7	June 27	September 12
March 14	July 18	October 10
April 18	July 25	October 17
May 16	August 15	November 14
June 20	August 22	December 5
	September 5	



Webinars and Watch Parties

By LaDonna Clark

Webinars or “Web Conferencing refers to a service that allows conferencing events to be shared with remote locations via a computer. Most vendors also provide an archive link of the event. The service allows information to be shared simultaneously, across geographical locations in real-time. Applications for web conferencing include meetings, training events, lectures, or short presentations. A participant can be either an individual person or a group.” This information, according to Wikipedia.

Watch Party – an event for which we invite librarians and library staff to come to the NCKL offices to watch webinars (web seminars) on our new big flat screen TV, as a group. We also invite discussion, and snacks are provided. If you'd rather, you can watch (most) webinars at your home or library. To see our schedule of Watch Parties, check out the website at <http://nckls.mykansaslbrary.org/>. To register for a Watch Party, or other NCKL events, go to <http://know.nckl.info/>.

Tera Kindle, the New Director of Waterville Public Library

Hello, my name is Tera Kindle, and I am excited to be the new director at the Waterville Public Library. It seems I've worked in libraries in some capacity since I graduated from high school. Though I have no formal training, I look forward to learning to become an effective library director and will rely on prior experience, intuition and continuing education to guide me through. I am even considering going back to school for it!

I worked in a grade school library for seven years before coming to work at the Waterville Library. I began subbing here in Waterville a couple of years ago, until this summer when I took over for the librarian. I'm totally excited to work here! I have tons to learn, especially the more in-depth situations that I never had to deal with before (financial stuff).

I've loved to read since I was in grade school and continually challenge myself to read more each year. Everyone I have talked to so far has been more than helpful, and I only hope that someday I can be equally helpful to other new librarians.

Lavonne Owen, the New Director of Chapman Public Library



Lavonne Owen in Chapman Library

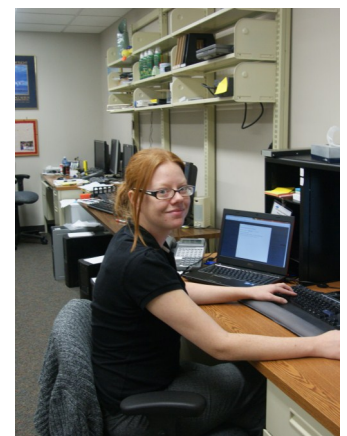
Hi, my name is Lavonne Owen. I'm the new director at Chapman Public Library. I'm originally from Idaho. My husband and I met in Idaho, and he was from Chapman, so we moved to Kansas three years ago so my husband could help rebuild the middle school after it was lost in the tornado. I think Chapman is a wonderful place to live and it, has such an amazing community.

I'm very excited and grateful for this opportunity to be a part of such a wonderful library. Reading has always been special to me. My grandfather and I shared the same interest in a lot of books, so my love for reading and books started at a very young age. I have always enjoyed books of all kinds, and I have always had a great appreciation for libraries. I love working with the public and meeting new people, and I am always interested in learning new things. I look forward to my future here at Chapman Public Library.

Megan Gunther, New Assistant Technology Consultant

My Name is Megan Gunther, and I'm the new Assistant Technology Consultant here at the NCKLS. Richard and I have already made several trips to libraries, and I hope to be meeting everyone in the next few months! I'll be here to answer any technical questions you may have. I will be assisting Richard in the day-to-day operation of the technology for the NCKLS.

To tell you a little about myself, I just graduated from Manhattan Area Technical College with an Associates of Applied Science in Network Information Technology. I was born and raised in Denver, Colorado. I have a love for reading and technology. Currently, I am reading *Death Comes to Pemberley* by P. D. James.



Megan in her and Richard's new office.

NCKLS Executive Committee

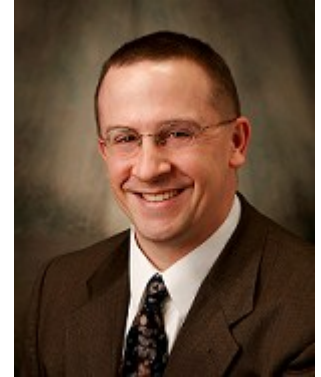
By Carol Barta

On January 26, the NCKLS Executive Committee conducted their bi-monthly meeting. Dr. Marshall Havenhill has retired from the committee after an eight-year term representing Lyon County. He was presented with a gift basket containing an assortment of coffees in thanks for his years of service.

The committee selected Eric Benson, the Pottawatomie County representative, to serve as president. Susan Moyer, the Geary County representative, will continue as vice-president; Mary White, a Governor's Appointee from Washington County, remains the secretary/treasurer.

The NCKLS Executive Committee meets the last Thursday of January, March, May and September and the first Thursday of August and December. The meetings are open to the public. The minutes of these meetings are posted on the NCKLS website after they are approved by the committee.

<http://nckls.mykansaslbrary.org/system-info/executive-committee>.



Eric Benson, the Pottawatomie County representative and new director of the NCKLS Executive Committee

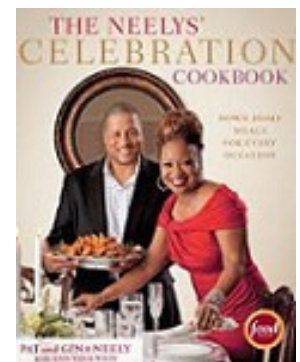


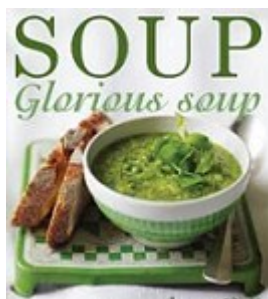
Marcy's Corner

So, we've had a really mild winter thus far. Doesn't mean there will not be some bitter cold days ahead. When those days arrive, I always think of food: warm, comforting dishes that are as attractive to look at as they are to savor. If you have those same needs, you'll like the following books. They each offer something special that will make our blustery winter days cozy. Let's dive right in!

The Neelys' Celebration Cookbook by Patrick and Gina Neely.

Owners of Neely's Bar-B-Que and authors of *Down Home with the Neelys*, this cooking couple has a popular television show on the Food Network. The focus of this particular book is on creating wonderful holiday dishes that are fun for both cook and guests. Why make the usual mashed potatoes when you could substitute with "Whipped Garlicky Mashed Potatoes"? A little heavy cream and some minced garlic added to Yukon Gold potatoes and you've got an exceptional dish fit for special occasions. Want to try making pizza for company? You must try "Gina's Favorite Chicken and Spinach Pizza" that features a tasty blending of chicken breast meat, baby spinach and grape tomatoes atop a store-purchased pizza dough. Easy! And you've got to read about "Sweep Cola BBQ Beef Ribs." A hickory wood fire and a cola sauce rub take these ribs beyond tasty.



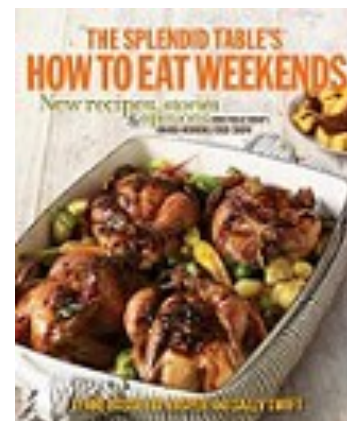


Soup Glorious Soup by Annie Bell.

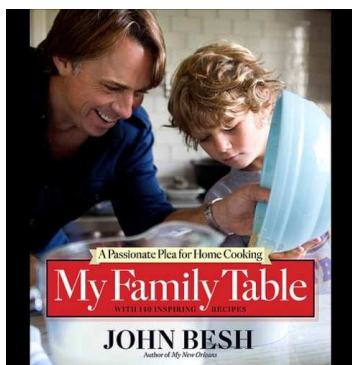
What a beauty this book is! Your tastes may run to “Quick Chickpea and Cabbage Soup,” which relies on canned chickpeas, cabbage leaves, garlic cloves and vegetable stock for its hearty flavor, or the more refined “Chilled Spinach and Yogurt Soup” that gets its creamy zest from baby spinach, chopped shallots and plain yogurt. Each unique soup has recommended accompaniments, thus making the dishes a complete meal. You’ll be entranced by the unbelievably simple “Pot au Feu.”

The Splendid Table’s How to Eat Weekends by Lynne Rossetto Kasper and Sally Swift.

Based on Public Radio’s Food show, *The Splendid Table*, this lovely book is an invitation to try different flavors and food combinations. The authors urge us to take leftovers to a new level by viewing the dishes as “Work Night Encores” rather than reheated fares. They remind us that even amateur cooks can create gourmet fare. Don’t believe it? Consider “Farmer’s Market Pasta.” A rather simple dish, that elevates with seasonal ingredients, this pasta is highlighted by cooking peas and asparagus in the pasta water in the spring, or broccoli and squash in the pasta water in the winter. Add a bit of basil, oregano and black olives, as well as your choice of grated cheese, and you have a quick, colorful meal. One of many nice adaptations.



My Family Table by John Besh.



Besh is a Louisiana restaurateur and noted chef who feels that planning is the key to good cooking. His is not a solo effort, but an undertaking in which the whole family is involved. And he encourages the use of whatever ingredients are on hand, so there’s a nice flexibility in his planning. “My Grandmother’s Fried Chicken” is a nice place to start. Here’s a dish with a mere five ingredients, of which buttermilk is the key. A little flour, some dredging, a hot cast iron pan, and you’re practically there. Besh’s “Lemon-Blackberry Cheesecake” is a gorgeous concoction of graham cracker crumbs, sour cream, blackberries and lemon that would be perfect for any party. The family involvement and the theme of cooking as adventure make this book pure fun.

The kitchen can be a great foil for bleak winter days, especially with a little help from professional cooks who want to make the unique cookery easy.

March 2012

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1 Town Hall Meeting, Junction City	2 Summer Reading.	3 Friends of the Library Book Sale
4	5	6 Town Hall Meeting, Abilene	7 Workday Wednesday	8 Town Hall Meeting, Alma	9	10
11	12 Town Hall Meeting, Emporia	13 Town Hall Meeting, Manhattan	14 Workday Wednesday	15	16 Directors' Meeting in Peabody	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 Town Hall Meeting, Wamego	28	29 Town Hall Meeting, Clay Center	30	31

April 2012

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 KLA	12 KLA	13 KLA	14
15	16	17 Town Hall Meeting, Council Grove	18 Workday Wednesday	19 Town Hall Meeting, Peabody	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

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We're on the Web!

<http://nckls.mykansaslbrary.org>

May 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 Watch Party: Partnering with Business	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 Book Fair	11	12
13	14	15	16 Workday Wednesday	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		