2020 Annual Meeting of the NCKLS System Board

By Linda Knupp

The annual meeting of the North Central Kansas Libraries System (NCKLS) has been held on the first Thursday of August at the Manhattan Public Library, since NCKLS was established in the late 1960’s. This year, plans for the location changed due to the pandemic. The meeting was held via Zoom, a technology not dreamed of 50 years ago. Current restrictions on crowd size and the availability of a space large enough to accommodate the 63 board members, while following recommended social distancing measures, prohibit meeting in person. Information and the complete packet for the August 6, 2020 meeting may be found on the NCKLS website.

While COVID-19 has affected the plans of every individual, family, business and organization, NCKLS core functions and services remain steady. The 2021 NCKLS service plan and budget were reviewed by the NCKLS Executive Committee in May and approved by the State Library of Kansas Board according to Kansas Administrative Regulations. The core services of regional systems remain constant through change and challenges and include:

- Consulting services to provide information to librarians and trustees on library operations and services
- Youth services and program support to help develop collections and activities for children and teens
- Educational support for librarians and trustees to provide opportunities to learn and develop new skills and knowledge
- Technology support to ensure every library can connect patrons to the resources and develop basic skills for today’s world
- Resource sharing of print and digital materials, including various delivery methods to access these resources
- Grants and financial support to public libraries in taxing counties for collections, technology and other needs

The 2021 budget will support the goals and services while remaining flat. Changes in the allocation of funds between line items will allow for the distribution of additional grant funds to public libraries in taxing counties based on a per capita formula.

NCKLS member libraries have continued to support communities in the region during this time, and NCKLS is here to support each library.
NEW FMLA FORMS

The U.S. Department of Labor has developed optional-use Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) forms which can be used by employers to provide required notices to employees, and by employees to provide certification of their need for leave for an FMLA qualifying reason. These forms are electronically fillable PDFs and can be saved electronically. See: www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/fmla/forms

The new optional forms are simpler and easier to understand for employers, leave administrators, healthcare providers, and employees seeking leave. Significant updates include fewer questions that require written responses, replaced by statements that can be completed by checking a box, and electronic signature features. The changes reduce the amount of time it takes a healthcare provider to provide information, and help leave administrators review and communicate information to employees more directly and with greater clarity, reducing the likelihood of violations.

The link will be stored on the NCKLS website at: http://lib.nckls.org/for-librarians/hr/

DISCOUNTS

The State Library of Kansas arranges for many things for libraries across the state.

Here is information about training and discounts available to Kansas libraries through LYRASIS.

Check out the information on the website. https://kslib.info/1057/Grants-Discounts

ACQUISITIONS NOTES

By Kirk Hargett

I’m now up-to-date with June’s deluge of Baker & Taylor orders, but this year has been anything but normal so you might want to get your orders in while you can and use up your ESG fund’s. I double-check carts before ordering, but please keep in mind these details as we approach the end of the year.

1. Items with a publication date after Dec 31 need to be ordered next year.

2. Except for backorders of new releases, instead of selecting a backorder, consider ordering another item because any items not shipped by early December will have to be cancelled.

Let me know if you have any questions about a pending order, available funds, or catalog records.

REALM UPDATE

Have you been keeping up with the REALM information?

REALM stands for Reopening Archives Libraries and Museums and this project launched May 14. The Battelle lab testing will examine the length of time the COVID-19 virus may live on commonly used materials in libraries and museums. There have been four rounds of testing, and the current round is testing everything tested in round one in a stacked configuration.

Results and updates from the study can be found here: https://www.webjunction.org/explore-topics/COVID-19-research-project/news.html
ZOOM FATIGUE

By Teri Belin
I don’t know about you, but I liked attending Zoom meetings when the pandemic first started. As time went on though, I realized how exhausting they can be. I recall one day in June when I had back-to-back Zoom meetings from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. By the end of the day I could hardly see straight. In many ways they are an efficient use of time. So, why are they sometimes so tiring? The Society of Human Resource Management provided some tips that helped me realize why this is so and showed me how to make Zoom meetings less taxing. Here are some to share with you:

How to Combat Zoom Fatigue
Harvard Business Review, April 2020
www.hbr.org/2020/04/how-to-combat-zoom-fatigue

Five research-based tips that can help make video calls less exhausting: Avoid multitasking. Build in breaks. Reduce onscreen stimuli. Make virtual social events opt-in. Switch to phone calls or email. For external calls, avoid defaulting to video.

Zoom Exhaustion is Real. Here Are Six Ways to Find Balance and Stay Connected
Mindful.org, April 2020
www.mindful.org/zoom-exhaustion-is-real-here-are-six-ways-to-find-balance-and-stay-connected/

Take a few moments before clicking "start" to ground your attention. Greet everyone in the room with your full attention. Choose speaker view. Remind yourself periodically that this is a new place between presence and absence.

CSLP UPDATE

Future Themes
2021—Tails and Tales (Animals)
2022—Oceanography (slogan announced in Sept.)
2023—All Together Now (Friendship and Kindness)
2024—Theme announced in Sept.

Use this link: https://www.cslpreads.org/
To sign up for newsletters, join committees, shop the catalog or access the online manual

Inclusion resources found here: https://www.cslpreads.org/inclusion-resources/

Tales and Tails program launch- es on September 1, 2020. Look for the new artwork on: https://www.cslpreads.org

End of Summer Evaluation form is live on the NCKLS website. Use this link: https://lib.nckls.org/youth-services/srp-eval/
STORYWALK®

A StoryWalk® is an outdoor reading experience whereby a children’s book is deconstructed and the pages of the book are laminated and displayed along a walking trail or business district. Families will experience the book as they walk around area businesses or other walking paths. Story walks are a great way to create community partnerships. Early literacy tips can be added to the panes to encourage child/caregiver interaction. These tips should reinforce the five practices of early literacy: singing, talking, reading, writing and playing. Important legal information The StoryWalk® concept was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT and was developed with the help of Rachel Senechal, Kellogg-Hubbard Library. Make sure to credit them in your StoryWalk®! Think of it as a creative commons license. You’re free to use the idea however you wish, but just give credit! Go to the official webpage of the StoryWalk(R) movement to learn more.

CONTINUING EDUCATION—ONLINE

Look for fall continuing education offerings to be virtual. Many good choices are available for NCKLS librarians.

1. ARSL has announced that the conference will be held online this year, not in Wichita. Hopefully, many of you will take time to “attend” this year since there is no travel required. CE grants will be available.
2. KLA leadership has decided to move the 2020 BIG Think conference from the Hyatt Conference Center in Wichita to each of your libraries! Instead of a 3-day event in October, we will conduct a 1-day virtual conference.
3. NCKLS training sessions will be virtual through 2020. Check out the KNOW registration system to get the Zoom links. http://KNOW.NCKL.INFO
4. New classes are being offered from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine at http://nnlm.gov

KANSAS READS TO PRESCHOOLERS

November is Kansas Reads to Preschoolers Month!

State Librarian Eric Norris, along with the Kansas Reads to Preschoolers committee, is pleased to announce that the 2020 title is Groovy Joe: Ice Cream & Dinosaurs, by Eric Litwin. This picture book story will appeal to young readers, with a focus on the 2-5 years old age group.

Because we are unsure what story times will look like in November due to Covid-19, one of the factors for choosing this year’s Kansas Reads to Preschoolers Month title is that it is available digitally on Bookflix, which all Kansas residents can access for free through the state library’s website.
It’s time for the second rotating book delivery during the pandemic, and I will be increasing your delivery by 50 books. This will only affect the libraries that regularly receive more than 150 books. I will be in contact with you soon to make adjustments to your profile for end of summer changes and the increased number of titles. As you do in your own libraries, the books in the rotating collection are stacked on every available free space to be quarantined for 96 hours before they go to the next library. Please watch your email for updates on delivery dates and your library profile changes.

Denise Coon,
Rotation Books librarian and driver

TRY THIS RESOURCE

Since school will be starting soon, this is an excellent time to reach out and share with teachers. This resource is perfect for creating lessons plans and fun activities such as bingo cards and getting acquainted activities. The MailBox offers spelling word lists, math and science worksheets, reading and writing tools, fine/gross motor activities, literacy, science and social studies ideas...it’s all here! Plus, there are arts and crafts, helpful forms such as awards, teacher tips and resources to include a science video or two. Teachers won’t regret checking it out!

Show teachers where The MailBox can be found for free from the State Library website at http://kslib.info. Then click on “Online Resources,” scroll to “Librarian & Educator Resources” and click on “View All.”

Or use the following link if you are adding The Mailbox to your website: https://kslib.info/Mailbox.
Shiner by Amy Jo Burns: Epic Appalachian Fiction

By Marcy Allen

“Shiner” is a tough story to categorize: it is part mystery, part romance and part generational tale, all in one. It follows the experiences of a teenager named Wren who lives in the mountains of West Virginia with a mother who despises the family’s isolated existence and a father who is a serpent-handling healer. Without schooling, phones, or transportation, the family follows the father’s dictates that hearken back to an earlier time. The only bright spot in the mother’s life is her close friendship with a childhood friend, Ivy, but a tragic accident destroys that one crucial link.

When that tragedy occurs, past hurts and deceptions bloom. Wren, who is caught in the middle of chaos, must embrace a different life, far from her father’s rules and her mother’s dreams. As the story is told from Wren’s point of view, we discover events that led to the tragedy just as she learns about them herself.

What makes this tale a standout is its language. The author’s descriptions of the harsh though beautiful surroundings are a wonderfully visual background. Descriptions of the father’s deadly snakes are hideous, and yet we see the hypnotic beauty of the reptiles. The characters, especially the women in this story, are portrayed in such a way that we realize the dreams and disappointments that shaped their lives. And we feel a sense of hope and compassion for Wren as she struggles with burdens no young person should face. Don’t miss out on this wonderful debut novel.