

## ST-5

### MPLA Board Report July 2010

Submitted by Theresa Jehlik

- The long-awaited expansion of the Lied Scottsbluff Public Library is underway. The groundbreaking ceremony on February 23<sup>rd</sup> was celebrated by city leaders, library staff, library trustees, Friends of the Library, Foundation members, and other supporters. Architectural sketches from Leo A. Daley can be seen at [www.scottsbluff.org/lib/building.html](http://www.scottsbluff.org/lib/building.html). Congratulations to all who worked so long and hard to make this library dream happen!
- After 14 months of renovation, the Library/Archives Reference Room at the Nebraska State Historical Society reopened on March 9<sup>th</sup> in Lincoln. Although the research room is slightly smaller, bathrooms are now closer. A new genealogist leaflet is available at [www.nebraskahistory.org/lib-arch/flyer.pdf](http://www.nebraskahistory.org/lib-arch/flyer.pdf). Only a limited number of the collection's original records are available at [www.nebraskahistory.org/oversite/research.htm](http://www.nebraskahistory.org/oversite/research.htm).
- Omaha.net (<http://omaha.net>), a new online magazine, has taken a great interest in the Omaha Public Library. Click **Public Library** under **Living in Omaha** (left hand column) on the home page to find video interviews with Gary Wasdin, OPL's new library director. Click the **Benson Branch** and **W. Clarke Swanson Branch** links to find video interviews with library managers Theresa Jehlik and Manya Shorr.
- The Spring Colloquium 2010 on May 13<sup>th</sup> featured Terry Pettit, former coach of the University of Nebraska's Women's Volleyball Team. His presentation focused on collaborative leadership, creative problem solving, and leading with both sides of the brain. These topics are also the major themes in his recently released book, *Talent and the Secret Life of Teams*.
- Karla Shafer, Hooper Public Library Director, is the ALA Office for Literacy and Outreach Services [OLOS] "poster child". According to Dale Lipschultz, Literacy Officer, "Karla is the best spokesperson...a natural." Ms. Lipschultz told Karla, via phone, that negotiations for a second round of Dollar General Foundation funding for the "American Dream Starts @your library" program were tenuous. After the foundation representatives were shown Karla's PowerPoint 2008 Final Report, the atmosphere changed. "When the lights came up at the end of the PowerPoint, one of the Dollar General Foundation representatives turned to Ms. Lipschultz and said, 'How much money do you want?' They subsequently

decided to give \$750,000 to 21 states in the second literacy project.” The libraries being first funded in the new grant round are in Arizona, Colorado, Georgia, and, of course, Hooper, Nebraska.

Additional coverage about this project can be found at [www.americandreamtoolkit.org/locations/hooper.html](http://www.americandreamtoolkit.org/locations/hooper.html) and [http://fremonttribune.com/news/local/article\\_52957ade-69a6-11df-b5aa-001cc4c002e0.html](http://fremonttribune.com/news/local/article_52957ade-69a6-11df-b5aa-001cc4c002e0.html). You can visit the Hooper Public Library online at <http://libraries.ne.gov/hooper/>.

- Marilyn (Frankie) Kirkwood, Valley Public Library Director, received the Shirley Waskell Award for the Advancement of Women on April 15<sup>th</sup>. As part of the University of Nebraska’s Lifelong Learning Initiative, Frankie was recognized for her volunteer efforts in the Omaha area. She fulfilled her lifelong “being a librarian” dream at 71.
- The Nebraska Library Association and the Nebraska Library Commission recently awarded *Cultivating Nebraska Librarians 2.0: Building 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills* internship grants to 12 Nebraska public libraries. Interns will learn about library work as they shadow and assist with day-to-day operations and implement special projects.

The lucky libraries are –

- Arapahoe Public Library
- Bassett, Rock County Public Library
- Battle Creek Public Library
- Blair Public Library
- Emerson Public Library
- Lexington Public Library
- Norfolk Public Library
- Papillion, Sump Memorial Library
- Schuyler Public Library
- South Sioux City Public Library
- Stromsburg Public Library
- Weeping Water Public Library
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- Jessica Chamberlain is the new director of the Northeast Library System. She worked as a social worker and substitute teacher before getting her MLIS from Kent State University in Ohio. Jessica has worked as a children’s librarian and managed the children’s department in a large library in the last 8 years. She is “thrilled to be back in northeast Nebraska and to be working for ‘better library service through cooperation.’”